



**Regular City Council Meeting
November 19, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

The following council members were at the hall: Mayor Scott Helfman, Councilmember Nick Dagel, and Councilmember Adam Langhorst.

The following council members were absent: Councilmember David Lingle

The following city employees were present at the hall: Fire Chief Al Cekalla, Public Works Larry Coursolle, and City Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Osterdyk.

The following city staff members were absent:

Members of the public who were present: Ken Grey, Jackie Svacina, Mike Svacina, Jamie Robbins, Chad Robbins, 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 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla responded to 12 calls in the past month. The Feasibility Study shows the city council added a remodel of the City Hall, which he believed was not part of the original plan. New plan is to have a double bay design and showers, which was not included in the plan provided for review by Widseth. Mayor Helfman suggested another meeting be scheduled to review and go over the plan in detail.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

Mike Svacina from Mike's Sewer Service was present to request additional gallonage for 2024. Also, to discuss the 2025 gallonage allocation and contract. The 2025 gallonage allocation is 2,272,800 gallons to Mike's Sewer Service and 727,200 gallons to Robbins Septic.

Chad Robbins from Robbins Septic was also present to report that his land application is progressing well. He inquired about the 2025 gallonage allocation split, specifically why it was 76% and 24%, and discussed the 2025 contract.

Final review of the 2025 contract was completed between the council and dumpers explaining it's a one year contract that will have the same volume percentage breakout as before, with a rate of \$35.00 per thousand gallons, gallons allocation cannot be rolled over into the following year or be transferred in the event the business is sold, the contract will take effective on January 1, 2025.

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to accept the final 2025 City of Sturgeon Lake Hauled Wastewater Discharge Permit Contract, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

Chad Robbins inquired about the full load stipulation, followed by a council discussion that this will remain in place, with the suspension during winter months due to freezing, but it will be reinstated once spring arrives.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to suspend the full load stipulation for the dumper from the time it freezes until it thaws next spring, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the November 5, 2024, General Election Canvassing Board Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2024, General Election Canvassing Board Meeting, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle 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 A. Langhorst motioned to approve Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle 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. Mayor Helfman did ask the City Engineer to reach out going forward before completing any additional work.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Mayor Helfman. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor with a roll call vote; Councilmember D. Lingle 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 N. Dagel motioned to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Mayor Helfman. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor with a roll call vote; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: The Sturgeon Lake Lions Club will be placing a "Thank You" sign in the park. All donors' names will be displayed on this sign. Council members are asked to provide the names of donors to Todd Booker from the Lions Club.

Public Works: There has been extensive trimming done lately. There isn't much to do currently until the snow arrives. Hours have been reduced to three days a week, with each day consisting of five hours. Larry mentioned that he would like to do the mowing in 2025 instead of hiring a contractor. A quote is to be obtained for laying rock under the handicap ramp, as the weed barrier has already been laid.

Blight: A handful of vehicles have been moved, but some remain. Follow-up in February/March 2025.

Roads: Mike Buetow was out one last time to get the grade in before the freezing temperatures. There are no stop signs in the Wildlife Addition, and residents are asking about this. Currently, there are five uncontrolled intersections. There is a right-of-way issue with encroachment on Larimer Drive and Green Bay Road. Windemere hired Valhalla to widen its areas. Discussion of paving Cemetery Road in 2025 and Logan Drive in 2026. Shift the road back to its proper position. Additionally, based on square footage, paving Timberline Road would require a third split between homeowners and the city to accomplish this. Possible use for Small Cities or ARPA funds. Also, cutting manholes should be included in project costs.

Storage Facility: One new locker was rented in the month.

Water/Sewer Operator: The jetting in town has been completed. The proposal from Schwing Bioset was reviewed and discussed by the council. Mayor Helfman will reach out to get additional information. Review of the MPCA showed that everything was completed. The ditch work and filling has helped. City Engineer, Joseph Pelawa mentioned the biggest issue is that the RIB's should have been 1" higher.

Zoning: Building Permit for Jerry Gill's new addition was recently received. The pole building for Colton Wickstrom is going in. Councilmember N. Dagel is very impressed with the property at 3056 Farm to Market. They recently purchased the property behind it and plan to build later, but for now, they have a storage container at 3056 Farm to Market.

City Clerk/Treasurer: Continue to work on billing account information to identify and correct any errors, ensuring a smooth transition for the conversion with a go-live date of January 3, 2025. Continue making calls to settle outstanding utilities. Registration for the 2025 MCFOA conference was brought up and tabled until December 2024.

Mayor: Mayor Helfman discussed the Subdivision ordinance, which requires updating the language, building permit requirements, plotting, and utilities. Discussion about revising the zoning map will be discussed at the December 2024 meeting.

New Business

Resolution No. 2024-23: Designate the Polling Place for the City of Sturgeon Lake for the 2025 election year

Councilmember N. Dagele motioned to approve Resolution No. 2024-23: Designate the Polling Place for the City of Sturgeon Lake for the 2025 election year, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

Resolution No. 2024-24: Approving the 2025 Budget and Tax Levy

Councilmember N. Dagele motioned to approve Resolution 2024-24: Approving the 2025 Budget and Tax Levy, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

Resolution No. 2024-25: Accepting An Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo Within City of Sturgeon Lake

Councilmember N. Dagele motioned to accept Resolution No. 2024-25: Accepting An Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo Within City of Sturgeon Lake, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor, as confirmed by a roll-call vote; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

The City Clerk/Treasurer provided a reduced quote from Banyon to implement direct deposit for the employees. After the council discussion, it was agreed to proceed with getting direct deposit.

Councilmember N. Dagele motioned to move forward with the Banyon direct deposit software application, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

The 2025 Council Meeting Schedule was tabled until the December 2024 meeting for review.

2025 Earned Sick and Safe Leave

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to have the 2025 Earned Sick and Safe Leave structured the same as the 2024 policy, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagele. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

The council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2025 property taxes for the storage units, at \$1,324.00, and the water tower, at \$390.00 (-3.47%). The City Clerk/Treasurer stated the increase was due to the city using seven of the lockers but will follow up with Pine County to ensure the 2026 proposal reflects the vacant and city-used lockers.

The Horvath Land Buyout Offer of \$130,000 was submitted for review to the council. After the discussion, it was decided to table until the December 2024 meeting.

Old Business

The council was asked to consider where the remaining ARPA funds should be allocated and bring the proposal to the December meeting.

The council reviewed the 2024 election results.

Review and discussion of the 2025 budget revenue and expenses. Council agreed to a base salary of \$55,000 for the City Clerk/Treasurer for 2025, effective January 1, 2025.

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to set the City Clerk/Treasurer salary at \$55,000 for 2025, effective January 1, 2025, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagele. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent.

Announcements

Fire Department Turkey Bingo is Friday, November 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Star Club in Kettle River.

City Hall Office closed on Thursday, November 28, 2024, and on Friday, November 29, 2024, in observance of Thanksgiving.

City Council Meeting, December 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagele. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember D. Lingle was absent. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Osterdyk
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake



Scott Helfman
Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake