

June 8, 2026

The City Council met for a regular council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, June 8, 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: Kerwin Armitage, Beth Bjorklund, David Bender, Andy Foster, Alex Johnson, Allan Anderson, Steven Klein, Gary Kent, David McMahon, Connie Knott, Rick and Lori Wakefield and Dave Hoyt.

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

The residents present were asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Hoyt asked if the city's approved minutes are posted anywhere. The clerk reported that they are on the city website under the government tab.

Kerwin Armitage presented the water/wastewater report. All hydrants have been flushed. Kerwin informed the council that the 331 6th Street building is for sale again and currently, that building has a shared curb stop with another building. He suggested putting in a separate curb stop for that building. The council said they would wait to see what the plans are for the building with whoever buys it and then have one put in later this summer. Kerwin, Albertson, Tom Hansen, Jordan from Bolton & Menk, and the county engineer and city clerk met at the city offices on June 4th to discuss & review the plans for the 8th Street (County Rd 5) sewer project. The county also has work scheduled for County Road 5 soon and this meeting was scheduled so the city engineer and county engineer can work together to reduce unnecessary expenses for both the city and county.

Alex Johnson was present from the EDA to report on Country View. The carpet by the elevators has been repaired. Tom picked up a new refrigerator for one of the apartments and 6 more AC units leaving a couple for replacements when needed. They have tenants moving into the last couple of one and two-bedroom apartments and will only have 3 studio apartments available.

EMS coordinator Bjorklund reported to the council that she has met with Ambulance director Jarret Herder to determine who would be responsible for the different tasks for the ambulance service. She will be meeting with the fire chief and council members when their schedules work to do so.

Connie Knott, Rick and Lori Wakefield were present to discuss the 2026 Village Fair. They will be parking the food trucks park on Bedal Street facing the park. They will be closing Bedal Street at the 8th Street intersection and have a barricade on 7th and Bedal indicating that it is closed to thru traffic. The council agreed that they could place the miniature golf game at the southeast corner of the park.

Bar & Grill manager, Dave Bender presented the sales report. Food sales show an increase of 27% last month. Total sales for the year show a 24% increase over last year. The council approved the purchase of a new office safe. Bender asked the council to approve a wage increase for Andy Yang as he is now closing several nights each week and has stepped up to do a large majority of the cooking in the evenings. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the wage increase for Yang. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Fire chief Andy Foster reported that the new mapping system is up and operating. He will be having Arvig upgrade the internet service at the fire hall to fiber optic, so the system works better on the large mapping TV. Foster has a few members that have over 20 years of service. The council approved adding 2 additional members to the service so that they can go to the upcoming fire training classes.

Foster presented a quote to the council for a concrete pad under the fill stand in the amount of \$3275. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve going forward with the concrete pad for the fill station. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The clerk reported that an individual inquired about the council meeting with him to discuss the possibility of becoming a part time police chief for Walnut Grove. The council agreed they would interview him.

The 2025 audit has been completed. The council agreed to schedule a special meeting for Monday, June 22, 2026, at 6PM for the Audit report followed by meeting with the applicant for a potential part-time police chief position if the date and time works for the applicant.

The clerk reported she will be attending election judge training along with the other judges in Redwood Falls on June 24.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Sue West to approve Resolution 2024-0608 appointing election judges, Paula McGarvey, Beth Bjorklund, Robyn Hansen, Aisha Pang Yang, Kathy Vondracek, Charles Swanson and James Hoyt for the 2026 elections. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Dylan Albertson reported that he, Dave Hoyt, Justin Knakmuhs, Shanaya, Albertson, and Dale Shannon met at the city park to discuss the possibility of adding or updating the walking paths at the city park for better accessibility and possibly adding some benches. The council agrees that they would like the Loggers to continue this discussion and determine what the cost would be to add a path from the shelter to the restrooms and determine where else they see a benefit to adding paths and benches in the park.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve claims 46010-46080. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve the minutes for the May 11, 2026, regular meeting and the May 18 & May 27 special meetings. All voted in favor, motion carried.

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

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer