

April 14, 2025

The City Council met for a regularly scheduled council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00PM followed by the Board of Appeals and Equalization Public Hearing at 8:00PM.

Present: Ron Stubbe, Yeng Yang, Dylan Albertson, Sue West and Dale Shannon.

Also Present: Kerwin Armitage, Tom Hansen, Beth Bjorklund, Andy Foster, Dillon Robinson, Rick & Lori Wakefield, Adrienne Kletscher, Connie Knott and Jesse Jacobson

Mayor Ron Stubbe called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Kerwin Armitage presented the water-wastewater report to the council. The main clarifier rebuild project has been put on hold because the contractor is having a hard time getting the parts. He is hoping to have it done by the end of the summer.

The city had a water main break on 7th Street & Dewey. Emergency repairs were handled by Schmidt Construction out of Redwood Falls. The main breaker on the generator at the plant is faulty and needs to be replaced. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to replace the breaker with a rebuilt one with a one-year warranty for \$1400 including labor. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the contractors requesting to get bulk water from the city for the wind turbine projects in 2026. The council determined that they would allow certain limits of usage providing there are no unforeseen water shortages or problems with the wells not being able to keep up. Discussion was held on installing a fill meter at the plant to monitor what is being used. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the purchase of a high-flow meter for monitoring usage. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Dale Shannon reported for the Police Department that there has been no events or activity around Walnut Grove to discuss at this time.

Connie Knott, Adrienne Kletscher Rick and Lori Wakefield were present to ask the council for a contribution for the Walnut Grove Village Fair to be held the three Saturdays in July during the Pageant and to allow them to use the city park. Adrienne Kletscher will be the organizer of this event. The council agreed that they could use the park and agreed to be the fiduciary agent. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve a \$2000 contribution for the kids activities for the Walnut Grove Village Fair. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Tom Hansen presented the maintenance report. He has the new wheels on the plow truck and it will be ready for next season. City-wide clean-up is scheduled for May 12-18 this year. Tom attended the forfeited tax auction on March 26, 2025 as the council asked him to do. The auction included the parcel of land that the Welcome to Walnut Grove sign is currently located on the east end of town. The county auditor explained to Tom that if the purchase wasn't made at that auction, anyone would have the opportunity to purchase it for the listed price until the next auction. Because the council had authorized Tom to make the purchase, he determined it was better to make the purchase to ensure the city would get the property. The cost of the parcel was \$1867.80.

The Bar & Grill report was discussed. Tom presented the council with a quote for shingling the roof. The council determined they would like at least one other quote before they approve it. The compressor went out in the walk-in cooler and it will take a few days before it can be replaced. Tom will oversee this.

Discussion was held on staffing at the Bar & Grill. Some of the council would like to see more staff on every day over the supper hour. The council determined they would hold a special meeting with the Bar & Grill staff being required to attend. They will try to get it arranged for Sunday, April 27 at 2:00PM.

Beth Bjorklund presented the EMS coordinator report and ambulance report. Elias Lorenzo has passed his EMT-B class and passed the national exam. They currently have one other person attending classes.

Fire Chief Andy Foster presented the fire department report. Foster applied for a contribution from Arvig for the cost of internet at the fire hall. He and Asst. Chief Dylan Albertson attended the Chief's meeting in Wabasso and were presented with the new mapping system being rolled out in Redwood County.

Ben Johnson, Matthew Baker, Parker Freeburg, and Marshall Soleta are finishing up the last of their fire fighter classes. Randy Tietz and Dustin Vandewiele will be retiring from the department this year. Foster asked the council for their approval to add three new members to the department. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve David Lee, Taylor Eisfeld and Blaine VanMeveren as new members to the Walnut Grove Fire Department. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The council discussed the annual Insurance for the city. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to appoint Knakmuhs Insurance as agency of record for the city of Walnut Grove. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dale Shannon that the City of Walnut Grove does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by MN Statutes Section 466.04. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Council member Dale Shannon asked that the clerk check with the attorney on an update to the City Code to include the monitoring and removal of any trees if they become infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. She will report back at the next meeting.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve claims 45012-45075. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the Minutes for March 10, 2025 regular meeting and the March 31, 2025 Public Hearing/ Special meeting. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Sue West to open the Public Hearing for the Board of Appeals and Equalization at 8:00PM. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Redwood County Assessor, Jesse Jacobson was present to discuss any concerns with property owners. No residents had any questions. Jacobson reviewed the process of determining the market values of properties with the council. The MN Department of Revenue requires counties to set the overall market values between 90%-105% of the actual sales prices. If Walnut Groves properties average sales are more than 105% , the assessor is required to make adjustments to market values to stay with the MN Dept. of Revenues requirements.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to adjourn. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer