**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF WALHALLA CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2025**

Mayor McDonald joined in via telephone for the regular meeting at 7:02 P.M. and resigned the chair to President Kalis. President Kalis called the regular meeting of the Walhalla City Council to order at 7:03 P.M., Monday January 6, 2025 at City Hall.

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

Council Absent: Jackson

Others Present: Rebecca Davis, Allen Huttunen, Dean Jackson, Jeff Amoth, Pauline Amoth, Christopher Trupe, Kendra Trupe, Austin Dearinger, Mr. Larry Dubois, Auditor Cook

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

Chamber Director Rebecca Davis petitioned the council for financial assistance in paying for participation in the Rest Area Brochure Program with a cost of $1,200.00. Motion by Dumas to cover this year’s cost for the brochures with the $1,200.00 coming from the lodging tax fund. Second by Horgan. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion Passed.

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

**Communications:** Melissa Shaw from the USAF emailed the city stating they have not received the application from the airport to takeover the custodianship of the aircraft. Contact information for the airport was provided.

Kelly Gratton had contacted the city to inform that he had accepted employment elsewhere and was rescinding his application for part-time employment.

Retrofit Electronics Recycling contacted the city to inform that rates would be increasing effective January 02, 2025. The Auditor is waiting on an updated pricing sheet.

Mr. DuBois had emailed the city to provide notice that he had completed the filing of the annual report for a nonprofit corporation in regards to the Walhalla Economic Development Corporation, as well as receipt of the acknowledgement from the Secretary of State.

Terry Meidinger contacted the city regarding contact information for a potential police officer candidate for the city.

Steve Gapp tendered his resignation letter to the auditor with his final day being December 31, 2024.

Terry Meidinger contacted the city to inform that radio equipment for one of the police vehicles was ready for scheduled install at MidStates Wireless in Fargo. The Auditor will coordinate with councilman Schill to get install completed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Municipal Services, Building Permits, Streets, and Alleys:**  Motion by Schill to set a compensation wage of $25.00 per hour for Leeroy Carpenter, Marcus Halldorson, and Kyle Thomas for their assistance with the garbage route. Second by Dumas. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion Passed. Additional quotes for lease and/or purchase of a new loader were discussed. Decision to move forward tabled at this time. Allen Huttunen addressed the council on garbage services provided by Valley Landfill. Mr. Huttunen extended an offer to provide an employee from Valley Landfill to assist with garbage service at a rate of $42.00 per hour but would like to have a detailed commitment to hours available and not be an as needed/on call service. Councilman Carpenter offered his availability to assist with the garbage route until Spring. Motion by Horgan to run the help wanted ad for a public works employee that was presented by the auditor. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Schill to set an hourly wage of $25.00 per hour for Steve Gapp should his assistance be offered and accepted on an as needed basis moving forward. Second by Dumas. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, Dumas, yes. Motion Passed. Discussion was held on the ability to complete the garbage route should Chris Trupe be absent for any reason. Motion by Carpenter to contact Valley Landfill for the purpose of contracting assistance with the residential garbage route starting the week of January 13th and extending to the regular meeting of March 2025 at the quoted rate of $42.00 per hour.  Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion Passed.

**Police, Fire, and Traffic:**  The auditor gave an explanation of the Verizon police account. Detailing that the city is only under a contract for one of the two lines of service being paid monthly. Motion by Carpenter to cancel one of the lines of service. Second by Dumas. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Motion by Carpenter to run the help wanted ad for a city police officer that was presented by Horgan. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**Financial & Economic Development Corp:** Jackson had contacted the auditor to inform that the Energy Efficiency Block Grant had been completed. It will require some photographs and signatures prior to submission. Mr. Dubois stated the grant should be reviewed by the council and approved before submission.

**Board of Health, City Buildings, and Recreation:** The council was informed of a $100,000.000 donation to the swimming pool fund. Discussion was held on the bathhouse and that updated plans will be submitted to the council by Jackson. Horgan informed the council of upcoming deadlines to purchase equipment for the bathhouse project as well as an option to apply for a deadline extension regarding the bathhouse grant.

Motion by Schill to approve all bills presented with him abstaining from bills submitted by Schill’s Shop. Second by Carpenter. Roll Call: Carpenter, yes; Horgan, yes; Schill, yes; Dumas, yes. Motion Passed.

**Old Business:**  Mr. Dubois will provide an update to the Tetrault Trust contract at the next regular meeting. Discussion was held on Chris Trupe attending the water expo January 21-23. It was confirmed he will still be attending this. Schill stated no quotes have been received from Roughrider Industries regarding the conference table. Landfill hours discussed moving forward as limited staff is available to monitor the landfill during current hours of operation. Motion by Dumas to adjust the landfill hours to Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and for the landfill to be closed on Saturdays until further notice. Second by Schill. Ayes, all. Motion passed.

**New Business:** Nothing

**Other Business:** The auditor asked about the necessity of issuing a courtesy letter to properties with delinquent water accounts prior to making any decisions to terminate service . It was decided to abide by the wording stated in Ordinance 2024-01.

Motion by Horgan to adjourn. Second by Carpenter. Ayes, all. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:28 P.M.

Raela Kalis\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Michael Cook \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Council President Auditor

January 6, 2025