



**Public Hearing for Minnesota Power Franchise Ordinance No. 102,
Public Hearing for Lakes and Pines/DEED Housing Rehabilitation Grant,
and Regular City Council Meeting
May 12, 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: City Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Osterdyk
The following city members were absent: Fire Chief Al Cekalla

Members of the public who were present: Scott Williams

Public Hearing for Minnesota Power Franchise Ordinance No. 102

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Helfman called the Public Hearing for Minnesota Power Franchise Ordinance No. 102 to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

No visitors or guests are present to challenge the extension of the franchise agreement for another twenty years. The council reviewed the revised document, which now included the repeal and replacement of Ordinance No. 88, dated August 26, 2003.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to accept Minnesota Power Franchise Ordinance No. 102, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried by roll call, with all members present voting in favor.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing for Minnesota Power Franchise Ordinance No. 102, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried out, with all members present voting in favor. The public hearing portion was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Public Hearing for Lakes and Pines/DEED Housing Rehabilitation Grant

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Helfman called the Public Hearing for Lakes and Pines/DEED Housing Rehabilitation Grant to order at 6:03 pm.

No visitors or guests are present to challenge the formal closing of the Public Hearing for Lakes and Pines/DEED Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to formally close the Public Hearing for Lakes and Pines/DEED Housing Rehabilitation Grant, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried by roll call, with all members present voting in favor.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing for Lakes and Pines/DEED Housing Rehabilitation Grant, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried out, with all members present voting in favor. The public hearing portion was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Regular City Council

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Helfman called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

Scott Williams was present to request a move of his property line. The council asked him to speak with Straightline Survey to begin the process and submit the necessary paperwork. He also presented an updated lot sketch for his new property, which he would like connected to the city water and sewer. The council asked that he speak with an engineer and the Minnesota Department of Health before taking the next steps on this, and to provide an update to the council.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update that there have been many grass fires, and the department responded to 9 calls in the last month. The fire truck was sold for \$2,275.00.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the April 14, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the April 14, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting minutes, 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 N. Dagel made a motion to approve the Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. 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 T. Booker. 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 T. Booker. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: The lion drinking fountain is out in the park. The inclusive harness swing set was installed at the park as well. Recyclable cans had been taken in.

Public Works: The Public Works truck was sold for \$1,685.00.

Roads: Received complaints regarding dirt in yards. If it rains, we will put down \$5,000 worth of gravel.

Solid Waste: Rick Lewis has cleaned up the property he bought on Larimer Drive; it looks nice. Two additional properties in town will be receiving letters. Will obtain the exact ordinance information and forward it to the City Clerk/Treasurer for distribution.

Storage Facility: One new rental in the last month.

Water/Sewer Operator: One grinder pump was replaced in the last month. The water tower was washed. Timberline has been online for two weeks. Valve risers are to be ordered. Will be spraying for weeds at the RIBS soon.

Zoning: The pole building going up on Cedar looks good. Application for deck expansion just approved on Old Hwy 1. Need to relook at the Gill building permit. Should see a building permit from JJ's soon.

City Clerk/Treasurer: Completed year three of the Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute. Finalizing items for the upcoming audit.

Mayor: Looking at generator services, every other year, usually for the air filters and caps. Mayor Helman and Councilmember T. Booker reviewed the legal issue regarding the easement for the welcome sign. The estimate currently is approximately \$1,100.00. Council agreed to move forward with this easement.

There are stumps right up to the road and in the right of way on PID # 460035000 at the end of General Andrews Drive before you enter General Andrews Forest. The council agrees that a survey is needed to establish property lines. The homeowner continues to have questions about why the brush is cleared.

Dan Blake has been recommended by the previous city attorney to fill the position due to the city attorney's retirement. The council discussed his credentials and agreed to him as the interim attorney. The city will still look for another attorney and ask that any other names be forwarded to Mayor Helfman, who may be a good fit.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to hire Dan Blake as the interim City Attorney, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Mayor Helfman brought up grinder pumps and said he would like to check with our city engineer for more information. Specifically, not taking on new grinder pumps; what is allowed; the specifics; what guidelines and types are acceptable; whether ownership of the pump is sold with the property; and the workout of pump maintenance. The council authorized up to \$3,000 for grinder pump research.

Councilmember T. Booker made a motion to authorize up to \$3,000 for grinder pump research, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Councilmember T. Booker reached out to Greg Larson about doing three door repairs along with trims. He was quoted \$2,275 for the Fire Hall Back Door, Fire Chief Front Door, and the West Main Side Door.

The council discussed this quote and asked if seals for interior doors, window seals, and broken windows could be added. More information to follow at the next meeting.

New Business

Ordinance No. 102 MN Power Franchise Summary for Publication

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 102 MN Power Franchise Summary for Publication, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

There is a property on Cemetery Road that is set to go to foreclosure with Pine County. Pine County has reached out to ask whether the city would like to pay the back taxes and then work with the current owner to have them removed or let it go to auction. The council discussed the matter and decided to let the property go to auction, wait 30 days, and then try to purchase it.

Councilmember N. Dagel also mentioned that there is a portion of land just north of this parcel that L&H Development, LLP, owns, and they are working with the city to acquire it if the city covers the closing costs. Mayor Helfman will reach out to Pine County to get this process started.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Helfman is currently waiting on the survey for the Welcome to Sturgeon Lake sign easement.

Both vehicles were sold at auction. The fire truck was sold for \$2,275.00. The Public Works truck was sold for \$1,685.00.

All Terrain Landscaping's quote of \$19,160 for WWTF pond clean-up was reviewed by the council. Minnesota Pollution Control set a June 2026 deadline to develop a plan to remove the debris. Will continue to look for options. Councilmember M. Noyes will reach out to Nelson's Sanitation to get a quote.

RIB resurfacing quote from DGE was reviewed. Mayor Helfman has been trying to get additional quotes for the past year. DGE stated there is no increase in fuel costs, and they have a closer source of sand. They ask to start once the bridge opens again. Some of the sand can be repurposed around the city and Cathedral Pines. The city can have Mike Buetow grade it. The council agreed to move forward with two basins. Mayor Helfman will decide which two RIBs to do.

Councilmember T. Booker made a motion to approve the RIB resurfacing quote from DGE to have two RIB'S completed, seconded by Councilmember N. Dage. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

A stucco repair quote from Zebulon Harju Stucco was presented for stucco patching and repairs, along with metal bead flashing repairs to the building. The city council discussed the quote and repairs. He presented two quotes back in October of 2025. The \$2,013.00 quote for the stucco and flashing repairs was approved. The \$990.00 quote for the cosmetic patchwork was missed in error at that time.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to accept the \$990.00 quote for the cosmetic patchwork needed, seconded by Councilmember N. Dage. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The Lions Club is reviewing both the Annex and D&E quotes to determine whether to add Mini Split AC units to City Hall. The City would cover the electrical costs. The Lions also want to paint City Hall this year.

Announcements

The Sturgeon Lake Lions Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day.

The next Regular City Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourns at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Helfman
Sturgeon Lake Mayor



Sandra Osterdyk
Sturgeon Lake City Clerk/Treasurer