**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF WALHALLA CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 2024**

Mayor McDonald called the regular meeting of the Walhalla City Council to order at 7:01 P.M., Monday October 7, at city hall.

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

Others Present: Justin Dearinger, Austin Dearinger, Rebecca Davis, Jeff Amoth, Pauline Amoth, Dean Jackson, Mr. Larry Dubois, Auditor Cook

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

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

**Communications:**  Complaint letter from Kelly Gratton regarding junk at lot 16 block 80. A property owned by Chris Jackson. Mr. Jackson stated that this material is on James Metelmann’s property and upon purchasing of the adjacent property he offered to remove the junk. Mayor McDonald will contact James Metelmann regarding removal and Mr. Dubois will contact Mr. Gratton to address the complaint. Tigua Inc. has cancelled their contract for garbage pickup at the customs site. The city works employees have removed the city dumpster from the site. Angelle French was in contact with the auditor about a pilot program for gateway communities located near state parks. The auditor did have a zoom meeting with a representative from this program and will keep the council informed of any upcoming opportunities. Pauline Amoth addressed the council about drone usage within the city, and asked if the city would consider making a statement advising caution when flying drones over personal property to avoid any potential conflicts or actions that could be considered harassment. Mr. Dubois stated this would not be a problem for the city to make an informational statement to the public about respecting privacy while operating drones. Auditor Cook will check with the league of cities to inquire how other cities address drone usage. An email from Andrew Aaakre with Moore Engineering regarding a questionnaire for putting the city on a potential low interest loan funding list for replacing sewer infrastructure in upcoming years was presented. He would submit the questionnaire on the city’s behalf, and the city would not be obligated to any projects. Motion by Kalis to have the mayor sign the questionnaire and have Andrew Aakre submit it on the city’s behalf. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Municipal Services, Building Permits, Streets, and Alleys:** Motion by Carpenter to approve building permits submitted by Charlie Bjornstad and Tom Karel. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Discussion held on part-time help for city works dept. Motion by Carpenter to advertise for a period of two weeks, the position of part-time help in the city works dept. with 16-20 hours per week available, pay depending on experience and applicants holding of a CDL. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**Police, Fire, and Traffic:**  process for posting of openings for a police officer at local police academies discussed.

**Financial & Economic Development Corp:** Nothing

**Board of Health, City Buildings, and Recreation:** Horgan stated she has reached out about receiving the blueprints for the new pool, but has not gotten a response yet. Motion by Jackson to approve the hiring of Michelle Sehrt as library part-time help at $10.00 per hour with raise to be approved after 90-day probationary period. Second by Horgan. Roll Call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion Passed.

Motion by Carpenter to approve all bills presented with the approval of Morris Sealcoat & Trucking Inc. contingent on clarification in the difference in square yardage from contract to invoice. Second by Schill. Roll Call: Kalis, yes; Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion Passed.

**Old Business:** Discussion held on the updated agreement presented to Mr. Sehrt regarding property in the industrial park. Mr. Dubois explained the changes made were to clarify the conditions that would need to be met to sell the property, such as signing of the deed back to the city if conditions listed in the contract were not met. Mr. Dubois stated the dollar amount for substantial improvements made to the property of $400,000 was based off recent construction of an industrial building in Cavalier. Mayor McDonald asked for an estimate of what paperwork and legal costs to the city would be to sell this property. Mr. Dubois stated approximately $3,000. Mayor McDonald stated the city will need to receive a more detailed plan of development from Mr. Sehrt to proceed further with the sale.

The newly formed employee committee has not met yet but plan to do so prior to the Nov. meeting.

Lagoon progress was discussed. Dan Fischer is pleased with the progress. The underground high voltage trench is an issue and the addition of drain tile will be some added expense. Dan Fischer will be consulted on details about the high voltage line.

Cemetery road maintenance discussed. Mr. Schurman has no objections to the road being winged out but does not want snow piled on his property.

Rezoning progress discussed. Mr. Dubois will have an update on this at November meeting.

**New Business:** Discussion held on possible dump ground hours changing to 1 day a week for the winter months. Discussion of ongoing problem of household garbage being left at landfill. Mr. Dubois will look into penalties and legal action against those found in violation.

Chip bid opening set for noon Thursday October 10th at city hall.

**Other Business:** Mayor McDonald voiced concern over Mr. Gapp working in beet harvest in conjunction with working for the city. He stated he views this as a liability to the city for him to come from a 12hr beet shift and then operate city equipment. Discussion of Mr. Gapp using comp time and vacation time during beet season was held. Mrs. Dumas will discuss this situation with Mr. Gapp.

Motion by Carpenter to adjourn. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:32 P.M.

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

Mayor Auditor

October 7, 2024