**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF WALHALLA CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MONDAY AUGUST 5, 2024**

Mayor McDonald called the regular meeting of the Walhalla City Council to order at 7:02 P.M., Monday August 5, at city hall.

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

Others Present: Rebecca Davis, Christopher Trupe, Aaron Freschette, Stephen Gapp, Melissa Gapp, Joel Mostad, Dean Jackson, Mr. Larry Dubois, Auditor Cook

Motion by Schill to approve minutes as read with the following amendment to the minutes of the July 25th Special Meeting: Mayor McDonald vetoed the roll call vote. *Motion by Schill to recall Mayor McDonald’s veto. Second by Dumas. Vote was not held as process was halted by Mr. Fleming.* Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion Passed.

Motion by Dumas to transfer $50,000 from City Sales Tax fund into the Swimming Pool fund, as well as $5,000 from City Sales Tax Fund into the Legion Fund. Second by Carpenter. Roll call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes; Schill, yes. Motion Passed.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Walhalla Farmer’s Grain had informed the city of the impending demolition of previously discussed warehouse. The warehouse has since been torn down.

National Museum of the United States Airforce has contacted the city about an upcoming inspection of the aircraft that is on loan as well as an application for renewal of custodianship. Walhalla Municipal Airport has shown interest in taking over custodianship responsibility from the city. Motion by Dumas to allow the Walhalla Municipal Airport to apply for custodianship under the condition the city is released from responsibility of future maintenance. Second by Kalis. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

Letter was received from Shon Horgan detailing his inspection of property at 1104 Central Ave and recommendation that the owner should be allowed to proceed with improvements.

Zelda Hartje contacted the city to notify that Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. will be beginning their door to door assessing of properties in Walhalla in the coming weeks. Discussion was held on what their process will be. Homeowners do not have to let them into their homes, but a report will be made regardless.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Municipal Services, Building Permits, Streets, & Alleys:** Motion by Carpenter to approve building permits submitted by Rodney Dearinger, Chris Jackson, and Walhalla Municipal Airport. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all with Jackson abstaining from his permit. Motion passed.

Discussion was held on GIS mapping and fees associated. Hydrants, gate valves, and curb stops are all GPS located and data can be accessed from a tablet device. Motion by Jackson to participate and subscribe to this service. Second by Dumas. Roll call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes; Schill, yes. Motion Passed.

**Police, Fire, and Traffic:** Nothing

**Financial & Economic Development Corp**: Nothing

**Board of Health, City Buildings, and Recreation:** Motion by Jackson to appoint Joan Chaput as new library board member. Second by Carpenter. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

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

**Old Business:** Mayoral Veto To Resolution presented and discussed. Procedure for dealing with a veto explained by Mr. Dubois. Mayor McDonald questioned who approved pay in lieu of benefits on top of $50,000 base salary for Mr. Gapp as there was no record in the minutes. Mr. McDonald stated this should have been a roll call vote. Mr. Schill explained that the council understood pay in lieu of benefits as city policy under what was thought to be the cafeteria plan. Mr. Dubois explained cafeteria plan benefits vs compensation plan benefits. The decision of offering a compensation plan was to equalize pay between employees who were accepting a full family insurance plan and those not accepting insurance benefits. It was noted that this plan was in place prior to the hiring of Mr. Gapp. Discussion was held on setting policy for clarification of what base salary and benefits will be offered moving forward. Discussion was held on annual raises being based off base salary only.

Motion by Schill to overrule Mayor McDonald’s veto of the council’s vote to keep Mr. Gapp’s salary at the current amount of $82,716.00. Second by Dumas. Roll call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, no; Horgan, yes; Jackson, no; Dumas, yes; Schill, yes. Motion Passed. Veto was overruled.

Discussion was held on appointing a committee to revise employee handbook policy, vacation payout, and holiday pay.

Hillside Cemetery discussed. Process for finding a new board is ongoing.

Lagoon project should be underway as soon as the river goes down a bit more. Materials are on site and Fischer Engineering is pleased with the progress.

Chip & Seal project discussed. Will be in contact with city superintendent for prep work. Site for chips has been decided.

Count of excess garbage cans is estimated at six. Decision for charging a fee tabled at this time.

Fireworks stored at Perfecting Pictures building have been removed as the building has a new owner. Discussion held on denying of permits to applicants that are non-compliant of fireworks storage ordinance in the future.

Pool demolition is complete. Discussion held on next steps. Once site is finalized and marked with stakes blueprints and a final dollar amount will be determined. Discussion on reducing the size of the planned pool. This can be done, but products have been ordered and this would result in a change order. As it stands construction is slated for Fall of 2026.

Discussion to vacate Lena Ave tabled at this time.

**New Business:** Discussion was held on the offer presented by Tanner Sehrt to purchase two lots in the industrial park for $5,000. Mr. Dubois will draw up a contract with stipulations and present it to the council and Mr. Sehrt for review before moving forward.

Motion by Schill to approve a 3% cost of living raise to employees based off base salary effective date of November 1, 2024. Second by Dumas. Roll call: Roll call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes; Schill, yes. Motion Passed.

Discussion of water samples to be sent in via SpeeDee delivery moving forward.

Discussion of the Neche pool’s interest in purchasing the pool tarp and roller for $2,000. Motion by Horgan to accept Neche’s offer for tarp and roller. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

Discussion held on maintenance of the cemetery road. Proposal of the city maintaining the road from Darrin Longtin’s to the Catholic Cemetery with Walhalla Township maintaining from the Catholic Cemetery to lookout point. Discussion on hiring Clark Gravel to conduct said maintenance in cooperation with the Walhalla Township. Discussion on contacting Mr. Schurman for permission to wing out snow onto his properties. Decision tabled until Sept meeting.

Decision to not pursue an insurance claim on library water damage that occurred this Spring.

Tammy Olson moved to semi-month payroll as approved by library board.

Discussion on garbage pickup service quote for customs and border/Tigua Inc. Motion by Kalis to adjust the rate from $38.50 per month and quote them at $50.00 per week/ $200.00 per month. Second by Schill. Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Jackson, no; Dumas, yes; Schill, yes. Motion Passed. Discussion held on checking on the commercial insurance status on the garbage truck.

Assigning addresses to new properties discussed. Motion by Dumas to approve proposed physical addresses for Nick and Ashley Chaput, Mike and Alison Smith, and Danielson’s shop. Second by Kalis, Ayes, all. Motion passed.

Discussion was held on water shutoff procedures to be followed per Ordinance No. 2024-01.

Discussion was held on placing future haying of the industrial park out on bids.

Motion by Jackson to approve the preliminary budget as presented. Second by Horgan. Roll call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes; Schill, yes. Motion Passed.

The date for the budget hearing was set for September 16, 2024, 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

**Other Business:** Board of health to compile a list of properties in violation of Ordinance 2024-2
(Automobiles/Personal Property and Providing a Penalty for Violation Thereof).

Mr. Aaron Freschette provided the council with his 2 weeks’ notice of termination of employment with the city.

Motion by Jackson to Adjourn. Second by Carpenter. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:53 P.M.

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

Mayor Auditor

August 5, 2024