

Walnut Grove, MN

February 20, 2026

The City Council met in a special session on Friday, February 20, 2026 at 5:00PM at the Walnut Grove city offices.

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

Also Present: Clerk Paula McGarvey

Mayor Stubbe presided at the meeting

The primary purpose of the special meeting was to review the findings of the police chief background check, psychological examination and physical examination.

City Clerk reported that all findings were sent to city attorney Paul Muske for review after which he called the clerk to discuss them. During the conversation with Muske, the clerk told him that based on the background report the council had concerns, but they had not yet reviewed the psychological and physical examinations. He stated that based on the findings, the council would be justified in rescinding the job offer based on the background check.

The council members all read through the background check, physical exam results and psychological examinations. The council had concerns about the findings. Motion to rescind the job offer to Matthew Stiehm based on not receiving a satisfactory background check on the applicant by Dale Shannon, seconded by Sue West. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The council discussed continuing to look for a police chief for the department or do they want to consider contracting with the county sheriff's department. Council member Albertson had asked the clerk to contact the sheriff to inquire about the current contract and a possible long-term contract with Redwood County Sheriff's department for law enforcement coverage. City clerk reported that she had talked to Sheriff Jacobson about continuing to cover calls in Walnut Grove. Jacobson stated that he currently does not have the staff to go with a full contract in Walnut Grove but has a couple of deputies starting this spring and it could be a possibility at that time. The suggested budget for contracting with the county for a city with a population of more than 750 would be \$156,000 per year which would offer about 40 hours of patrol and response time each week. Any other type of coverage would need to be negotiated. The council decided that the clerk should reopen the advertisement for the police chief position to encourage new applicants to apply.

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

Paula McGarvey
Clerk-Treasurer