Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting
September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall

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

The following Mayor/Councilmembers were absent: Mayor Scott Helfman

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:

Members of the public who were present: Joseph Pelawa

Public Hearing for Delinquent Water & Sewer Assessment

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Acting Mayor Dagel called the Public Hearing for Delinquent Water and Sewer Assessment Meeting to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

No visitors or guests were present to challenge the delinquent water and sewer list at the Public Hearing. The council reviewed the delinquent water and sewer list. Any outstanding amounts after November 15, 2026, will be sent to Pine County for assessment against property taxes in 2027.

Regular City Council

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Acting Mayor Dagel called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

No special guests or visitor comments.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla stated there were 11 calls in the past month. The Fire Department recently participated in the Cage Day touch-a-truck event. The department helped with the Sturgeon Lake Lions Breakfast, and the proceeds will go to the Relief Association. October 4-10 is Fire Prevention Week; on that Tuesday, October 6, 2026, they will be at Willow River School.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the August 18, 2026, Regular City Council and Finish 2027 Budget Meeting Minutes
The meeting minutes were submitted for approval.

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to approve the August 18, 2026, Regular City Council and Finish 2027 Budget Meeting minutes, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

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 T. Booker made a motion to approve the Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

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 T. Booker made a motion to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

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

Councilmember T. Booker made a motion to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: Councilmember T. Booker provided an update that the gap along the side of the concrete at the pavilion was filled with pea gravel. The recycling cans were taken, and the trail at the park had been mowed. The lion fountain will be removed and stored before winter.

Public Works: No update.

Roads: One more grading to be done before winter. There has been lots of road patching work done around town in the last month.

Solid Waste: No update.

Storage Facility: Councilmember K. Grey provided an update on the three quotes received from Greg Larson for work to be done.

Quote #1: Storage Lockers: Replace the J channels, weatherstripping, and steel panels, as well as the rope on the storage doors, for $2,885.00

Quote #2: City Public Works Side Door: Install a 32" steel service door with a deadbolt at the storage lockers near the main public works overhead door, for $824.00.

Quote #3: City Hall Handicap Ramp: Repair work to be done on the handicap ramp at City Hall, for $1,390.00

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to approve all three quotes from Greg Larson to complete the work at the storage locker, to have the city public works side door installed, and to have the City Hall handicap ramp repairs done, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

Water/Sewer Operator: no update

Zoning: The Moose Horn Property with the camper is in the flood plain and must be removable at a moment's notice. Currently, it is on blocks. The owner claims he has not brought fill in onto the property; documentation shows otherwise. A building permit was sent to him on September 11, 2026. Follow-up will be done with the property owner regarding the status of the building permit to confirm that the camper is on wheels only and complies with all other floodplain laws and regulations for approval.

City Clerk/Treasurer: The City Clerk/Treasurer reported that the preparation for the General election this fall is under way. The lead and copper sample site submission has been approved, and the five collection sites will be completed by the end of the month. The samples will be collected over the next few weeks. Making progress on collecting delinquent accounts.

Mayor: No update

New Business

The council discussed the 2026-2028 Snow Plowing and Road Grading Contract Renewal quote provided by Buetow Trucking and Excavating LLC. The Fuel Cost Adjustment clause was added, allowing contract prices to be adjusted in response to fuel cost fluctuations during the contract period, including unforeseen increases or decreases. Still waiting on final sand and salt numbers for the year; once they are confirmed, they will be added to the contract.

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to approve the 2026-2028 Grading and Snow Removal bid from Buetow Trucking and Excavating LLC, good through September 30. 2028, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

2027 Tobacco Sale License for Fas-Stop and JJ's Liquor for Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2027

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to approve Tobacco Licenses for Fas-Stop and JJ's Liquor for January 1, 2027 – January 1, 2027, seconded by T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

2027 Liquor Sale License for JJ's Liquor and Sturgeon Lake Pizza Pub for Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2027
Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to approve Liquor Licenses for JJ's and Sturgeon Lake Pizza Pub for January 1, 2027 – January 1, 2027, seconded by T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

Unfinished Business

The council reviewed the Right-of-Way letter received from the city attorney. It was agreed to have it reworked to include a 15–30-day timeline from the date of the letter; failure to comply and any costs incurred would be added to the property owner to reimburse the city. The City Clerk/Treasurer will work on a draft to send to the council for review.

2027 Budget

The council reviewed the 2027 budget. When required, the City Clerk/Treasurer provided answers to clarify line items for revenue and expenses. Approval of the 2027 budget will be made when the full council is present at the October 20, 2027, meeting.

Announcements

The Community Pet Wellness Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2026, in observance of Labor Day.
The Regular City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Accuracy Test is scheduled for October 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
The 2026 General Election is November 3, 2026.

Public Hearing for Delinquent Water & Sewer Assessment

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing for the Delinquent Water and Sewer Assessment meeting, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Regular City Council

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to adjourn the September 15, 2026, Regular City Council meeting, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Dagel
Sturgeon Lake Acting Mayor

Sandra Osterdyk
Sturgeon Lake City Clerk/Treasurer