

February 9, 2026

The City Council met for a regular council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:00PM. Others were allowed to join the meeting via zoom but comments for guests were muted.

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

Also Present: Tom Hansen, Beth Bjorklund, Dave Bender, Kristy Baker, Andy Foster, Mark Johnson, Steven Klein, Allan Anderson, Dillon Robinson.

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

The new camera system and speaker would not connect to the computer so the zoom meeting took place using the laptop camera and speaker and could not video the entire council unfortunately.

The residents in attendance were asked if anyone had any comments. No one had comments to share.

EDA board member Bjorklund spoke on behalf of the EDA to discuss the housing grant the city will be receiving for Country View repairs. There have been two different quotes to replace the roof that will exceed the amount of the grant. The other items on their list would be replacing flooring in the common areas and a couple of the units. Additionally, several of the windows need to be replaced. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve Resolution 2026-0209A Authorizing Mayor Ronald Stubbe as the signer of the grant documents. All voted in favor, motion carried. A second grant application has been submitted for \$75,000 to help with the cost of the repairs. Bjorklund will talk to contractors to get firm quotes on the flooring replacement and another person to check the roof to see how long that could be put off with the hope that it will last until 2031 when the bond is paid off.

Bjorklund reported to the council that Sidney Nuese from Geronimo Power attended the EDA meeting on February 4 to discuss the 2027 project and the possible impact on the community. The project will employ between 300-400 workers and when finished there will potential employment for 8-10 employees to service the equipment. The project will take place southeast of Walnut Grove and trucks will be hauling equipment through Walnut Grove on Highway 14 before going southeast of town.

Bar & Grill manager, Dave Bender presented the sales report to the council for review. 2026 revenues have increased \$4000 over the previous year. The first Sunday being open was slow but did have higher sales than the previous Monday or Tuesday. The new shelving for off sale will be ordered and will arrive withing a couple of weeks. Bender asked the council to approve a new 2-door freezer for the backroom. Motion by Yeng Yang, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve the purchase of the freezer for approximately \$2200. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Ambulance director, Kristy Baker, was present to discuss the department. Danielowski, a member of the department, slipped on the ice and fell when on a call. She did not seek medical attention. All reports were filed with the insurance company.

The ambulance was taken to Jenniges Gas & Diesel to remove and replace the diesel fuel injection control pressure sensor, replace the fuel filter for \$711.65. They received a quote from Jenniges to replace the oil pump and remove and reseal the high-pressure oil pump gasket for \$2566.32.

The council approved the repair quote. Discussion was held on the ambulance wages. The council approved increasing their wages 3% from 2025 wages.

The ambulance department members will be hosting the annual Easter egg hunt for the local children. They will be asking for a donation from the Loggers to help with the cost.

Fire Chief Andy Foster was present to discuss the department. The annual Christmas supper was held, and this year's retired Fire fighters all received their plaques. Foster would like to apply for a

FEMA grant to purchase a new air compressor for the fire hall. Motion by Yeng Yang, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the \$1500 application writing fee for the FEMA grant. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The fire and ambulance budgets were presented to the council. The annual township fire and ambulance budget meeting will be held Thursday, February 26, 2026, at the fire hall and the budgets will be reviewed with the township boards.

Tom Hansen presented the maintenance report. The community center parking lot will need to be patched this year because of the poor condition. The streets from the 2005 street project need to be seal coated very soon. He will get quotes for both

The 2026 Board of Appeals and Equalization Public Hearing is scheduled for April 13, 2026, 7:00-7:30PM.

The city received the Walnut Grove Legions annual liquor license application. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve the Legions liquor license. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve claims 45714-45782. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the Minutes for the January 12, 2026, regular meeting. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the police chief position. The clerk received a call with a summary from the psychologist psych eval and an email regarding the background check but has not received the results of the physical exam or the POST board report or the written psychological report. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon, to close the meeting so the council can review information that has been received thus far. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was then closed to the public and the zoom meeting was muted. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve opening the meeting back to the public. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The council agreed that they would like to schedule a special meeting to review the evaluations, backgrounds and physicals at a special meeting once all the information has been received by the city.

Motion by Yeng Yang, seconded by Dylan Albertson to adjourn. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer