



**Public Hearing, Regular City Council and Closed Special Meeting
September 16, 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 Ken Grey, and Councilmember Mark Noyes.

The following council members were absent: none.

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: Dean Weske, Jackie Svacina, and Mike Svacina

Public Hearing for Delinquent Water & Sewer Assessment

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

No visitors or guests are 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, 2025, will be sent to Pine County to be assessed for 2026 property taxes.

Adjournment

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing for Delinquent Water & Sewer Assessment meeting, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Regular City Council

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Helfman called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla reported that in the past month, they have responded to 13 calls. The Fire Department will be selling the tanker truck by sealed bids to be opened and approved at the October 21, 2025, meeting. Fire Chief Cekalla stated that they do not want to continue with Widseth for the Feasibility Study. He will reach other local fire departments to find out what company they used. The Fire Department recently participated in the annual *Miles for MnFIRE* event. The walk raises money and awareness for firefighter health and wellness. The lights on the Fire Hall look great. The roof is not leaking after the recent repairs.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

Dean Weske from Northern Pine Riders was present to confirm that all gambling equipment has been removed from the Sturgeon Lake Pizza Pub as of August 18, 2025, due to a lack of 10% net profit.

Mike Svacina with Mike's Sewer Service asked the council for an additional 300,000 gallons to get through the end of October 2025. The council discussed this request and agreed to grant 200,000 gallons, with the possibility of an additional 100,000 gallons after consulting with the operator.

Councilmember T. Booker motioned to allow an additional 200,000 gallons to be allocated to Mike's Sewer Service, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for July 15, 2025, City Council meeting, July 22, 2025, 2026 Budget meeting, July 22, 2025, Work Session meeting, August 19, 2025, 2026 Budget meeting and September 11, 2025, Special meetings were submitted for approval.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the minutes for the July 15, 2025, City Council meeting, July 22, 2025, 2026 Budget meeting, July 22, 2025, Work Session meeting, August 19, 2025, 2026 Budget meeting and September 11, 2025, Special meetings, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagle. 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. Dagle motioned to approve Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. 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. Dagle motioned to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. 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. Dagle motioned to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: The aluminum cans had been taken in. The fence at the park was recently sprayed as well.

Public Works: Update included in Water and Sewer section.

Roads: Mike Buetow was out grading when the roads were wet and leveling trenches due to the cable installs around town. Currently, no additional gravel is needed. Councilmember M. Noyes is maintaining the ditches to keep them in excellent condition. The belt for the zero-turn mower is in, and the bearings need to be replaced as well.

Storage Facility: Storage unit #9 had a mysterious lock placed on it but has been corrected. Storage unit # 0 needed to have wasps killed.

Water/Sewer Operator: Chlorine booster pump has been installed. The VFD at well house #1 has been down for two weeks. A replacement has been ordered. Jetting is being done and is expected to be done before September 19, 2025. Quality Flow and Nelson's are scheduled to be on-site to clean lift stations and pumps. Reviewed the letter from MPCA received by the council. A resurfacing quote was received from Dave Gerard. Mayor Helfman brought up the property for sale on Plank Road that would be ideal for the potential expansion of WWTP. The council discussed the property and agreed to make an offer of \$75,000 for the property. Mayor Helfman will reach out to Amy Perrine to facilitate the purchase.

Councilmember M. Noyes motioned to make an offer of \$75,000 for the property on Plan Road, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagle. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Zoning: One new building permit was recently approved. One building permit is pending approval but it requires additional information. Mayor Helfman mentioned that two additional subdivision meetings still need to be scheduled.

City Clerk/Treasurer: Continue to work on issues with Banyon. Working to finalize items for the auditor to complete the 2024 state audit and update the 2026 Budget.

Mayor: Nothing new currently.

New Business

No new business that wasn't already discussed.

Old Business

The council discussed the proposed 2026 Levy Certification and agreed to a 4.5% increase, \$228,118.28.

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to increase the proposed 2026 Levy to \$228,118.28, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagele. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Announcements

Community Pet Wellness Clinic, September 17, 2025, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

City Hall Closures:

- October 13, 2025, in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
- City Council Meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagele. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Closed Special Meeting

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(b), to discuss pending litigation with counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Osterdyk
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake



Scott Helfman
Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake