

March 10, 2025

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

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

Also Present: David Graham, Tom Hansen, Beth Bjorklund, Alex Johnson, Alan Anderson and Owen Todd.

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

Owen Todd from Bolton & Menk was present to discuss the sewer project plans and the funding. The city will be applying for Small Cities Development Program funds and funds from PFA. Owen read the conflict of interest statement and none of the council will have a conflict with the project. The city will hold a public hearing March 31, 2025 at 6PM at the city offices for public input on the Small Cities application. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve Resolution 2025-0310 Adopting the Citizen Participation Plan and calling for a public hearing on March 31, 2025 at 6PM as part of the small cities development project. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The clerk reported that she had completed the grant application for part 2 of the lead line service inventory and selected Bolton & Menk to complete the inventory. The council approved the application.

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

EDA president Alex Johnson was present to discuss the 641 Main Street building purchased by the EDA. The EDA received quotes to finish the remodel of this building to have it ready for use. The building will have a small kitchenette, one handicapped accessible restroom, a larger conference or meeting room, and three offices. These offices and meeting rooms can be rented out daily, weekly, or monthly. The cost for the purchase of the building and the remodeling of the building will be \$86,810. The EDA received a \$45,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation for this project and will use the EDA improvement funds of \$35,751 to pay for this. Any other funds needed will come out of the regular EDA fund. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Yeng Yang to accept the low bids from Trent Baker Construction, Flooring Concepts, and G&H plumbing and proceed with the remodel for the EDA building on main street. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Alex informed the council that there are a couple windows that have cracked at Country View and will need to be replaced. Additionally, they will need to replace some of the AC units in some of the apartments. They will get quotes for these repairs and get the information to the council as soon as he gets them.

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. The council approved the purchase of this lot at the auction in the amount not to exceed \$2000.

The council discussed the one-time MN Emergency Ambulance Service Aid for 2025 and the request from the ambulance director to approve a longevity stipend to be paid to each ambulance member based on their years of service. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve a longevity stipend be paid to each EMT-B in the amount of \$150 per year of service and \$100 per year for each first responder for the Walnut Grove Ambulance department. All voted in favor, motion carried.

EMS coordinator Bjorklund informed the council that Ambulance director Baker was unable to attend the meeting and she asked Beth to request approval for the purchase of a portable battery operated suction device for the ambulance service at a cost of approximately \$1300. Motion by

Dylan Albertson, seconded by Sue West to approve the purchase of the portable suction equipment. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The clerk informed the council that the parcel south of the cemetery was purchased by contract for deed from the Davis family and was paid for from 1999-2003. The initial contract was filed with the county but it wasn't recorded as being paid off. The clerk will send all the information to the city attorney to get the deed transfer completed.

Council member Dale Shannon asked that the council agree to update the City Code to include the monitoring and removal of any trees if they become infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. The Clerk will send this information to the city attorney for him to update the code to include this.

Motion by Dale Shannon, second by Sue West to approve claims 44947-45011. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, second by Sue West to approve the Minutes for February 10, 2025 regular meeting and the February 26, 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