

October 14, 2025

The City Council met for a regular rescheduled council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:00PM.

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

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

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

The city received an email with an award letter stating that the application for the 2025 MN Small Cities Development Program Grant has been approved for funding in the amount of \$600,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This grant was applied for to be used for the sewer project on 8th Street.

Kerwin Armitage reported on the water- wastewater. The hydrants have all been flushed. Discussion was held on possibly putting in a flush hydrant at the end of the water line outside of town. Kerwin will get a quote on the cost of the hydrant and the cost to install it. The council will discuss this further after he has the quotes. The new sludge pump has been installed at the plant and is working properly. Bio-solids will be hauled when weather permits. The repairs to the clarifier are being done but they are waiting for more parts.

The residents attending were asked if anyone had any comments. Discussion was held on having the bushes trimmed back on Washington and 6th Street. They are obstructing the view of the stop sign. The council said they would have Tom take care of it.

Discussion was held on the police chief position. The city has not received any qualified applications. The clerk will run the add on POST Board again to see if by chance anyone new is looking for a position now. The council asked for the clerk to check into the cost of running the ad through INDEED or other head hunter sites.

Ambulance director, Kristy Baker was present to give the ambulance report. Discussion was held on the ambulance Lucas device that is currently used to give compressions for a cardiac event. The model they have is being discontinued and parts will no longer be made for it. The cost to replace it is about \$30,000. They will continue to use the one they have as long as it works and then look at grant opportunities to purchase a new one when it is needed. Discussion was held on when an EMT can respond to a call without another EMT or First Responder. It was explained that in the event that there is only one person available they may respond to the call and begin care as a first responder but may not transport the patient until another EMT or First Responder is able to get to the scene. One person does not typically respond by themselves but may choose to when a first responder is a few minutes out but has responded that they are on the way.

Baker told the council that when Bjorklund was washing the ambulance she noticed that the roof of the ambulance has a dent in it and it is beginning to rust. Because the service is not planning to replace the rig in the near future, they would like to have it repaired. The council asked them to bring them a couple quotes for the repair and they will discuss it after they receive the quotes.

Discussion was held on the EMS coordinator position when a council person asked if they were expected to respond to all calls during the day. When the position was filled, it was with the understanding that if they had another EMT that worked their full-time position in Walnut Grove during the day, more often they would have another EMT available to respond to a call when there was a daytime call. The EMS coordinator works 30 hours per week during the day. She cannot be required to be in town when she is not working if the city isn't paying her for that time.

EMS Coordinator Beth Bjorklund reported on the grants she has been working on. Motion by Yeng Yang, seconded by Dylan Albertson for the MNRA grant for \$11,000 be used to install handicapped accessible openers on the north doors of the city office building plus the electrical. Any funds remaining will be used to purchase new benches for the city to replace the old metal benches. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Bjorklund reported that we received an email stating that the MN Housing board of directors has approved our request for funding under the Greater MN Small Cities (Tier II Cities) Housing Aid Grant Program 2025 Requests for proposals. The City of Walnut Grove has been awarded a grant for \$100,000 for repairs that are needed at Country View.

Discussion was held on how the council wants maintenance items to be handled at Country View. There has been confusion as to who should be informed of what the needs are. Council members Stubbe and Shannon will meet with the clerk next week to go over the contract with Minnewaska and make recommendations to the council at the next regular council meeting on this. The council approved the \$800 cost for the part to repair the handicapped door at Country View.

Bar & Grill manager David Bender was present to discuss the Bar & Grill. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the deep cleaning of the kitchen by ServePro. All voted in favor, motion carried. Discussion was held on the purchase of a shed to put outside the side west door of the Bar & Grill to store overstock of the paper products and miscellaneous seasonal items. Motion by Yeng Yang, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the purchase of a shed. Yang, Shannon, Stubbe & Albertson voted in favor, West voted against. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the city music event and Fire Festival held at the community center in September for the families around Walnut Grove. The Bar & Grill served alcohol for this event and because it was also promoted as a fund raiser for the fire department, Bender would like for the council to approve a transfer of the profit from the liquor and beer sales back to the fire department. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Yeng Yang to transfer \$2500 from the Bar & Grill fund to the fire fund. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Fire Chief Foster gave the department report. The new tanker is in service and working fine. Foster received a burn on his upper arm when exiting one of the trucks on the exhaust and an injury report was filed. He has wrapped his arm and it is healing nicely. They have ordered a cage to put around the exhaust to prevent this from happening again.

Foster stated that the department would like to sell the 1988 GMC fire truck because they will not be using it any longer. The clerk will check into the proper procedures for selling the truck for sealed bids and let him know.

The council will meet on Monday, October 20 at 6PM for a special meeting to complete the Employee performance reviews. The clerk will schedule the full time employees to meet with the council to go over their reviews starting at 6:30.

Discussion was held on the enclosed trailer that is used for the park event held during the pageant season. The city purchased it with grant funds for the park event and then gave it to the museum when they took over running the event. They would like to sell it back to the city for \$1 now that they are no longer handling the park event. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to purchase the enclosed trailer back from the museum. All voted in favor, motion carried.

An application for a land use permit to replace their current deck and build a garage at the Wakefield residence at 430 Bedal Street was reviewed. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve the land use permit for 430 Bedal Street. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Also, the council decided to schedule a special meeting to go over employee performance reviews on Monday, October 20 at 6pm.

Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve claims 45408-45492. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve the Minutes for the September 9, 2025 regular meeting. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to adjourn. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer