

January 12, 2026

The City Council met for a regular council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00PM.

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

Also Present: Kerwin Armitage, Kristy Baker, Alex Johnson, Beth Bjorklund, Andy Foster, David Bender, Mark Johnson, Steven Klein, Joey Johnson, Dillon Robinson.

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

Kerwin Armitage reported on the water- wastewater systems. He is unable to locate the curb-stop for 550 Highway 14 and because the building may not be heated over the winter he asked the council for approval to have a new one installed so he will be able to shut off water to the property without it affecting the other services next to it. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve the \$1300 cost to install a new curb-stop to 550 Highway 14. All voted in favor, motion carried.

A discussion took place regarding water meters and the appropriateness of charging residents for replacement costs in cases where meters are damaged due to freezing. The council agreed that the property owner should pay for the replacement in such incidents. The clerk will display this information at the city office and publish it on the city website. In addition, the city will inform new residents that property owners will be charged for any meters replaced because of freeze damage.

The council reviewed and approved the People Service annual adjustment letter for the water/ wastewater contract. The monthly contract will increase from \$10,724 to \$11,137.

The residents attending were asked if anyone had any comments. Dillon Robinson commented that the summary of the minutes in the paper were confusing and felt that if the regular city employees were receiving cost of living increases to compensate for the mn paid family leave premiums paid by employees, then ambulance and fire department employees should also receive an increase to cover the premium. Additionally, Robinson stated that he thought the city should broadcast the council meetings.

No other residents in attendance had comments to share.

EDA president, Alex Johnson was present to discuss the Work & Gather building on main street. They will need a water heater and then it will be ready for rentals. There have been a few people interested in renting office space one day per week. Plans are in the works to schedule an open house for the building in February.

Johnson reported that Country View currently has 18 tenants. Foster is working on repairs to apartment 101 from a leak. He will remove the rock on the outside of the building and replace it with lap siding. Inside he will remove and replace damaged sheetrock and repaint.

Johnson discussed the grant that the city will receive for Country View and will get quotes from contractors for the work that they are proposing be done with the funds.

Bolton & Menk informed the clerk of the opportunity to apply for a second small cities development grant in the amount of \$75,000 that could also be used for Country View and believes the city has a good chance of getting this one also. Bjorklund will be working with Bolton & Menk on this application. Motion by Yeng Yang, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve going forward with the application process with Bolton & Menk at a cost of approximately \$2000 for the Small Cities Development grant in the amount of \$75,000. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Bar & Grill manager, Dave Bender presented the sales report to the council for review. 2025 revenues have increased \$39,268 over the previous year.

The council reviewed Ordinance 193 prepared by the city attorney to amend the city code to change the hours of operation to include opening the municipal liquor store on Sundays for both on

sale and off sale not to exceed the limitations set by the Laws of the state of MN. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve the hours of operation be any hours from 10:30 am to 1:00am Sunday through Saturday and to approve Ordinance 193 that ordains that sections 15.104, 15.203(2), and 15.204 of the City Code shall be amended to read in their entirety as follows:

15.104 Hours of Operation. No sale of intoxicating liquor for “On Sale” or “Off Sale” shall be at any time prohibited by Minnesota Statute 340A.504 as amended. The Council may, by a majority vote, establish the hours of actual operation at their option, not to exceed, however, the limitations set by the Laws of the State of Minnesota or this Chapter, except by amendment hereof.

15.203(2) The annual fee for license shall be Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

15.204 Hours of Operation. No sale of intoxicating liquor shall be made after one a.m. on Sunday. No “On Sale” shall be made between the hours of one a.m. and eight o’clock a.m. on any day. The Council may, by a majority vote, establish the hours of actual operation at their option, not to exceed, however, the limitations set by the Laws of the State of Minnesota or this Chapter, except by amendment hereof.

All voted in favor, motion carried.

Bender stated that starting in February, the Bar & Grill will change the hours at the Bar & Grill for Mondays to 3pm to 1am and Tues through Sunday they will be open 11am to 1am. Off sale liquor and beer sales will be between 11AM-10 PM Monday-Saturday and 11AM -6PM Sundays.

Ambulance director, Kristy Baker was present to discuss the department. Grace Aysta will be completing a bridge course and join the service as an EMT. Baker expressed that she believed the city should adjust ambulance wages to cover the cost of the paid family leave premiums paid by the employees. The clerk will research the rules for on call pay for the ambulance members and report to the council at the next meeting to discuss this.

EMS coordinator Beth Bjorklund completed the reports for the MN Office of Emergency Medical Services for the funds received in 2024 for ambulance expenses in 2025. The Office of Emergency Medical Services has committed \$9797.38 to the Walnut Grove Ambulance service to supplement the 2026 expenses. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve Resolution 2026-0112C Authorizing the Grant Acceptance. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Fire Chief Andy Foster was present to discuss the department. Member David Lee has moved out of town and will be taken off the roster. The council approved adding Lincoln Ourada to the service.

Discussion was held on the 2025 Audit. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Sue West to approve the engagement letter from certified Public Accountants, Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the police chief position. Matthew Stiehm accepted the chief position. The clerk has made the necessary arrangements for his psych eval, the physical and the background checks to be done. Once those have been done a starting date will be determined.

The land use application for the Redwood County shop located at 411 1st Street to build a salt shed on the property was reviewed. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the land use permit application for Redwood County. All Voted in favor, motion carried.

The personnel policy was updated to include information about the earned safe & sick time and paid family leave. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve the updated personnel policy. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The 2026 City policies and programs were sent to the council and reviewed. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve the 2026 policies and programs. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The 2026 annual delegations were reviewed by the council. No changes were made. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve Resolution 2026-0112A Approving the annual Designations as follows:

2026 Appointments:

City Office / EMS Coordinator	- Ron Stubbe/ Yeng Yang
Community Center, Cemetery	- Dylan Albertson/ Sue West
Safety Committee	- Dylan Albertson/ Sue West
Walnut Grove Activity /Events	- Dylan Albertson / Sue West
Bar & Grill	- Yeng Yang / Ron Stubbe
Police Department	- Dale Shannon/ Sue West
Streets and Parks	- Dale Shannon / Dylan Albertson
Water and Sewer	- Dale Shannon / Dylan Albertson
Economic Development	- Ron Stubbe / Dale Shannon
WG Fire Dept.	- Ron Stubbe/ Yeng Yang
WG Ambulance Dept.	- Yeng Yang/ Sue West
Acting Mayor	-Yeng Yang
Official Depository	-Integrity Bank Plus/MN Municipal Money Market
Official Newspaper	-Westbrook/Walnut Grove Sentinel/Tribune
City Attorney	-Muske, Muske & Suhrhoff, Ltd. Springfield, MN Shannon Ness, County Attorney
City Engineer	-Bolten & Menk

The Council discussed broadcasting the council meetings. It was determined that they will have the council meetings available for residents to join through zoom. Attendees will be able to view the meetings but will not be allowed access to comment.

Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve claims 45629-45713. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve the Minutes for the December 8, 2025 regular meeting and January 02, 2026 Special meeting. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Sue West to adjourn. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer