



**Regular City Council Meeting
March 14, 2023, at 6 pm
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

The following council members were present at the hall: Mayor Scott Helfman, Council member Adam Langhorst, Council member Nick Dagle, and Council member Kris Philipps.

The following council members were absent: Council member David Lingle

The following city employees were present at the hall: Fire Chief Al Cekalla, City Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Osterdyk and Public Works Superintendent Larry Coursolle

The following city staff members were absent: none

Members of the public that were present: Joseph Pelawa

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 21, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting and the March 9, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes were submitted for approval.

[K. Philipps made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting and the March 9, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes, N. Dagle seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor.](#)

Special Guest

No Special Guests in attendance

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.

[A. Langhorst made a motion to approve Claims Paid, seconded by K. Philipps. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.](#)

Unpaid Claims: The Clerk/Treasurer had no unpaid claims to present to the council.

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

[N. Dagle made a motion to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by A. Langhorst. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.](#)

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla stated he looked for the brush piles at Cathedral Pines but could not find them after the recent snowfall. If piles are in the area that are to be chipped it may be best to include them in the quote. This is not a good training opportunity. The grass rig is owned outright by the Sturgeon Lake Fire Department. They will use as needed. Fire Chief Cekalla shared the Fire Department's Community Funding Project submission to Congressman Stauber has been denied, may need to get farther into the process before submitting another one. Last year got as far as square footage and drew out bay areas. Need to step forward with a plan to continue pursuing a new Fire Hall. Mayor Helfman has been in contact with Tim Korby who knows of a few architecture firms who could do drawings at this time and then later on require funding if funding comes through for the actual building. Need to determine a possible location for a new location. Next steps are to form a committee. Have architects come in and talk to the city.

[A. Langhorst made a motion to establish a committee to start working on the process for a new Fire Hall, seconded by N. Dagle. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.](#)

Committee members currently are, Al Cekalla, Kris Philipps and Adam Langhorst

There was a total of 9 calls last month, 5 medial and 4 fire. The State check is in and will be sent this week.

Email was sent to the waste facility south of Sturgeon Lake letting them know that the Fire Chief needs to talk with the State Fire Marshall before signing off on this paperwork. He is also working with Caleb at Pine County. Hopes to have an answer before the April meeting.

Reports of Departments

Cemetery Committee: No update on this item.

Compost Committee: Mayor Helfman shared he has another possible location in mind for the compost site. The current location is part of the Flood Plain. The compost site would need to be open every weekend.

Park Committee: The \$26,350 quote includes installation of playground equipment, edge and wood chips. It was suggested someone reach out to Carlson Timber to see if they might donate some playground wood chips or what their cost might be. Mayor Helfman encourages Council member Lingle to attend the Lions meetings and participate in their events to build a partnership with them in the community. Playground equipment is scheduled to arrive any day. Need to get a spec sheet of the border. Need to find out how much mulch is needed. Need to find out how much site grading and prep work is required to be done prior to installation. Need to find out if we fix the site and grass after the installation or if they do that?

Public Works: City truck had to have a radiator hose replaced. Starting in 2024 there will be a separate General Ledger account for Roads. All funds automatically roll into the next year's fund balance. Everything has one rolling account. The cost for a new city truck will be divided between the General Fund and Water and Sewer Fund. Discussion was had what price range is fair. The council agreed that \$30,000 for a truck with an additional \$8,000 for a V Plow attachment should be enough. It was decided that there is enough in the accounts to cover this cost.

[K. Philips made a motion to spend up to \\$30,000 on a new city truck, \\$10,000 being allocated from the General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund and a V Plow Attachment also to be added to the truck, seconded by N. Dagle. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.](#)

The council had further discussion and agreed that K. Philipps and N. Dagle would negotiate and purchase the new city truck.

[N. Dagle made a motion to that K. Philipps and N. Dagle would negotiate and purchase the new city truck, seconded by A. Langhorst. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.](#)

There has been a truck that has been sitting near the bike trail for a week with a flat tire. Mayor Helfman put a sign on the windshield earlier. This area is posted with "No Parking, No Overnight Parking" signs. Mayor Helfman suggest we make a resolution to establish a procedure on how to handle abandoned vehicles going forward.

K. Philipps made a motion that two signs be purchased and put up with the City of Sturgeon Lakes contact information, seconded by N. Dagele. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.

K. Philipps made a motion that any vehicle that is left abandoned for more than 7 days is towed at the owner's expense, after due diligence is completed after 3 days and two notices are put on the vehicle, seconded by A. Langhorst. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.

N. Dagele called and spoke with the Pine County Sheriff's department, and they suggested we have the vehicle towed to let them know the license plate number and the tow company information. Make sure our due diligence was completed and that two parties were involved when the calls were made. Also, that notices had been put on the vehicle at 3 days and 7 days states on both times the vehicle would be towed.

Roads: Mike Buetow can no longer get salt/sand. It now must be pre-ordered from the city for him. Mike will still pay for the salt/sand. The city only needs to authorize the purchase. Talked about the upcoming snowfall. Mike has asked Clint from Willow River to come up with his grader to push the edges of the roadways to shelf them. A few driveways got covered in. More snow is in the forecast

Solid Waste: Working to recruit someone to take the lead on this committee. Someone from outside the council can volunteer. The council would approve the candidate.

Storage Facility: Mayor Helfman and A. Langhorst toured the storage locker facility. They discovered that it is not ideal to have an apron installed in front of the garage with the track sliding door. Quotes for new overhead garage door will need to be taken. The apron in front of will need to be 6" thick and 30x25 or 40x25. Also need to get a quote for the northside of the lockers for an apron to run the full length plus 4' out. There are a handful of lockers with dings and or wood exposed that need to be repaired before spring.

Water/Sewer Operator: Mayor Helfman was able to gain access to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) site. No grinder pumps have gone out in the last month. Western Lakes Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) handles most sewage dumper companies from Hinckley, MN north. This shortens the life of wastewater ponds. The council had a lengthy discussion on the top of increasing the dumper rate. It was decided that effective May 1, 2023, the new rate will be \$30.00 per 1,000 gallons.

K. Philipps made a motion to raise the sewage dumper rate to \$30.00 effective May 1, 2023, seconded by N. Dagele. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.

Mayor Helfman and N. Dagele to visit L&L Granite to confirm they have a reclaim system Table metering discussion until April meeting.

Zoning: No update on this item.

City Clerk Treasurer: Continue to work on end of year reporting and prep for upcoming audits. ACH is set up and confirmed working with Northview Bank. Still working on establishing ACH with the Members Cooperative Credit Union, Northwoods Credit Union, and First National Bank of Moose Lake. Laptop and Ipads dropped off at Cybert to be cleaned and wiped. Sam.gov reactivation submitted again. The City Clerk/Treasurer shared that Minnesota Power will be in the area doing work at 9069 Timberline Drive and 3227 Cedar Lane. The City Clerk/Treasurer stated that they will be attending the upcoming Minnesota Municipal Clerks and Finance Officer Association (MCFOA) Annual Conference from March 21-24 in St. Cloud.

Mayor: Meeting schedule with Senator Jason Rarick for March 21 at 2pm at the Minnesota State Capital. The purpose is to request funding for paving roads, construction of a new City Hall and Fire Hall for the City of Sturgeon Lake. More information to be provided at the April 2023 council meeting.

Old Business

N. Dagele is working with FEMA on the paperwork from Pine County Snow Emergency Declaration on 12/20/22 for the snowstorm on Dec 13-16, 2022 (State Disaster 2023-SD-070). He will work with the City Clerk/Treasurer and Mayor

Helfman to compile data to get this completed. Should be able to recover approximately 75 % of expenses from snowstorm.

The council needs to come up with a plan to allocate the remaining \$23,882.08 ARPA Funds. This will be revisited at the April 2023 council meeting.

2023 Fee & Charges until April 2023 council meeting. The council needs to decide if they want to hold a special meeting to discuss Fee & Charges and which ones are going to be enforced going forward. Or if they are all going to remain the same as the previous years.

New Business

Submission of all the Legislative Funding Requests to Senator Klobuchar, Senator Smith, Representative Stauber all have been denied.

Discussion around Part Time Maintenance Employee. There was a total of five applicants that applied for the position. Out of the five, four interviewed for the position, two of the four the council felt were younger and could not operate power tools yet or had conflicts with other jobs or being a student. Further discussion around the third candidate it was discovered that he may have the opportunity to get a work permit, which would help greatly. In the meantime, some "Slow Moving Vehicle" signs will be ordered for the tractor and lawn mower.

The City Clerk/Treasurer shared that shared that Congressman Pete Stauber is hosting an Agricultural Listening Session, Wednesday, March 15, 2023 @ 5 pm North Pine Government Center, Sandstone, MN

Moratorium on Land Use & Sub-Division/Placement of Storage Containers. Mayor Helfman has asked for a discussion from the council on Land Use and Sub-Division as at this time there are two different avenues that can be taken. Someone needs to talk with the city attorney for guidance. Does the city get something in an ordinance established and run it past the city attorney? Does the city want a moratorium? Do the people want to do a land use ordinance? Need more direction on which way to go. Are not getting specific in language on how many storage containers someone can have on their property. More concerned with where the placement is so they are not on their neighbor's property. Mayor Helfman is to coordinate a time with Council member A. Langhorst for them to establish some guidelines for the April 2023 meeting. Would push first building start to June 2023 if a moratorium is put into place.

Land Use is simpler. Sub-Division could take longer as it's more detailed. Mayor Helfman recommends everyone read the League of Minnesota Cities for additional information on water and sewer connections regarding connections.

Resolution No. 2023-16 A Resolution Approving the Hire of a Part Time Maintenance Employee

[N. Dagele made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2023-16 A Resolution Approving the Hire of a Part Time Maintenance Employee, seconded by K. Philipps. The motion carried with a roll call vote with all members present voting in favor, D. Lingle absent.](#)

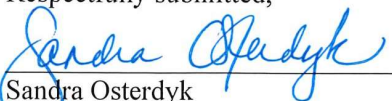
Announcements


Next Regular City Council Meeting: The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 6 pm.

Adjournment

[A. Langhorst made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded N. Dagele. Motion carried with a roll-call vote with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.](#)

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Osterdyk
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake


Scott Helfman
Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake