Regular City Council Meeting
July 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall

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

The following Mayor/Councilmembers were absent: Mayor Scott Helfman

The following city employees were present at the hall: City Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Osterdyk

The following city members were absent: Fire Chief Al Cekalla

Members of the public who were present: Jerry Gill, Joseph Pelawa, Rob Rose

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, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

Jerry Gill was present to seek clarification and discuss his building permit request, as he had been informed earlier in the week that his request was not approved when he came in to apply for a new permit. He was also informed that his request to build a structure over an existing camper would require a water and sewer connection, as that would make the structure permanent. This would be a new, separate connection from his existing water and sewer connection for his primary residence at his property. Acting Mayor Dagel explained that the city is drafting an ordinance for this at this very moment. If he would like to move forward with covering this camper, the first step is to provide the city with plans for review. As for the conex container, it is currently too close to the property line. Once moved, it will be approved.

The goal is to have the new ordinance in place before October. The city does not yet have an exact number of confirmed campers. Most communities allow for one supplemental camper/tiny home on a property.

Rob Rose was present to discuss his Minor Subdivision application at 3189 Green Lead Road, Sturgeon Lake, MN, and answer questions from the council. The council reviewed his application and agreed to approve his request. The City Clerk/Treasurer will call him early next week to let him know when the final paperwork is ready for pickup.

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to approve Rob Rose's request for a Minor Subdivision at 3189 Green Leaf Road, Sturgeon Lake, MN, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla provided an update prior to the meeting to be given. National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at the Sturgeon Lake City Park starting at 6:00 p.m. He requests that the curb in front of the Fire Hall be painted. Currently, vehicles are parked in front of the 20' section near the recycling cans, making it more challenging to maneuver into the bays after returning from calls.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the June 16, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting and the June 23, 2026, Fire Contract City Council Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the June 16, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting and the June 23, 2026, Fire Contract City Council 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 K. Grey made a motion to approve the Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. 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 K. Grey made a motion to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. 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 K. Grey made a motion to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: T. Booker mowed the trail at the park and sprayed the spring bounce horses at the park.

Public Works: Debris cleanup has begun at the WWTF.

Roads: Mike Buetow graded Logan Drive and Cemetery Road. Starting to look at options for the 2026-2028 Grading and Snow Removal Contract renewal.

Solid Waste: One property has made some progress. Have a letter going out in August. Willow River had something in Evergreen a few weeks ago about partnering with Pine County. The City Clerk/Treasurer will locate the article with Willow River information and send it to the council for review.

Storage Facility: Councilmember K. Grey would like to replace weatherstripping, tin, trim, and rope on units in need of repair. He will get a quote and provide it at an upcoming meeting.

Water/Sewer Operator: No update currently. Starting to mow again. The county will ditch the area again.

Zoning: A total of two building permits were received in the last month. One building permit has been received that needs additional information. One building permit was received and approved. The zoning camper ordinance needs to get moving forward. Need to schedule a working meeting to discuss.

City Clerk/Treasurer: The City Clerk/Treasurer reported that all audits are complete for the year at this time. Shift now focuses on the 2026 Election and on ensuring all judges are properly trained. Updating the Budget and working with Banyon to make changes as needed due to the conversion.

Mayor: No update

New Business

Resolution 2026-11 A Resolution Of Adoption Of Primary General Election Judges for 2026 was presented to the council for review and approval.

Councilmember T. Booker made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-11 A Resolution Of Adoption Of Primary General Election Judges for 2026, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried by a roll-call vote with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Helfman provided an update prior to the meeting that he will continue working to obtain the required final signatures for the Welcome to Sturgeon Lake sign easement.

The DNR Incident Report for DNR Case #26009802 for 28350 Moose Horn Lane was sent to the council for review prior to the meeting. Councilmembers K. Grey and T. Booker had gone down to the property, and there appeared to be nothing going on at this time.

Announcements

The 2027 Budget Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
The Primary Election will be Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor; Mayor S. Helfman was absent. The meeting adjourns at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Dagel
Sturgeon Lake Acting Mayor

Sandra Osterdyk
Sturgeon Lake City Clerk/Treasurer