



**Regular City Council Meeting
December 16, 2025, at 6 p.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

The following council members were at the hall: Mayor Scott Helfman, Councilmember Todd Booker, Councilmember Ken Grey, and Councilmember Mark Noyes.

The following council members were absent: Councilmember Nick Dagele

The following city employees were present at the hall: City Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Osterdyk.

The following city staff members were absent: Fire Chief Al Cekalla

Members of the public who were present: Rick Borchardt

Regular City Council

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Helfman called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Department

Rick Borchardt was present to represent the Fire Relief Association. The Fire Relief Association is separate from the Fire Department. It provides a retirement benefit for members. After 10 years, it will pay 60%, and after 20 years, it will pay 100%. The request is to get the amount increased from \$1200.00 to \$1350.00.

[Councilmember M. Noyes motioned to approve the request to increase the Fire Relief Association amount to \\$1350.00, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. Dagele was absent.](#)

Fire Chief Al Cekalla was absent from the meeting but did provide an update for the council. The fire department responded to 6 calls in the last month. The DNR matching grant application was submitted, asking for \$2,450 for turnout gear and tools. The department's SOPs and Bylaws are being updated to have them ready for review at the January 2026 council meeting.

The City Clerk/Treasurer shared that the Energy Audit information has been completed and sent to Lakes and Pines for review before an on-site inspection can be scheduled in January 2026.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

None present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the November 18, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting were submitted for approval.

[Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the November 18, 2025, minutes, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. Dagele was absent.](#)

Financial Report

Claims Paid: The Clerk/Treasurer presented the claims paid to the council. Any questions the council had about the Claims Paid were answered satisfactorily by the Clerk/Treasurer.

[Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember N. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. Dagele was absent.](#)

Unpaid Claims: The Clerk/Treasurer presented the Unpaid Claims to the council. Any questions the council had about the Unpaid Claims were answered satisfactorily by the Clerk/Treasurer. Mayor Helfman presented a Repair Order for

John Deere tractor, which requires full service and repairs to the hydraulic pump, as well as repairs to the flail mower, totaling \$3,534.06.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember N. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. DageI was absent.

Financial Report/Review: The Clerk/Treasurer presented the Financial Report/Review. Any questions the council had were answered satisfactorily by the Clerk/Treasurer.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. DageI was absent.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: The holiday lights have been put up. The aluminum cans had been taken in as well.

Public Works: Discharging is done. Sewer dumping will be done this week.

Roads: The area at the storage units has been plowed out more. The area across from City Hall has been cleared. Mike Buetow is scheduled to salt and sand this week. Any road issues should be directed to Councilmember N. DageI for addressing. A few complaints have been received about the roads being too narrow; they will be widened next time plowing is done. The brake line is being replaced on the city truck after it went out.

Solid Waste: M. Noyes is working on a possible spring cleanup; more information to follow in 2026.

Storage Facility: Two of the locked-out units are scheduled for bidding, and the other has been paid in full. The hornet nests have been removed from the units by those who have brought them to our attention.

Water/Sewer Operator: CIP was onsite to assist with the cleanup at the WWTF. Currently, about a quarter of the work is done. They will not be returning to finish, as it's classified as hazardous material.

Zoning: Mayor Helfman shared the latest copy of the Subdivision Ordinance. The last meeting with Widseth was held. A Public Hearing will be scheduled for February 10, 2026, where it can be adopted.

City Clerk/Treasurer: The ARPA early closeout process has been completed, and work on the 2025 end-of-year reporting has begun. All audit adjustments have been finished. The City Clerk/Treasurer asked the council if they would consider cashing out the ESST so it can be reloaded in 2026.

Councilmember T. Booker motioned to approve the ESST cash out for employees, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried by roll call vote, with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. DageI was absent.

Mayor: Mayor Helfman asked that the city reimburse him for the purchase of the new city hall computer.

Councilmember T. Booker motioned to approve the reimbursement for the purchase of the new city hall computer, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried by roll-call vote, with one abstention and three members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. DageI was absent.

New Business

Resolution No. 2025-24: Certifying Unpaid Charges

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve Resolution No. 2025-24: Certifying Unpaid Charges, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with a roll-call vote, with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. DageI was absent.

The council reviewed the 2025 Report of Outstanding Indebtedness and advised the City Clerk/Treasurer to submit it.

Discussions were held around combining the two new parcels recently purchased on Plank Road into the WWTF.

Councilmember T. Booker motioned to approve the reimbursement for the purchase of the new city hall computer, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried by roll-call vote, with one abstention and three members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. Dagele was absent.

The snowplow contract was mentioned due to snow removal at City Hall and the Fire Hall. The agreement covers motorized removal, not manual shoveling of any area. The Fire Department is responsible for clearing the apron in front of the Fire Hall and the sidewalk along the Fire Hall. The city is responsible for the handicap ramp and area along the front of City Hall. Mayor Helfman and Councilmember K. Grey will reach out to contractors to get quotes for discussion at the January 2026 meeting.

Rentals at the city hall increased significantly over the course of the year. Windemere Township is asking to hold its meetings at the hall again in 2026. No response has been provided to them as of today. The council discussed and agreed that a rate increase was needed to offset the cleaning time, supplies, and utilities used at the hall during these rentals. The rates will increase to \$150.00 for non-alcoholic-beverage rentals and \$300.00 for alcoholic-beverage rentals, effective January 1, 2026. Any rentals currently booked will be honored at the 2025 rate of \$75.00 for non-alcoholic-beverage rentals and \$150.00 for alcoholic-beverage rentals.

The council and mayor reviewed the 2025 Meeting Attendance tracker to confirm it was correct for the 2025 payroll. The council agreed it was accurate and approved to process for payment.

KLM submitted a bid of \$7,450.00 to clean the exterior of the city water tower.

Councilmember T. Booker motioned to approve the KLM bid of \$7,450.00 to clean the exterior of the city water tower, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion was carried by roll-call vote of all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. Dagele was absent.

It was recently brought to the city's attention that Sturgeon Lake Township gave an easement back in 2007 for this Moose Horn Cartway. The property is now for sale, and the title company is requesting that the city update this easement. The council agreed that this is to be sent to the city attorney for review. The City Clerk/Treasurer will forward all pertinent information.

Old Business

2026 MN Paid Leave was discussed. Councilmember T. Booker motioned that the city pays the full amount for the city employees.

Councilmember T. Booker motioned for the city to pay 100% of MN Paid Leave for all city employees, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion was carried by roll-call vote of all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. Dagele was absent.

The council reviewed the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule. Due to prior commitments, the Organizational Meeting will be moved to Wednesday, January 21, 2026. The remaining dates look suitable for everyone now.

Councilmember T. Booker motioned to approve the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion was carried by roll-call vote of all members present voting in favor; Councilmember N. Dagele was absent.

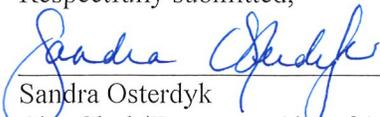
Announcements

- o City Hall Closures:
 - o December 24 & 25, 2025, in observance of the Christmas Holidays
 - o December 31, 2025, and January 1, 2026, for the New Year Holidays
- o The next City Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Osterdyk
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake



Scott Helfman
Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake