**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF WALHALLA CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MONDAY JULY 1, 2024**

Mayor McDonald called the regular meeting of the Walhalla City Council to order at 7:00 P.M., Monday, July 1, 2024 at city hall.

Council Present: Kalis, Carpenter, Horgan, Jackson, Dumas, Schill

Others Present: Peter Suderman, Luka Carpenter, Jan Hurley, Carol Clark, Steve Gapp, Rebecca Davis, Tanner Sehrt, Larry Dubois, Auditor Cook.

Annual Organizational meeting took place. Motion by Jackson to certify the election results for the City of Walhalla council members. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Oaths of office were signed by Horgan, Dumas, and Carpenter. Mayor McDonald appointed Michael Cook as Auditor. Motion by Schill to accept this appointment. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Mayor McDonald appointed Larry Dubois as the city’s legal representative. Motion by Schill to accept this appointment. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

Motion by Horgan to approve all minutes as read. Second by Carpenter. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

Jan Hurley and Carol Clark informed the council of their plans to head an “Around the World” fund raising event for the theater on Sept. 28th following Pumpkin Fest, in which trailers would transport ticket holders to different host homes throughout the community for food and drink samples. The Council had no objections to this event being held as the city will not have any direct involvement in the event.

Peter Suderman addressed the council about concerns of his property at 909 Emmerling Ave. He informed the council that there had been some theft of his personal property while he had been absent for an extended period of time. Mr. Dubois and the council reaffirmed that the property at 909 Emmerling Ave is zoned for residential use only and cannot be used as a storage facility. Mr. Suderman stated he is in the process of removing items stored at the property, specifically tires, and that his long-term plans are to structurally improve the house on the property and get it up to code.

Motion by Jackson to approve the financial report. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** email from Angelle French with the Pembina County JDA regarding creation of a natural playground in the city park, and the potential of getting a Park Systems 50/50 grant. Discussion tabled until more information is available.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Municipal Services, Building Permits, Streets, & Alleys:** Motion by Jackson to approve building permit for Jolene Danielson. Second by Carpenter. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Chip & seal project discussed. Commitment letter has been sent. Contract and bond should arrive soon. Project is slated to begin mid-late August. Tree removals that are located on city property discussed. Discussion of potential grant availability for tree removal and replacement as emerald ash borer moves into area. Discussion of street closure for July 4th and the Kid’s Parade. Motion by Carpenter to close Central Ave from the Walla Theater to Soeby’s lot during the Kid’s Parade only and for it to be closed for the full day from 10th St to 11th St. Second by Kalis. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Discussion of street closure for Pumpkin Fest. Tabled until more information about car show is presented. Motion by Dumas to close half the block on Central Ave from the Dairy Queen building to County road 9 on Aug 24th for the Mike Peterson Memorial Ride. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**Police, Fire, and Traffic:** Discussion of options for part-time officer to patrol street traffic.

**Financial & Economic Development, Development Corp:** Discussion of an inquiry on potential city owned retail space and available funding for business start-ups through the city. It was determined that presently the city has no retail space available and that all grant opportunities for such should be directed toward the JDA.

**Board of Health, City Buildings & Recreation:**  Special meeting date for opening of pool demolition bids was set for noon, Mon July, 8th at city hall.

Motion by Carpenter to pay all bills presented. Second by Kalis. Roll call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Schill to confirm Brian Mathison as contract labor at $30.00/hr. for cemetery groundskeeping. Second by Horgan. Roll call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion passed.

Discussion of lagoon project was held. Tree removal and hauling of rock is underway. Mayor McDonald will contact property owner regarding temporary removal of a post to grant trucks easier access.

Discussion on fees for residents with extra garbage cans. City Superintendent will get a number of how many extra cans are being used.

Discussion on the status of a warehouse owned by Walhalla Farmers Grain. It was determined that WFG has been in contact with the city on this matter.

Discussion on confirmation that all fireworks have been removed from building at 1012 Central Ave. Mr. Dubois is presently trying to make contact with the owner.

Motion by Jackson to renew the city’s franchise contract with Midco. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

Discussion of water shut offs on delinquent accounts. It was decided that any account with 3 per overdue payments will be subject to shut off of service.

Discussion on pet registration. It was decided that proof of vaccination record will be required when issuing pet registrations.

Discussion on chain link fence surrounding the pool. The city will pursue finding volunteers to remove the fence and store it for any future potential use. It will be removed prior to pool demolition.

Discussion on Blue Cross Blue Shield premium changes effective Sept 1, 2024.

Motion by Horgan to approve beer and liquor licenses for Jackson’s Bar, Old Crow Lounge, and Cheer2Beers. Second by Kalis. Ayes, all with Jackson abstaining. Motion passed.

Discussion on vacating Lena Ave.

Discussion on Tanner Sehrt purchasing property in the industrial park. Mr. Sehrt was instructed to present a proposal at next month’s meeting.

Motion by Carpenter to adjourn the meeting. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

John Rock McDonald\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Michael Cook\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Auditor

July 1, 2024