



**2026 Fire Contract Meeting  
June 24, 2025, at 6 pm  
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

The following council members were present at the hall: Mayor Scott Helfman, Councilmember Todd Booker, Councilmember Nick Dagal, and Councilmember Ken Grey

The following councilmembers were absent: Councilmember Mark Noyes

The following city employees were present at the hall: Fire Chief Al Cekalla and City Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Osterdyk

The following city employees were absent: none

Members of the public who were present: none

Members of the public who were present: Ed Magdziarz and Nedene Kuhlman

Call to order: Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Mayor Helfman called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Fire Contract Meeting**

The Fire Chief presented the 2026 Fire Contracts for review. It was explained that the contracts include a 5 % rate increase for the year based on the standard inflation rate and the 3% or more cost-of-living rate. The figures from Pine County are based on the number of structures in each city/township and the proposed amounts due for fire protection in 2026. Nedene Kuhlman, Clerk for Sturgeon Lake Township, expressed that she disagrees with the increase as it was agreed last year to a 4 % increase, and 5% is just too high. Discussion was shared back and forth between the Clerk for Sturgeon Lake Township, the Fire Chief, and the Council. The City of Sturgeon Lake Township was firm on the 4% rate. The Fire Chief asked that the council make the final decision on the rate for 2026. Mayor Helfman and Councilmember K. Grey had also shared their thoughts on the 5% rate. Councilmember T. Booker countered the 2026 rate at 4.5 %. The City of Sturgeon Lake Township agreed to the 4.5% increase. All Fire Council Jurisdictions 2026 Fire Contract will be updated with the new rate and sent to the local jurisdictions to be presented to their boards for finalization and signatures.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2025 Contract</b>	<b>2026 Increase</b>	<b>2026 Contract Amount</b>
Birch Creek Twp.	\$ 17,273.98	\$ 777.33	\$ 18,051.31
Denham City	\$ 2,677.57	\$ 120.49	\$ 2,798.06
Sturgeon Lake City	\$ 24,613.84	\$ 1,107.62	\$ 25,721.46
Sturgeon Lake Twp.	\$ 29,689.41	\$ 1,336.02	\$ 31,025.43
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$ 74,254.80</b>	<b>\$ 3,341.47</b>	<b>\$ 77,596.27</b>

Councilmember T. Booker moved to accept the 4.5% 2026 Fire Contract rate increase, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagal. The motion carried with a roll call vote, with members present voting three in favor, one against, and M. Noyes absent.

### Announcements

The next City Council Meeting is on July 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

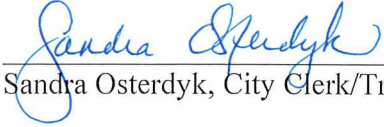
The 2026 Budget Meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The 2025 National Night Out is August 5, 2025.

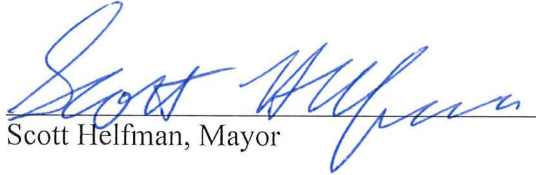
### Adjournment

Councilmember N. Dagele motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried out, with all members present voting in favor and M. Noyes absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Osterdyk, City Clerk/Treasurer



Scott Helfman, Mayor