



**Finish Budget and Regular City Council Meeting
August 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

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

The following Mayor/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 members were absent:

Members of the public who were present:

Regular City Council

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

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

No special guests or visitor comments.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Cekalla stated there were 12 calls in the past month. National Night Out had about the same number of people as in previous years. They will need to increase the food next year. Overall, he believes everything went well. The Sturgeon Lake Lions Club will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, September 5, 2026, with all proceeds benefiting the Sturgeon Lake Fire Department. You will see them present at the event, helping the Lions members. The 2026 parade season is officially done. He will work on getting the curb painted across from the fire hall within the next month. There is a mutual aid meeting he will be attending next Thursday, and he hopes to learn more about the Public Statement that the City of Sandstone has put in the Evergreen regarding the cities of Hinckley, Sandstone, and Pine City jointly exploring options for the long-term sustainability of fire service in the region. More information to follow.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the July 14, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting and the July 21, 2026, Budget City Council Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the July 14, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting and the July 21, 2026, Budget City Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember M. Noyes 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 N. Dagele made a motion to approve the Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember M. Noyes 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 N. Dagele made a motion to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember M. Noyes 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. Dagele 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; Councilmember M. Noyes was absent.

Budget Review

The council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2027 budget and the adjustments suggested earlier in the day by Mayor Helfman, which were reflected in the report provided. The council reviewed last year's actual and current year-to-date expenses. When required, the City Clerk/Treasurer provided answers to clarify line items for revenue and expenses.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: Councilmember T. Booker shared that the Sturgeon Lake Lions will be covering the costs to paint City Hall in 2027. This is costing \$16,000, and the Lions may make a payment to the city to be set aside for the work to be done in the spring. He will coordinate with CIP to paint the handicap ramp, as that was an additional \$3,800.00.

Councilmember K. Grey brought it to the council's attention that the concrete slab at the City Park on the west side has a drop-off that needs to be backfilled with topsoil or rock to prevent injury.

The council would like to thank the Sturgeon Lake Fire Department and Emily for hosting the National Night Out event. Additional things for children would be beneficial.

Public Works: Work to fill potholes on Timberline Drive over the next few weeks.

Roads: Mike Buetow put the gravel out and graded it once. Like to drill manholes this fall. Round roads off more.

Solid Waste: A notice was included on all August 2026 utility bills reminding all residents to clean up their properties.

Storage Facility: Councilmember K. Grey received a quote from Greg Larson for \$2,885.00 to replace the J channels, weatherstripping, and steel panels, as well as the rope on the storage doors.

Councilmember N. Dagele made a motion to approve the \$2,885.00 quote from Greg Larson to complete the storage locker repairs, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember M. Noyes was absent.

The council asked that Greg Larson also provide a quote for repair work to be done on the handicap ramp at City Hall, and the cost to install a 32" steel service door with a dead bolt at the storage lockers near the main public works overhead door.

Water/Sewer Operator: Resurfacing of RIBS 1 and 2 are complete. Ask Mikrot to try them. John Mikrot III informed the council that he will be leaving the business at the end of October. John Mikrot Jr. will take over the daily tasks he had been doing at this time.

Zoning: Scott Williams has his manufactured home at his Cathedral Pines property. Jerry Gill moved the conex and was in to make the necessary adjustments to the building permit, and it was approved. Nina Horne is in the early stages of planning her 2027 building permit application, with separate water and sewer connections. Garage permit for Courtney Menten was approved. The need to schedule a meeting to get started on the camper and the multiple water and sewer connection ordinances was discussed.

City Clerk/Treasurer: The City Clerk/Treasurer reported that the Primary election had a good turnout. There will be some changes for the General election this fall. The lead and copper sample site submission has been approved and narrowed down to five collection sites. The sample will be collected over the next few weeks. Currently working on delinquent notices and the start of license renewals.

Mayor: No update

New Business

The council discussed the proposed 2027 Levy Certification and agreed to a 5 % increase, \$239,524.00.

Councilmember T. Booker made a motion to increase the proposed 2027 Levy to \$239,524.00, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember M. Noyes was absent.

Resolution 2026-12 A Resolution on Setting a Public Hearing on Delinquent Water and Sewer Assessments was presented to the council for review and approval.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to approve 2026-12 A Resolution on Setting a Public Hearing on Delinquent Water and Sewer Assessments, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried by a roll-call vote with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember M. Noyes was absent.

Unfinished Business

The City Clerk/Treasurer provided an update to the Mayor and City Council regarding the outstanding water/sewer account for Tony Loumann. Pine County is no longer pursuing the forfeiture of the property. The local Pine County Veteran Services has applied for a grant on his behalf. An update will be provided once more information is provided.

The council discussed how best to handle residents who are not currently connected to the city's water and sewer system. It was discussed to involve the city attorney, who can draft a letter to be sent out.

The council reviewed "The Value of Investment In A Housing Study," submitted by Lezlie Sauter of Pine County Economic Development, HRA-EDA, regarding the Sturgeon Lake Housing Opportunities. The council agreed that a visit for the September 15, 2026, meeting is not needed to discuss this topic. The city provided a letter of support for the July 22, 2026, meeting. No financial contribution will be made by the city at this time.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion that no financial contribution will be made to the Sturgeon Lake Housing Opportunities, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor, Councilmember M. Noyes absent.

The city attorney is working on drafting letters to be sent to individuals and businesses that are in violation of the Right of Way Ordinance. More information to follow at the next meeting.

No update currently on Blight, Recreational Vehicles, or Sewer Connection/Grinder Station Ordinances.

It was brought to the council's attention that a house now stands on the property at 28350 Moose Horn Lane. This was the first time the council heard of this, as no building permits had been applied for. Additional research is needed, with more information to follow at the September 15, 2026, meeting.

Announcements

The City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2026, in observance of Labor Day.

The Community Pet Wellness Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Special Assessment Hearing & Regular City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor; Councilmember M. Noyes was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Helfman

Sturgeon Lake Mayor



Sandra Osterdyk

Sturgeon Lake City Clerk/Treasurer