

July 13, 2026

The City Council met for a regular council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 6:00PM. Others were allowed to join the meeting via zoom but comments for guests were muted.

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

Also Present: Tom Hansen, Beth Bjorklund, David Bender, Andy Foster, Jarett Herder, Alex Johnson, Allan Anderson, Steven Klein, Gary Kent & David McMahon

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

Alex Johnson was present from the EDA to report on Country View. They currently have 20 apartments filled. Alex asked the council to consider replacing the linoleum in the laundry room with finished concrete. He received a quote from Barry Kuball from Concrete Escapes for \$1800 to replace the linoleum with finished concrete and could get to it within the next few weeks. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve the quote of \$1800 for the laundry room floor. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Johnson asked the council if there were any current plans to landscape the empty lot between the Bar & Grill and the Work & Gather building. The council reported that there was nothing currently planned. Johnson said they would talk about it with the EDA to come up with some ideas including possibly putting up a fence on the sidewalk side.

Tom Hansen presented the maintenance report. The new sweeper had a loose electrical block, and Macqueen Equipment did the repair. Tom reported that he did approximately 10 hours of sweeping for the County after their seal coating the county roads. He will work it out with the county as to how the city will be paid or reimbursed for this. He will check with Pearson Bros. to find out when they plan to do the seal coating in town.

Ambulance Director, Jarett Herder was present to discuss the department. He and Beth have submitted the Cooper Sam's longevity reports to OEMS. The department would like to upgrade their I-Pad to one from Verizon so eliminate the issue they have with not being able to connect to the jet pack when they need to take the I-pad too far away from the rig. The cost to upgrade would be only a couple of hundred dollars and the monthly charge would be about \$10. They would then not need the jet pack any longer and that can be given to the police department to use. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve the purchase of a new I-pad from Verizon. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Fire chief Andy Foster reported that he will be talking with a potential member about joining the department. The department and Fire Relief Association are in the planning phase for the Fire Festival that will be held in September and would like the council to approve a temporary liquor license for the Fire Relief for this event. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve the application for a temporary liquor license for the Walnut Grove Area Fire Relief Association. All voted in favor, motion carried.

EMS coordinator Bjorklund reported to the council that she has met Adam Kletscher to map out the county park for any emergency event that the Walnut Grove Fire & Ambulance departments could be called to. Bjorklund is working with other emergency departments to set up a multi casualty training for October. The Rural EMS Mental Health Summit will be held at Breezy Point resort Aug. 10-12 to provide practical tools for managing stress, building resilience and supporting long-term wellness in EMS. The cost is \$150 per person and includes 2 nights' lodging, meals & refreshments. The council approved this for any ambulance members that wished to attend and agreed that they would pay training wages for the workshop hours attended.

The state is offering a Treatment in Place Pilot Grant to services. This would help defray costs incurred when the ambulance is called to a scene but the patient refuses transport. Motion by Yeng Yang, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the grant application to the Rural Health Transformation Program for this grant. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Bar & Grill manager, Dave Bender presented the sales report. Food sales show an increase of \$71,314 in sales for 2026 compared to 2025. Bender reported that he will be increasing menu prices and drink prices within the next couple of weeks. Costs have continued to increase over the last few years, and he will need to make the adjustments necessary to cover the increases in expenses.

The Clerk prepared a job offer letter for Charles Fenger for a Part time Police Chief position. This position would include covering calls 24/7 and working a minimum of 10 hours each week. This would be a salaried position that would include the on call pay and the wages of responding to calls. Any additional hours over 10 would be paid out at an hourly rate. If the chief is not able to put in his 10 worked hours one week, he would need to make those up later. The clerk will work with Fenger to get his Psych Eval scheduled and the clerk will make the arrangements for the background check to be done.

Robyn Hansen informed the city clerk that she can no longer be the head election judge for the general election. The clerk asked the council to appoint Elizabeth Bjorklund as the head judge. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Yeng Yang to appoint Bjorklund as the head election judge for the 2026 General election. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Dale Shannon informed the council that he and Dylan had reviewed plans to add walking paths in the city park to connect the shelter and playground areas to the restrooms for easy access for parents with strollers and wheelchairs. They will present their plans and ideas to the Loggers to see if they are interested in helping to fund this project.

Discussion was held on the current EMS coordinator job description. The council all agreed the title of the position and the duties listed need to be adjusted to fit what the duties that are currently being done or what they believe should be done by the person in that position are. With feedback from the Fire chief, Ambulance Director, City Clerk and the council they determined the duties that they all believed this position should be responsible for. At 8:30 after much discussion, Sue West asked the mayor to be excused from the meeting. The rest of the council continued the discussion and came up with the duties they felt should be on the list. The Council asked the City clerk to put together the updated job description and duties list to present to the council for review and approval at the next meeting.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve claims 46081-46168. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve the minutes for the June 8, 2026, regular meeting and the June 22 & July 6 special meetings. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Yeng Yang to adjourn. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer