

February 10, 2025

The City Council met for a regularly scheduled council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00PM.

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

Absent: Yeng Yang

Also Present: Kerwin Armitage, David Graham, Tom Hansen, Beth Bjorklund, Xiong Kevin Lee, Kristy Baker, Dillon Robinson, Allan Anderson and Doris Anderson.

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

Kerwin Armitage presented the water-wastewater report to the council. The final clarifier project is in the works and he expects it to be completed in the spring. Kerwin, Tom Hansen, Paula McGarvey, Beth Bjorklund, Ron Stubbe & Dylan Albertson met with Owen Todd from Bolton & Menk to discuss changing the sewer project plans so that they would not have to replace the sewer line under the railroad tracks or highway. The buildings South of the tracks would connect to a sewer line going south to main. Bolton and Menk investigated this option and determined they could get the pitch needed to change this. They will meet again with the group that discussed this and then present this alternative option to the full council at the next council meeting.

Chief Graham reported that there have been no events or activity around Walnut Grove to discuss.

Tom Hansen presented the maintenance report. All equipment is working as it should. The council asked Tom to attend the second forfeited tax auction on March 26 for the possible purchase of the property that the Walnut Grove sign is currently located, if there is another party that intends to bid on it. Motion by Dylan Albertson, second by Dale Shannon to approve the purchase of this lot at the auction in the amount not to exceed \$2000. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The council asked Tom to get bids to replace the shingles at the Bar & Grill as soon as possible as they expect the material costs will increase considerably in the near future. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the request for bids and for the shingle replacement at the Bar & Grill. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Ambulance Director Kristy Baker was present to discuss the ambulance department. The Walnut Grove Ambulance Service received a one-time MN Emergency Ambulance Service Aid for 2025 in the amount of \$51,478. These funds can be used for equipment, training, retention, payroll and operating expenses. Baker asked the council to approve a longevity stipend to be paid to each ambulance member based on their years of service. The council discussed this and will make a decision as to how much at the next council meeting.

The ambulance department applied for and has been approved for a \$5000 grant from the Walnut Grove Area Foundation for the purchase of a training mannequin. Motion by Sue West, second by Dale Shannon to approve the Walnut Grove Foundation grant and the purchase of the training mannequin for the Walnut Grove Ambulance Department. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The batteries for the electric cot have gotten weak and are almost 9 years old. The Council approved the purchase of two new batteries for the cot. The monitor has been repaired and Bjorklund was able to negotiate the repair cost down to about \$400 instead of the \$1800 quoted because the warranty had just run out on the monitor.

The Ambulance department will once again host the annual Easter Egg hunt for the kids. Baker will ask the Loggers for a contribution for this event.

The annual fire and ambulance budget meeting with the townships will be held on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30 PM at the fire hall. The clerk prepared the ambulance and fire 2025 budgets based on revenues and expenses from 2024. No changes were requested by the fire chief or ambulance director. Motion by Dale Shannon, second by Sue West to approve the 2025 fire and ambulance budgets to the Townships for approval. All voted in favor, motion carried.

EMS Coordinator Bjorklund presented the council with a sample job duties list based on the duties she has already been doing while working, which includes helping out the other departments as needed with different projects. Discussion was held on whether or not that changing the job duties and changing her job title to reflect the different duties that she is currently doing would require the city to repost the job position. The clerk & mayor will contact the city attorney for clarification.

The liquor report was presented. Year to date the Bar & Grill shows a slight profit after calculating in depreciation for the current year. Co-manager Kevin Lee was present to discuss how things are going at the Bar & Grill. The council encouraged him to try to plan some extra events to attract more business. The new Point of Sale is almost complete and should be ready to go live within a couple of weeks.

The council determined that in the future, the manager should determine which organizations they should join and /or make contributions to when requested. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the Bar & Grill's membership to the Community Club. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, second by Sue West to approve claims 44891-44946. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, second by Sue West to approve the Minutes for January 13, 2025 regular meeting and the January 23, 2025 Special meeting. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, second by Sue West to adjourn. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer