

July 21, 2025

The City Council met for a regular rescheduled council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, July 21, 2025 at 6:00PM.

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

Also Present: Kerwin Armitage, Andy Foster, David Graham, Tom Hansen, Allan Anderson & Dillon Robinson.

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

There were no residents that had any comments or complaints.

Kerwin Armitage reported on the water- wastewater. Kerwin was helping at the school running a new service line to the concession stand. This will be a new account for the school. The submersible pump at the plant is no longer working and will need to be replaced. Kerwin received a quote from Electric pump for a new pump in the amount of \$13,126 plus shipping. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve the purchase of a new submersible pump for the plant. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Police Chief Graham gave the police report. There hasn't been any major issues in Walnut Grove this past month. He has been working Saturdays during the day during the busy Pageant weekends.

Chief Graham presented the council with a 30 day notice of resignation letter. His last day of employment will be August 20, 2025. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to accept Chief Grahams letter of resignation. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The council agreed to ask Redwood County Sheriff Jason Jacobson to attend the August council meeting. The council would like to discuss contracting with Redwood County Sheriff's office to cover the city until a decision is made as to whether or not the city will look to replace the police chief position.

Fire Chief Andy Foster was present to discuss the department. The graphics are on the new tanker and it has been taken to Mankato to get the lights installed. Year to date the department has completed many trainings including a burn trailer. The total cost of all the training that will be reimbursed by the state is over \$13K. Also, all 4 of the new members have completed their firefighter training and taken the necessary exams that and that cost was also reimbursed by the state.

Foster asked the council to approve a temporary liquor license for the fire department to possibly hold an open house event behind the fire department in September. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve a temporary liquor license for this event. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The public works/ maintenance report was presented by Tom Hansen. Randy Tietz has been helping with the mowing and everything is going well. Discussion was held on the burn site. Someone keeps using the private drive to go into the burn site. The decision was make to purchase some chain to go across the entrance and signage stating it is a private drive.

Discussion was held on a resident that asked if he could place a storage container on a cement slab in his yard to use to store building materials in temporarily. There is nothing in the city code that would prohibit this. Discussion was held as to whether or not the council would want to include something in the zoning ordinance to prohibit this. The council determined that they would leave it as is for now.

The Bar & Grill report was discussed. There is a special meeting scheduled for Tuesday July 22, 2025 to interview 2 applicants for the Bar & Grill manager position.

Discussion was held on the 2026 budget. Southwest Initiative Foundation has asked for the city to include a 2026 contribution to them. Motion by Yeng Yang, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve the 2026 contribution. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the new paid family leave law that goes into effect January 1, 2026. The city will need to pay a premium to the state for this leave at a rate of .88% of gross wages. The employer must pay a minimum of 50% of the premium and have the employees pay the other 50% or the city can choose to pay all of the premium. The council discussed this and because the employees are already required to withhold 6.5% of their gross wage to PERA and because most of the employees would not ever actually take paid family leave, the council determined that the city would pay for the total premium and not share the expense with the employees. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon for the city to pay 100% of the paid family leave premium . All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve claims 45203-45302. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve the Minutes for June 9, 2025 regular meeting and June 23, 2025 Special Meeting. All voted in favor, motion carried.

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

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer