



**Budget City Council Meeting
July 21, 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, and Councilmember Mark Noyes

The following Councilmembers were absent: Councilmember Ken Grey

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: none

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

No special guests or visitor comments.

2027 Budget Review

The council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2027 budget and needed adjustments. The council reviewed last year's actual and current year-to-date expenses. The City Clerk/Treasurer provided answers as needed to clarify line items for revenue and expenses. All items requiring additional adjustments will be reviewed at the August 18, 2026, meeting.

New Business

There is a 20' section of curb near the recycling can area in front of the Fire Hall that the Fire Chief would like to have painted yellow. Currently, people are parking there, making it difficult to bring equipment into the fire station because of limited space. The Fire Chief has stated that the department would paint the curb if paint was provided. Mayor Helfman will contact the Fire Chief to let him know where the paint is located.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to have the 20' section of curb painted near the recycling can area in front of the Fire Hall, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor, Councilmember K. Grey absent.

The Pine County Economic Development Executive Director reached out, as she will be presenting a housing study to the Pine County HRA-ED for consideration at their regular board meeting. This Sturgeon Lake Housing Opportunities will examine the demand and need for housing in the City of Sturgeon Lake and the surrounding area. The overall study costs \$14,000. She believes she can secure the \$14,000, with 1/2 from a grant from the Initiative "IF" Foundation, and HRA-ED will cover the balance IF doesn't cover. The ask from the city is to contribute \$500-\$1,000 to support the project, or at least to send a letter of support for her to present at the meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. The council discussed this and decided to provide a letter of support for the project.

Councilmember T. Booker made a motion to provide a letter of support for the Sturgeon Lake Housing Opportunities, seconded by Councilmember N. Dage. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor, Councilmember K. Grey absent.

Reports of Departments

Solid Waste: The council reviewed the updated blight letter information that will be attached to the August 2026 utility billing statement, including contact information for Solid Waste Commissioner M. Noyes.

Water/Sewer Operator: Dave Gerard will be starting on the RIBs. Currently, RIBs 1 and 2 are not draining properly, 3 and 4 are backed up, and 6 and 7 are draining muddy. The removed dirt will be dumped and spread along the roadways of Timberline, Cathedral Pines, and Deer Drive.

Zoning: There was one new building permit approved for Owen's property. Asked them to contact Pine County to get a sewer permit. Adding two bedrooms will likely necessitate a larger septic system to remain compliant.

City Hall: Mini-split AC slabs will be poured this week. Install of units within the next few weeks.

Unfinished Business

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

Announcements

National Night Out is scheduled for August 4, 2026, at Sturgeon Lake City Park.

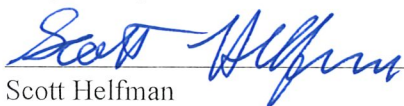
The Primary Election is on August 11, 2026.

The next Regular Meeting & Finish Budget City Council Meeting is on August 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember N. Dage made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor, Councilmember K. Grey absent. The meeting adjourns at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Helfman

Sturgeon Lake Mayor



Sandra Osterdyk

Sturgeon Lake City Clerk/Treasurer