

September 9, 2025

The City Council met for a regular rescheduled council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:00PM.

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

Also Present: Beth Bjorklund, Tom Hansen, Kristy Baker, David Bender, Dillon Robinson, Allan Anderson

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

Prior to the meeting, Kim Holm from Westbrook State Farm was at the fire hall to present the EMS Coordinator, Beth Bjorklund and Assistant Fire Chief, Dylan Albertson and the city council a check for the \$10,000 grant to pay for turn out gear.

None of the residents present wished to make any public comments.

Tom Hansen was present to discuss the water/ wastewater report for Kerwin and to discuss any maintenance issues. The parts for the clarifier for the sewer plant have shown up and they will begin the repair the week of September 15. The water main between 4th & 5th streets south of Park Street has been repaired. The city will need to look at replacing that water main at some point as it is in bad condition.

The curb & gutters that were discussed at a prior meeting have been repaired. Tom is waiting for the contractor to call him back to get some street patching done in those areas.

Bar & Grill manager David Bender was present to discuss the Bar & Grill. He has been working on the POS system and has entered most of the inventory and is making sure that all departments are reporting correctly. He has adjusted scheduling to ensure there is adequate help at the times it is needed. He had a tap beer and appetizer special for the Vikings Monday night game but could not advertise it until late because of another event happening in the dining room the same night. He was concerned they would not have the space available to handle a larger crowd until after the dining room event was over.

Discussion was held on the offer that the EDA received for the city lot on 3rd Street and the land use variance that would be needed. The potential buyer is looking to build a shop with living quarters and a slab to park his RV with hookups to live in while his family is in town and while they are building the shop/ house. The council decided they would like to hold a public hearing on this land use variance before approving it. Once the variance and application are received by the city, the council will set a date for the public hearing.

The council reviewed the contract for Law enforcement with the Redwood County Sheriff's department. The contract was reviewed by city attorney Matt Muske. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve the contract as presented in which the city will pay for the hours that the deputies are responding to calls to Walnut Grove. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Ambulance director, Kristy Baker was present to give the ambulance report. The department is continuing to complete the required refresher training. Baker has been checking with companies to install drop boxes for medication take backs and to dispose of sharps containers. She will update the council on her findings at the next meeting.

Bjorklund reported on the EMS coordinator position. She presented the council with a summary of the survey of Essential Features of Age-Friendly Communities that was sent to all the Walnut Grove residents. She will be meeting again with Brandi Ostgaard from MN River Valley Agency on Aging about the grant the city applied for. The committee they formed determined they would be using this grant to help pay for handicapped accessible doors at the city office entrance. Bjorklund stated that she has scheduled a Medicare 101 class on September 30 in the community center through Senior Linkage and an Alzheimer's workshop on October 30.

Bjorklund presented the council with information about billing services for ambulance calls. The current system in place is not working well because of all the requirement changes for billing and

determined it is time to outsource the billing. Bjorklund presented three quotes for this service and suggested going with the company that Balaton is using currently. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve using Metro billing for ambulance call billing. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the 2026 budget worksheet and 2026 wages, rates & fee schedule. The council reviewed the budget presented with the general levy in the amount of \$294,620 and the G.O Bond Series 2020A special levy of \$52,471. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve Resolution 2025-0909 Certifying the Tax Levy to the County of Redwood. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the October regular council meeting night. Because Monday October 13 is Indigenous Peoples Day and many people will not be working that day, the meeting will be rescheduled to Tuesday, October 14. 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 Yeng Yang to set the dates for the regular October meeting to October 14 and special meeting for October 20th. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve claims 45354-45407. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the Minutes for August 11, 2025 regular meeting and August 20, 2025 Special Meeting. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Sue West to adjourn. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer