



**Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting
February 19, 2025, at 6 p.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

The following council members were at the hall: Mayor Scott Helfman, Councilmember Todd Booker, Councilmember Nick Dagel, Councilmember Adam Langhorst, and Councilmember Mark Noyes.

The following council members were absent:

The following city employees were present at the hall: Fire Chief Al Cekalla and City Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Osterdyk.

The following city staff members were absent:

Members of the public who were present: Kristin Booker, Ken Grey, Amberlyn Wofford Miller, Judy Koch, Tom Koch, Vern Anderson, and Joseph Pelawa

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Helfman called the Public Hearing to order at 6:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing for Intern Ordinance #99: Subdivision Moratorium

The council discussed and agreed to move forward with the Subdivision Moratorium for six months. This allows for time to put the new subdivision into place.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to adopt Intern Ordinance #99: Subdivision Moratorium, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor with a roll call vote.

Adjournment

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing meeting, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Helfman called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla reported that, in the past month, the department has responded to 6 fire and medical calls. All of the SCBA gear is in use. Fire Chief Cekalla is working with Mayor Helfman to set a date with Widseth for the Feasibility study. The lights in front of the Fire Hall need some attention. Mayor Helfman is working on getting quotes and a response from MN Power.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

No guest or visitor comments.

The meeting packet includes letters of interest received to fill the vacant council seat. The council briefly discussed the candidates present at the meeting.

Resolution No. 2025-10: Resolution Filling a Previously Declared Council Vacancy

Councilmember M. Noyes motioned to approve Resolution No. 2025-10: A Resolution Filling a Previous Declared Council Vacancy with Todd Booker, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor with a roll call vote.

The City Clerk/Treasurer swore in Todd Booker as a Sturgeon Lake City Council Member.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the January 14, 2025, Organizational City Council Meeting and the January 25, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to approve the minutes for the January 14, 2025, Organizational City Council Meeting, and January 25, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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 A. Langhorst motioned to approve Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: The curb stops are now in place. The drinking is waiting for pickup for the park.

Public Works: Continue to work on snow removal.

Roads: Mike Buetow has been plowing the roads. Will remind him to plow Honey Bear Lane as it was recently missed. The banks in the rights-of-way are pushed back. Residents are asked to take their empty trash cans in from the road, as this prevents plow drivers from having to go around them, thereby ensuring they are not hit and damaged. Areas around fire hydrants have been cleared.

Storage Facility: No storage containers allowed in the storage locker area, and a bee's nest in small #3 will be removed.

Water/Sewer Operator: Many residents are experiencing freezing issues that require attention. The city truck is having transmission issues. The council reviewed the quotes received and decided to take the truck to Albergs Auto for repairs.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to approve the quote from Albergs Auto for transmission repairs to the city truck, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The generators need to have maintenance. The council reviewed the quote received from Allied Generators. Mayor Helfman reached out to Ziegler for a quote and is awaiting a response.

Mayor Helfman reached out to Tom Anderson regarding the removal of sludge. He also went out with an auger, and there are no changes in mound numbers.

The Department of Health Inspection brought up the issue of rust in the water tower and well house. Mayor Helfman is addressing this issue by reaching out to KLM to obtain a quote for the cost of preparing the area prior to painting.

Zoning: Another working meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

City Clerk/Treasurer: Continue to work through conversion and reporting issues with Banyon. Finishing year-end reporting. The 2025 MCFOA conference is scheduled for March 18-21, 2025. The Clerk's Institute is scheduled for May 5-9; this is the second year of the three-year program for certification.

Mayor: Nothing new that wasn't already covered.

New Business

The council reviewed and discussed the four letters of interest that had been received for the vacant council seat.

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to accept all four letters of interest, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagle. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

One submission was withdrawn at the meeting, leaving three possible residents to consider. Councilmember M. Noyes asked if a Special Election should be held. After discussion among the council, it was agreed that a Special Election would potentially cost approximately \$2,000 to hold, which is an unnecessary expense.

Councilmember N. Dagle motioned not to hold a Special election and continue reviewing the letters of interest, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried, with all three members voting in favor, and one member abstaining.

Pine County 2026-2028 New Assessment Agreement was reviewed by the council and agreed upon.

Councilmember N. Dagle motioned to approve Pine County 2026-2028 New Assessment Agreement, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

2025 Open Book Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting was discussed by the council and agreed upon.

Old Business

Continued discussion around the new Cannabis Management for MN. The council agreed not to enact a city ordinance at this time. Will review again if needed. Councilmember N. Dagle will be the point of contact for the Office of Cannabis Management Contact and Delegation Form.

The council decided to hold a working meeting on February 27, 2025, to discuss the ordinances that are currently in effect and those that are outdated for subdivisions. This meeting will include buildable areas and roadways. Specifics come from multiple sources, such as the state and county requirements on the roads, which will be drilled down to the city and townships levels. Mayor Helfman asked the council to research and bring back the findings they would like to share at the next meeting.

Announcements

City Council Working Meeting, February 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Meeting, March 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Osterdyk
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake


Scott Helfman
Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake