**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF WALHALLA CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MONDAY MARCH 3, 2025**

Mayor McDonald called the regular meeting of the Walhalla City Council to order at 7:01 P.M., Monday March 3, 2025 at City Hall.

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

Council Absent: Kalis

Others Present: Rebecca Davis, Jeff Amoth, Pauline Amoth, Christopher Trupe, Justin Dearinger, Austin Dearinger, Seth Mathison, Allen Huttunen, Mr. Larry DuBois, Auditor Cook

Motion by Carpenter to approve the minutes from the February regular meeting as read. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Jackson to approve the minutes from the Special meeting as read. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Carpenter to approve the minutes from the Financial Committee meeting with an amendment of the recommended transfer from city sales tax into the equipment fund to be changed from $150,000.00 to $120,000.00. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

Seth Mathison addressed the council on his intent to pursue the process of vacating a former street located adjacent to his property. Hearing no objections from the council Mr. Mathison will move forward with this process.

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

**Communications:**

**NDPERS**: Motion by Carpenter to adopt the State of North Dakota’s Deferred Compensation Plan with a retroactive starting date of January 1, 2025. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**USAF**: Aircraft, F-86H has been transferred to the Walhalla Municipal Airport Authority.  This transaction closed the city’s loan account with the NMUSAF.

**Northeast Regional Water District**: The city received notice of a 3% rate increase that will be reflected on the March billing. Motion by Jackson to increase water use rate 3%. Discussion was held on water rates. Jackson amended his motion to increase the water use rate to $6.82 per 1,000 gallons with the extra $0.13 going into the water infrastructure fund. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**Police Light Bubble:** A request was made to purchase a police vehicle light bubble that is at the old police station. The council stated this item is not for sale at this time.

**Legion Rental:** The city received a request to use the legion to host a fund raiser over the 4th of July weekend for the close-up program. Motion by Carpenter to waive the rental fee for this event contingent on the legion being thoroughly cleaned afterwards. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**Pool Donation Letter:** The Walhalla Swimming Pool Committee submitted a letter and pamphlet for the purpose of requesting donations. These were reviewed and approved by the council for circulation.

**Assessment Information:** The city was presented with a proposed 9% increase in residential values and a proposed 7% increase in commercial values. Mr. DuBois recommended to disclose the upcoming increases to the public.

**Cell Tower:** The city was contacted about a cell tower being constructed in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city. Mr. DuBois will look into see if the city has the zoning authority to approve a conditional use permit for this project.

**Committee Reports:**

**Municipal Services, Building Permits, Streets, and Alleys:**

Discussion was held on the contract with Valley Landfill. Motion by Carpenter to extend the current contract for one month. Second by Schill. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, yes. Motion passed. Motion by Carpenter to approve 3.5 hours of overtime for Chris Trupe as a result of the water main break on 4th street. Second by Dumas. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, yes. Motion passed. Discussion held on purchase of a skid steer. A call for bids will need to be posted in the official newspaper. Mayor McDonald will present the auditor with grant opportunities he has researched. Motion by Carpenter to advertise for bids for the purchase of a lawnmower and a skid steer in the official newspaper for a period of two weeks. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Discussion was held on the water main break on 4th street. The NDIRF has found no negligence on behalf of the city to support payment of a claim. This topic may be revisited upon the city receiving the official report from the insurance company.

**Police, Fire, and Traffic:**  An application has been received for the position of city police officer. The committee will arrange an interview and provide their recommendation to the council. Discussion was held on pros and cons of staying brown (county) or going blue (city) concerning a police force.

**Financial & Economic Development Corp:** Motion by Dumas to make the following transfers:

 Transfer $140,200.00 from the Swimming Pool Donation checking account into the Swimming Pool Fund and to pay the $152,601.85 loan at Choice Bank from the Swimming Pool Fund, Transfer $120,000.00 from City Sales Tax into the Equipment Fund, Transfer $73,280.99 from the Chip & Seal Fund to the General Fund and to then transfer $73,280.99 from the General Fund into the Water Infrastructure Fund, As well as closing the Chip & Seal Fund and renaming the Water Infrastructure Fund to “City Infrastructure Fund”. Second by Carpenter. Ayes, all. Motion Passed. Discussion was held on moving pool donation funds into a CD. Motion by Carpenter for Horgan to move $100,000.00 from the pool donation checking account into the highest rate CD available. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Discussion held on the city’s 20% match for the Energy Efficiency Block Grant. Decision of where to allocate these funds tabled until an updated cost amount is available.

**Board of Health, City Buildings, and Recreation:** Nothing

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

**Old Business:** Tetrault Trust lease renewal reviewed with the addition of a right of access clause. Jackson will present this to Mr. Tetrault for approval. Motion by Jackson to approve the first reading of the UTMA Franchise Agreement. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Energy Efficiency Grant discussed. A new estimate for windows that are approved by the State Historical Society will need to be obtained. Kent Dalzell will be available to attend the April meeting to confirm the Cemetery Board’s stance on financial operations. Discussion was held on Steps and Sidewalks at the police station. Clearance for step repair may need to be obtained from the State Historical Society. An engineer report may also need to be obtained to prove that making the building ADA compliant would be an excessive expense. Motion by Horgan to advertise for sidewalk repair bids in the official newspaper for a period of two weeks. Second by Capenter. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**New Business:** Motion by Horgan to approve liquor license transfer of Jackson’s Bar to Legion on Martch 29, 2025. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all with Jackson abstaining. Motion passed. Motion by Jackson to make Chris Trupe the City Superintendent. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Schill to increase Chris Trupe’s annual salary to $55,500.00. Second by Carpenter. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, yes. Motion passed.

**Other Business:** Schill brought up the topic of a possible shop addition needed in the future. Mayor McDonald suggested the city pursues acquiring the necessary equipment to complete minor curb repair projects

Motion by Carpenter to adjourn. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 9:08 P.M.

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

Mayor Auditor

March 3, 2025