**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF WALHALLA CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MONDAY MAY 5, 2025**

Mayor McDonald called the regular meeting of the Walhalla City Council to order at 7:01 P.M., Monday May 5, 2025 at City Hall.

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

Absent: Carpenter

Others Present: Lisa Keney, Duane Schurman, Neil Dame, Denise Dame, Robert Ripple, Rebecca Davis, Zelda Hartje, Pauline Amoth, Justin Dearinger, Austin Dearinger, Mr. Larry DuBois, Auditor Cook

Motion by Horgan to approve the minutes from the April regular meeting as read. Second by Kalis. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Horgan to approve the minutes from the April 14th Special Meeting as read. Second by Kalis. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Kalis to approve the minutes from the April 28th Board of Equalization Meeting, as read. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

Duane Schurman addressed the council explaining the reason for his abatement request. Motion by Schill to not grant the abatement to Mr. Schurman. Discussion was held on abatement decision. Mr. Schill’s motion died due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Carpenter arrived to the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Motion by Dumas to approve the abatement to Mr. Schurman. Second by Kalis. Roll Call: Dumas, yes; Schill, no; Horgan, no; Jackson, no; Kalis, yes; Carpenter, abstain. Motion to approve Mr. Schurman’s abatement defeated.

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

**Communications:**

**NDDOT:** Information was received on updating the flashing beacons at school crossings and incorporating a push button system during the Hwy 32 project. This will be at no cost to the city.

**Complaint**: A complaint letter was read from Marjorie A. Johnson regarding fireworks being lit off within city limits as well as debris left on the street and on her property.

**Mar-Kit Landfill:** Dale Nelson would like to meet with the municipal services committee to discuss and explain a 10-year contract renewal with the city sometime in the near future. The auditor will get this scheduled.

**Hunter’s Safety:** Sean Hagan has requested use of the Legion for Hunter’s Safety classes. Motion by Schill to waive the rental fee for this event contingent on the legion being thoroughly cleaned afterwards. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**GIS Mapping:** Julie Hein met with the auditor and city superintendent to finish set up of GPS mapping of curb-stops, gate valves, and hydrants. The fee to access this service is $100.00 per year.

**Moore Engineering:** Representatives from Moore Engineering will be going door-to-door the week of May 12th conducting water service line inventory for the purpose of reducing the number of “unknown” service lines in Walhalla. City Engineer, Andrew Aakre requests that the city notifies the public in advance.

**USPS:** The Walhalla Post Office had inquired with the city of where a storage container to house their equipment during the upcoming remodel project could be set. It was decided that approval from a neighboring private property owner would need to be obtained.

**Mayor Resolution to Veto Discussion:** After the April meeting, Mayor McDonald had exercised his power to veto the motion to accept the bid from Acme Equipment of $76,263.21 for a Kubota SVL97-2HFCC for the following reason: Mayor McDonald desires to study and compare the specifications between the Kubota SVL97-2HFCC and the Bobcat T770 Track Loader. No motion was made to overrule Mayor McDonald’s veto. Mr. DuBois explained some inconsistencies in the city’s procurement ordinance. It was decided to have Mr. DuBois submit a proposed revised procurement ordinance.

**Committee Reports:**

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

Motion by Carpenter to extend the current contract with Valley Landfill for one month. Second by Schill. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, no. Motion passed. Motion by Carpenter to approve the construction permit applications submitted by Neil Dame, Darrin & Lori Longtin, Arik Runyon, and Chris Jackson. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all with Jackson abstaining from his permit application. Motion passed. Motion by Schill to hire Marcus Halldorson for summer help at $20.00 per hour. Second by Carpenter. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, yes; Kalis, yes. Motion passed. The committee will consult with the city superintendent to see if additional help is necessary.

-**Window bid opening:** Mayor McDonald opened the bid from Cavalier Do It Best Home & Lumber with an option 1 bid of $1,597.32 for 2 windows and installation materials and an option 2 bid of $1,045.12 for 2 windows and installation materials. Labor was not bid. Mayor McDonald opened the bid from Walhalla Building Center with a bid of $1,305.52 for 2 windows and installation materials with labor to be donated by the Walhalla Building Center. Motion by Kalis to accept the bid from the Walhalla Building Center for $1,305.52. Second by Schill. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, yes; Kalis, yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Schill to purchase the Bobcat T770 Track Loader from Ironhide Equipment at the submitted bid price of $79,477.18. Second by Kalis. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, no; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, no; Kalis, yes. Motion passed

**Police, Fire, and Traffic:**  Discussion held on passing of House Bill allowing golf carts on city streets. Mr. DuBois will prepare a proposed ordinance for this. Discussion on police officer hire. The official start date of the police officer is not available at this time. The committee is willing to offer a $400.00 allowance for use towards the purchase of a county approved service weapon. Motion by Schill to purchase one SCBA for the fire dept at a cost of $8,592.50. Second by Horgan. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, yes; Kalis, yes. Motion passed.

**Financial & Economic Development Corp:**  Nothing

**Board of Health, City Buildings, and Recreation:** The Board of Health will set a meeting to discuss and hear feedback from residents considered in violation of ordinance 2024-2.

Motion by Kalis to approve all bills presented. Second by Schill. Roll call: Carpenter, yes; Kalis, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes but abstaining from his bill; Jackson, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

-**Cell Tower**: A Phone call was made to Blair Ransom stating that the petition will be sent to the auditor for signage from the owner of the property where the tower will be placed as well as a representative from Harmoni Towers.

-**Cat Nuisance:** Discussion was held on options for fining owners of nuisance cats as well as trapping and disposing of cats. Health concerns associated with uncontrolled cat population also discussed. Mayor McDonald offered to contact the potential owner of the animals in question.

-**Tetrault Trust:** All documents have been signed and copies should now be dispersed to the respective parties.

**New Business:** Motion by Jackson to approve the cemetery board’s hire of Brian Mathison for contract labor at $30.00 per hour. Second by Carpenter. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, yes; Kalis, yes. Motion passed. Motion by Carpenter to designate the Cavalier Chronicle as the city’s official newspaper. Second by Jackson. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Kalis to publish the Vegetation Nuisances ordinance in the official paper for a period of two weeks. Second by Carpenter. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Jackson to hold the special election at the Legion building, 306 10th Street with polls to be open from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tuesday June 03, 2025. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Horgan to hire 2 judges and 1 inspector at $15.00 per hour with one meal provided for the June 03 recall election. Second by Kalis. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes; Jackson, yes; Kalis, yes. Motion passed. The decision was made to donate the old pool tarp to the Neche pool. Arbor Day proclamation discussed.

**Other Business:**  Discussion held on having the city superintendent schedule the annual sewer jetting. Discussion held on contacting interested parties on haying at the industrial park. Request for 4th of July street closure from Chris Jackson. Motion by Carpenter to grant the requested street closure from 10th street to 11th street on July 4th. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all with Jackson abstaining. Motion passed

Motion by Carpenter to adjourn. Second by Horgan. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 9:21 P.M.

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

Mayor Auditor

May 5, 2025