

April 13, 2026

The City Council met for a regular council meeting and the Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:00PM. Others were allowed to join the meeting via zoom but comments for guests were muted.

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

Absent: Yeng Yang

Also Present: Tom Hansen, Beth Bjorklund, David Bender, Kristy Baker, Andy Foster, Allan Anderson, Steven Klein and Dave Hoyt.

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

Kerwin Armitage presented the water-wastewater report to the council. All systems are operating as they should. He will be getting the UV system up and going starting in May.

The residents in attendance were asked if anyone had any comments. Allan Anderson asked the council if the fire department was paid for the controlled burns they did for farmers. The council informed him that yes, the fire department bills them for CRP burns.

Dave Hoyt was present to discuss the possibility of replacing the streetlights on main street. The Loggers have received a donation that they would like to use toward city beautification and wanted to partner with the city to put up different lights on main. The cost of replacing the lights with the ones that the street light committee would like to see would mean they would need to add more lights per sidewalk. The cost to fix the current electrical and then the additional electrical to new poles makes the project too expensive for the city to commit funds to at this time. Hoyt informed the council that they would find a different use for the funds.

Ambulance director, Kristy Baker, was present to discuss the ambulance department. The members did an Easter Egg hunt for the local kids on Saturday, April 4. There were about 90 kids that attended. Baker submitted the education reimbursement request to MN Office of Emergency Medical Services. They will receive \$5600 in reimbursement for the initial classes for 2 members and refresher training for the EMTs.

Mayor Stubbe called the 2026 Board of Appeals and Equalization Public Hearing to order at 7PM. Redwood County Assessor, Jesse Jacobson was present to discuss any concerns with property owners. No residents had any questions. Jacobson reviewed the process of determining the market values of properties with the council. The MN Department of Revenue requires counties to set the overall market values between 90%-105% of the actual sales prices. If Walnut Groves properties' average sales are more than 105%, the assessor is required to make adjustments to market values to stay with the MN Dept. of Revenues requirements. Because of the number of sales that took place in Walnut Grove that were higher than the market values, the average percentage was off, so the assessor had to raise property values to an average of 6% for residential. At 7:30 PM the Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting was closed, and the regular council meeting was re-opened.

Tom Hansen presented the maintenance report. The window in the community center room where the tables are stored is broken and will be replaced at a cost of approximately \$1000.00. Tom discussed the seal coating that is needed on the 2005 street project streets. Pearson Bros. will be doing work in Tracy and gave him a quote to do half of the streets in 2026 at a cost of \$53K. The council asked Tom to talk to him to find out what the cost would be to do all of the streets and to see if he could get the other quote back from M&R. The council approved continuing this portion of the council meeting for discussion on Thursday, April 16 at 5:30 PM to review the quotes for the seal coating before they decide.

EDA board member Bjorklund spoke on behalf of the EDA to discuss Country View. They currently have 18 occupied units and 3 more will be moving in by June 1. The carpet in front of the elevators has torn and has become a trip hazard. The council will go look at it and make a repair decision at the continued council meeting Thursday April 16.

The MN River Area Agency of Aging, Inc. approved an extension of the grant to put handicapped accessible doors at the city office building. The council approved the extension. The openers should be installed within a week or so.

EMS coordinator Bjorklund reported that she applied for a grant with Southwest Health and Human Services Opioid Settlement Funding for a new Lucas device for the ambulance service in the amount of \$18,971.10. She also applied for a \$20,000 grant from Fire House Subs through the National Volunteer Firefighter Council for a compressor for the fire department. The council approved these applications.

Bjorklund is working with MN Farmers Union to put together a workshop for farm & rural emergency readiness and hands on first aid education. CHS has committed to donating \$500 to this event to help cover the costs. They will be holding a workshop at the Walnut Grove community center on May 28 at 5:30 and are encouraging farmers and rural residents to attend.

The Bar & Grill manager, Dave Bender, presented the sales report to the council. 2026 food sales have increased \$17,000 over the previous year and total sales increase over the prior year is \$28,020. At the last meeting the council approved the purchase of a countertop condiment cooler for \$700. Bender explained to the council that it wasn't going to work as well as they had hoped in the kitchen and asked the council to approve the purchase of a 2-door stainless steel-refrigerated sandwich prep table instead, for a cost of \$2349. This would replace the upright refrigerator that is currently in the kitchen. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the purchase of the 2-door refrigerated sandwich prep table. All voted in favor, motion carried.

A peddler's license application was submitted by Troy Vang for the Asian Hut. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Sue West to approve the 2026 Peddlers license for Troy Vang. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve claims 45847-45934. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve the Minutes for the March 9, 2026, regular meeting and the March 16, 2026, special meeting. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dylan Albertson to adjourn the council meeting until the continued meeting on Thursday, April 16 at 5:30. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer