



**Regular City Council Meeting
June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

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

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

The following city members were absent: none

Members of the public who were present: Joseph Pelawa

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 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

Joseph Pelawa was present to review with the city council the current restrictions on the sewer connection and the public grinder stations leading to the private connection for the City of Sturgeon Lake. There was a discussion about making it mandatory for everyone to connect and leverage the connection within a specific timeframe. The topic of converting grinder stations to private ownership was also discussed, including when this should take place. The transfer of ownership should take place when the property is sold to a new homeowner or when the grinder pump is replaced, and the new owner then assumes responsibility for the grinder pump. The city needs to consider whether an additional ordinance is needed to supplement the current restrictions under the MN Basic Code, Chapter 51: Sewer Regulations, and, if so, draft it for the city attorney to review.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla reported that the department responded to 5 medical and 5 fire calls, including 1 structure fire and several grass fires. The FEMA grant they applied for was denied. He asked that, going forward, the budget report include a breakdown of monthly deposits. The City Clerk/Treasurer stated this would have to be done manually, as the system report does not allow this detail. The review of the 2027 Fire Contracts is currently set at a 5% increase. The Fire Chief stated that, due to the current COLA rate at 4.2%, the wage increase, and medical calls adding another 80 calls, he believes the increase is valid. The City Clerk/Treasurer stated that both 5% and 6% would be available for review at the June 23, 2026, Fire Contract meeting to determine which works best.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 12, 2026, Public Hearing for Minnesota Power Franchise Ordinance No. 102, Public Hearing for Lakes and Pines/DEED Housing Rehabilitation Grant, and Regular City Council Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the May 12, 2026, Public Hearing for Minnesota Power Franchise Ordinance No. 102, Public Hearing for Lakes and Pines/DEED Housing Rehabilitation Grant, and Regular City Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. 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 N. Dagel made a motion to approve the Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion was 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 made a motion to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion was 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 made a motion to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: The lion fountain froze, and it needed new parts to repair it. Councilmember T. Booker sprayed for weeds at the park and mowed the trail. Council discussed having Eaton's mow this going forward, along with the two lots off Hwy 61 and the sidewalks.

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to approve Eaton's mowing of the trail, two lots off Hwy 61, and the sidewalks in town, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Public Works: The system is operating well and in working order. No issues to report at this time.

Roads: No gravel has been put out on the roads. Roads are in good shape. Councilmember N. Dagel and Mayor Helfman will compile lists of manholes that need to be raised and will reach out to Northland to do the work this fall, if available.

Solid Waste: Working on inventories of properties that will receive letters. A blight cleanup letter was signed for the county and will be attached to the sale of the Royal Avenue property, stating that it must be completed upon purchase.

Storage Facility: The checks from Twin Ports Storage will be arriving soon for the sale of the City's 2001 Dodge Ram 3500 Utility Truck for \$1,339.75 and the Fire Department's 1988 Ford F-800 Tanker Truck for \$1,979.75. Twin Ports Storage takes a \$295.25 commission from each sale.

Water/Sewer Operator: The caps are in for curb stops. The tall valve risers will be ordered. The generators need maintenance done on them, which will include replacing the radiator caps. The tank heaters need to be looked at and replaced as well.

Zoning: There was a total of three building permits received in the last month. One building permit has been received that needs to be updated. One building permit was received and approved. One building that remains unapproved, yet they moved forward without the permit. This one has a conex container that is open and empty on the property that is not moved, which is noted on the permit to be in a different location, within 5 feet of the property line. This property also has a playground in the right-of-way. Another property has a pond in the right-of-way. Will work on compiling a list of properties in the right-of-way to address this issue and drafting a letter to the attorney. The DNR reached out to Councilmember N. Dagel to say they had a complaint filed on May 13, 2026, regarding the property at 28350 Moose Horn, noting that the land was being cleared and fill was being brought in. Councilmember K. Grey will file a Data Request to obtain the May 13, 2026, DNR Incident Report for DNR Case #26009802. Once the report is received, he will forward it to the City Clerk/Treasurer for distribution to the entire council for review.

City Clerk/Treasurer: The City Clerk/Treasurer reported that the city's .gov domain has been secured. The annual audit is being finalized for submission to the state. The annual Work Comp audit has been completed with no issues. All journal entry adjustments have been made for 2026Q1. Will be attending the 2026 Election training next week for clerks and head judges. Candidate filing opens July 14, 2026, and closes on July 28, 2026, at 5:00 pm with a \$5.00 filing fee.

Mayor: Mayor Helfman shared that Galen Neigum from North County Electric will provide a quote to do the wiring for mini-splits, if approved by the Sturgeon Lake Lions. This quote will also include switching the City Clerk/Treasurer office lights to LED. Upon receipt of the quote, the City Clerk/Treasurer will forward it to the full council for review.

New Business

The council discussed the two options presented by Horvath Towers V, LLC for a land buyout or a 20-year lease extension. The council agreed to turn down the land buyout and accept the lease extension with the terms to add twenty (20) years (four (4) five (5) year extension terms) to the terms of the existing lease, with the rent amount escalating 10% at the beginning of each such extension term as it does in the existing lease.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to approve the Horvath Towers V, LLC 20-year lease extension offer, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The council reviewed the John B. Mikrot Jr. quote for cleaning debris off the north primary pond. The council agreed that a roll-off dumpster will be needed at WWTP for trash bag collection.

Councilmember N. Dagel moved to approve John B Mikrot Jr.'s quote to pick up debris around the WWTF ponds at \$50.00 per hour for an estimated 250 hours, with standard monthly billing until completion, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Helfman will continue working to obtain the required final signatures for the Welcome to Sturgeon Lake sign easement.

The council has been asked to review the RV ordinances of other surrounding communities and consider how they might be modified to fit our city. Councilmember K. Grey is to investigate how many campers are classified as a campground on a property.

Announcements

The 2027 Fire Contract Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The next Regular City Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The 2027 Budget Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourns at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Helfman

Sturgeon Lake Mayor



Sandra Osterdyk

Sturgeon Lake City Clerk/Treasurer