



**Regular City Council Meeting
July 15, 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: Emily Danelski, and Joseph Pelawa

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.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla reported that one new hire brought the department's total to 22 members. In the past month, they have responded to 11 fire and medical calls. After winning a recent bid, a 2004 Peterbilt Tanker was added to the department. The Fire Chief reminded everyone that National Night Out will be at the park on Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

An update was provided on the status of the Feasibility Study from July 8, 2025, meeting with the architect. They are compiling a quote that will be reviewed at the August 12, 2025, meeting.

old.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

Emily Danelski asked Councilmember K. Grey to clarify a previous comment to her as she felt it was personal and threatening. Councilmember K. Grey responded he didn't remember this conversation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for June 17, 2025, City Council Meeting, June 24, 2025, Fire Contract meeting, and June 24, 2025, Work Session were submitted for approval.

Councilmember T. Booker motioned to approve the June 17, 2025, City Council Meeting, June 24, 2025, Fire Contract meeting, and June 24, 2025, Work Session, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. 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 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. Dagel 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. Dagel motioned to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.](#)

The City Clerk/Treasurer explained that there had been some issues with the Banyon coding, and their technical department was working on this. Once this was corrected, updated financials and the Northern Pine Riders' most recent financials would be sent to the mayor and council for review.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: The fence was installed on July 20, 2025, with reflectors on the posts.

Public Works: Councilmember M. Noyes has been mowing the ditches along the roads.

Roads: The blacktop patch arrived. The stop sign on 1st Avenue has been replaced. The brush bank was pushed back to be within the right-of-way. On Cedar Lane and Birch Lane, there is driving in the ditch. Residents are asked to call the police when they witness this. A visible path is now present that is wrecking the ditch, which now needs to be restored. Mike Buetow did a great job with grading the roads. Councilmember N. Dagel stated there is a need for additional gravel along Old Hwy 1 and other areas. Request for an extra \$5,000 for gravel was discussed.

[Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to approve the \\$5,000 request for gravel, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.](#)

Storage Facility: After the auction, storage unit 15 still needs to be emptied by the winning bid individual. The Fire Chief will also remove the extra part from their unit.

Water/Sewer Operator: Chlorine booster pump is onsite. John Mikrot Jr. sent a response to the MCPA letter regarding their follow-up questions and is waiting for a response. The city will look into fixing the rust in the water tower. Councilmember M. Noyes continues to mow at the water/sewer ponds.

Zoning: One new building permit was recently approved. Mayor Helfman and Councilmember K. Grey attended the July 9, 2025, meeting with Widseth regarding the subdivision. More time is needed to review and update this properly.

[Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to extend the Subdivision Moratorium for another six months, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.](#)

The City Clerk/Treasurer will contact the City Attorney to have this extended.

City Clerk/Treasurer: A known computer issue between Banyon and Microsoft updates has recently caused major computer issues with lag and random shutdowns. Banyon is working on updates to correct the problems. Workarounds are in place to help navigate the systems currently. Working to finalize items for the auditor to complete the 2024 state audit and update the 2026 Budget and 2025 Delinquent Water and Sewer lists in the new system is underway. The Work Comp audit was recently completed.

Mayor: Nothing new at this time.

New Business

A discussion was had regarding councilmembers having the option to be paid for work being done.

The City Clerk/Treasurer will follow up with the City Attorney and LMC to identify the next steps in this process.

The council reviewed and discussed the concrete bid to replace the City Hall entrance sidewalk.

[Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to approve the bid to replace the entrance sidewalk at City Hall, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.](#)

The council reviewed and discussed the Fire Hall roof proposal. The \$540.00 price was to fix the issue only. It was asked if the gutter could be extended and soffit work on the side of the building added to this quote as well.

Councilmember N. Dage! motioned to approve the bid to have the Fire Hall bid, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business

Council discussed scheduling another working session to continue the discussion on the Subdivision Ordinance.

Announcements

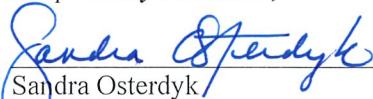
The 2026 Budget Meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

2025 National Night Out is scheduled for August 5, 2025,

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember N. Dage!. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Osterdyk
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake



Scott Helfman
Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake