

March 9, 2026

The City Council met for a regular council meeting at the Walnut Grove City offices on Monday, March 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, Sue West, Dylan Albertson and Yeng Yang

Also Present: Owen Todd (Bolton & Menk), Tom Hansen, Beth Bjorklund, Kristy Baker, Andy Foster, Allan Anderson

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

Owen Todd was present to discuss the Lead Service Line Replacement project and the application to the MN Public Facilities Authority for a loan and/or grant for the project. There are currently 4 unknown service lines in Walnut Grove that they do not know what material was used for them. This grant/loan would cover the cost to investigate and replace those lines if needed at an estimated cost of \$100,000. These lines are those that run from the water main to the curb stops. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve Resolution 2026-0309A Application to the Drinking Water Revolving Fund for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the phosphorous trading agreement with Mankato. Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the phosphorous trading agreement. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The clerk informed the council that Dave Hoyt informed her that the Loggers sidewalk committee would be attending the April meeting to discuss the sidewalks on Main Street again.

The residents in attendance were asked if anyone had any comments. Hansen informed the council that there were several semis that are being parked near his home. Mayor Stubbe will try to have another conversation with the owner to let him know that this is very hard on the streets and they should look for alternative places to park the trucks.

EDA board member Bjorklund spoke on behalf of the EDA to discuss the housing grant the city will be receiving for Country View repairs. They have received three quotes to replace the roof. Bjorklund was asked to find someone to get on the roof to determine if the city could wait to replace the shingles until later. Heyn Brothers Roofing was able to get on the roof and check things out and took pictures. He discussed his findings with Bjorklund and council member Dylan Albertson. The roof should be replaced this year because of the condition of it. The city has not received the necessary papers to go forward with this project to use the \$100K grant funds for this project. She will keep the council informed as to when the city can start the project and have the clerk schedule a special meeting to take the next step to select a contractor for the project.

The EDA held an open house event for the Work & Gather building on main street. Bjorklund reported that about 25 people attended and they booked 3 rentals for the space that night.

The Bar & Grill sales report was reviewed by the council. 2026 food sales have increased \$8900 over the previous year and total sales increase over the prior year is \$16,285. The council will schedule a special meeting for a 6-month employment review with the bar manager, Dave Bender, on Monday, March 16 if he is available.

Ambulance director, Kristy Baker, was present to discuss the repairs that have been done on the ambulance so far and present the quote of \$1105 to replace the fuel pressure regulator.

EMS coordinator Bjorklund reported that she completed the information needed for the Rural uncompensated care pool application to receive some compensation for the non-transport calls from 2025 when the patient refused transport.

Bjorklund reported that the museum has asked if they could display the City's blueprints of the Walnut Grove Train Depot. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Dylan Albertson to approve

the loan agreement with the Laura Ingalls Museum for the train depot blueprints. All voted in favor, motion carried.

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

Fire Chief Andy Foster was present to discuss the department. Foster reported that they would like to replace the scene lights on Engine 1 at a cost of \$6000-\$8000. Motion by Dale Shannon seconded by Yeng Yang, to approve replacing the scene lights on Engine 1. All voted in favor, motion carried.

When the Fire Relief chose to move their retirement funds to PERA they were required to update their bylaws. The bylaws were updated stating that the retirement assets, benefit determinations and benefit payments are now exclusively by PERA statutes, rules and administrative procedures and the bylaws were amended to remove the provisions that are no longer applicable. Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West to approve Resolution 2026-0309B to approve the change to PERA and accept the new bylaws adopted by the Fire Relief Association. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Tom Hansen presented the maintenance report. Tom discussed the condition of the streetlights at the school. He will need to take one down and have it repaired by Wendorff and will talk to them about any other repairs needed. He will contact Anderson Electric about replacing the one next to the bank that hasn't been working.

Discussion was held on the police chief position. The clerk has re-posted the position with POST Board. Discussion was held on the unlicensed vehicles and nuisance violations in town. The council will put together a list of violations and have the clerk work with Redwood County sheriff's department to have them talk to the owners in violation.

Adrienne Kletscher applied for and the clerk received notification that the city has received a Village Fair grant from the Walnut Grove Area Foundation in the amount of \$2060.00 to purchase signs and volunteer shirts for the staff for the Village Fair. Motion by Sue West, seconded by Dylan Albertson to thankfully approve and accept the grant for the 2026 Village Fair. All voted in favor, motion carried.

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

Motion by Dale Shannon, seconded by Yeng Yang to approve claims 45783-45846. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dylan Albertson, seconded by Dale Shannon to approve the Minutes for the February 9, 2026, regular meeting and the February 20, 2026, 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