



**Regular City Council Meeting
December 17, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

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

The following council members were absent:

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, Emily Danelski, Vern Anderson, and Tony Bakhtiari

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 brought to the council's attention that there is a FEMA grant available for turnout gear and a grant for a possible new tender, which would require a 10% payment from the city.

Councilmember D. Lingle motioned to submit bids for both grants, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

There is a 1995 Tender with 13,000 miles up for bid that the Fire Chief has been watching. He would like permission from the council to bid up to \$40,000.00.

Councilmember D. Lingle motioned to approve up to \$30,000 for the 1995 Tender bid, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagle. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

No update on the Feasibility Study. The council is asked to forward their available dates to Mayor Helfman so a meeting can happen before the next council meeting.

Special Guests and Visitor Comments

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the September 20, 2024, Emergency Special Sewer Dumping City Council Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember N. Dagle motioned to approve the minutes for the Emergency Special Sewer Dumping City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilmember A. Langhorst. 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 A. Langhorst motioned to approve Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagle. 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 A. Langhorst motioned to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember D. Lingle. 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 A. Langhorst motioned to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Budget Review: Following a review and discussion of the 2025 budget's revenue and expenses, the council finalized it.

Councilmember A. Langhorst made a motion to approve the 2025 Annual Budget, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

2024 Payroll for Council: The Clerk/Treasurer presented the council hours for review and approval. Any questions the council had about their payroll for 2024 were answered satisfactorily by the Clerk/Treasurer.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to approve the 2024 council hours submitted, seconded by Councilmember D. Lingle seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: New holiday lights installed. Discovered that two utility poles do not have a connection, and a workaround will be needed. MN Power said they will install the new connection if the city does the prep work.

Public Works: Holiday lights have been hung in town. Brush clean-up around WWTP was completed. Equipment was moved around for winter storage. The snowplow is ready to go on the city truck. Additional sand is needed for the city. Discovered the brakes on the tractor are not working, and this will need to be repaired.

Roads: Mike Buetow has been out twice so far this year, focusing on intersections.

Storage Facility: Tyler Gallimore has requested access to his locked storage unit. The council agreed to deny his request. A letter is to be sent stating that he has 30 days to pay in full the \$3,296.00, or the city will take ownership of the contents. No payment plan is an option.

Water/Sewer Operator: Mayor Helfman recently returned from a trip to Ferguson to get couplings for new connections. The bleed back curb stop at the park will be checked, along with value adjustments for the road. Mayor Helfman and Councilmember N. Dagel will check on the sludge removal at the WWTP. The fire hydrant on Cemetery Road, where brushing was completed, needs to be fixed. Raising manholes up on the corner a few feet as well, along with a couple of valves that got buried.

Zoning: One building permit for an addition was approved. Wyatt Hegge has reached out regarding water, sewer, and private roads for a possible subdivision. The city is referencing the League of Minnesota Cities subdivision guidelines for the city. A discussion was held to have a public hearing at the next meeting regarding pursuing a Sub-Division Moratorium.

N. Dagel made a motion to have a public hearing at the next meeting to pursue a Sub-Division Moratorium, seconded by A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

City Clerk/Treasurer: Continue to work through the conversion to ensure a smooth transition for January 2025. With an operational POS. The vendor was not aware of the new rollout, which is causing timelines to be extremely close for the January 3, 2025, go-live date. Month-end, Quarter-end, and year-end reporting have already started.

Mayor: Mayor Helfman asked that the council consider having Roberts Rules in effect in 2025. Mayor Helfman to forward the Bylaws and Roberts Rules to the council to review for 2025. The heater at the Well House is still failing, which will require replacement of the entire unit.

A. Langhorst made a motion to get one new electrical unit and the necessary parts to get the heater operational at the Well House, seconded by N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

New Business

Tony Bakhtiari and Vern Anderson were present and requested the use of City Hall for the 2025 Windemere Township Meetings. The council discussed and agreed that this was feasible at a rate of \$75.00 per meeting. The first meeting of Windemere Township is scheduled for January 5, 2025, at 5 p.m. They will forward their meeting schedule

The City Clerk/Treasurer Resolution. No 2024-26 A Resolution Certifying Unpaid Charges for approval to the council. Sharing that a total of \$28,500.10 was sent to Pine County to be added to 14 residents' 2025 property taxes.

A. Langhorst made a motion to accept the Resolution. No 2024-26 A Resolution Certifying Unpaid Charges, seconded by D. Lingle. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor with a roll call vote.

Motion to Approve the Application for 1 Day Temporary Liquor License for St. Isidore's Knights of Columbus for January 5, 2025, Polka and Prayer

N. Dagel made a motion to approve the Application for a 1 Day Temporary Liquor License for St. Isidore's Knights of Columbus for January 5, 2025, seconded by A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor with a roll call vote.

The 2024 Report of Outstanding Indebtedness was completed and will be sent to Pine County after the City Clerk/Treasurer confirms that line #13 is to be set at \$0.00 for 2024.

The council reviewed the Valhalla right-of-way clearing quote. Mayor Helfman and Councilmember N. Dagel will confirm that the clearing will not go past 5' of the driving surfaces.

The discussion of replacing all the light fixtures in City Hall with LED fixtures has been put on hold until additional information can be provided.

The city will no longer order residential fire signs. Residents can order them directly if needed.

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to cease sales of fire signs for residents in the city, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business

The City Clerk/Treasurer presented the final 2025 WWTF Permit application to the council for review. The application noted that gallonage is non-transferable in the event the business is sold, and gallonage does not carry over into the following year. The WWTF Permit application will be forwarded to the City Attorney for final review.

After discussion and review, the city council decided not to accept the Horvath Land Buy-Out Offer of \$130,000. The City Clerk/Treasurer will let Horvath know.

The council reviewed and approved the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule.

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to accept the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The council reviewed the 2025 Proposed Property Tax information provided.

The council discussed and allocated the remaining ARPA Fund amounts to Valhalla for right-of-way clearing in the amount of \$5,500.00, with the remaining balance to go to Buetow Trucking & Excavating, LLC, for plowing and road maintenance services in the amount of \$16,882.00.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to allocate the remaining ARPA Funds to Buetow Trucking & Excavating, LLC, and Valhalla, seconded by Councilmember D. Lingle. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Announcements

City Hall Closures: December 24 and 25, 2024, in observance of the Christmas Holidays, and December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2025, in commemoration of the New Year Holidays.

City Council Meeting, January 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember A. Langhorst motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Osterdyk

City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake



Scott Helfman

Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake