



**Regular City Council Meeting
April 14, 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, Councilmember Ken Grey, and Councilmember Mark Noyes

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

Members of the public who were present: Jerry Gill

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 p.m., 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 shared that the department responded to 5 calls in the last month. The E22 Engine and Johnny have been in for service over the last month. The department currently has four CDs and would like to open a fifth for \$100,000 with a 12-month term.

Councilmember N. Dagel motioned to approve the \$100,000 at the 12-month term, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The amended March 16, 2026, Standard Operating Procedures and By-Laws have been provided for review and discussion. The last update was back in 2010. There were no questions.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-10: A Resolution Approving the Standard Operating Procedures and Bylaws of the City of Sturgeon Lake Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Councilmember M. Noyes. The motion was carried by roll-call vote, with all members present voting in favor.

Fire Chief Cekalla mentioned a pole shed-type building for the Fire Hall across from the current City Hall/Fire Hall, priced under \$300,000; more information to follow.

Get the tanker running and moved before listing it for auction. Ask for a \$1,000 reserve on the tanker.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the March 17, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember K. Grey motioned to approve the March 17, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. 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 N. Dagele made a motion to approve the Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was 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 N. Dagele made a motion to approve the Unpaid Claims, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was 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 N. Dagele made a motion to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.

Reports of Departments

Zoning: Jerry Gill was present to go over his recent building permit. There is a container on the south side of the property that is currently five feet from the property line. Pins could be located at three of the four corners of the property. Councilmember N. Dagele asked Mr. Gill to conduct a survey of his property and to provide an updated layout of his building permit. Once the building permit is updated, the City Clerk/Treasurer will forward a copy to Councilmember N. Dagele and Mayor Helfman for review and approval.

Park Committee: The park trail has been cleaned and seeded. Councilmember T. Booker will mow it first, and the city can start mowing it afterward. Mayor Helfman brought up the Welcome to Sturgeon Lake signs, which the City maintains. The sign on Laketown Road and Forest Road is located on private property. Mayor Helfman brought up the topic of having Straightline conduct a survey and provide an easement to the city, to be completed with our city attorney.

Councilmember N. Dagele made a motion to have Straightline conduct a survey and, with our city attorney, provide an easement to the city, seconded by Councilmember K. Grey. The motion was carried by a roll-call vote, with all four members voting in favor, and one member abstaining.

Roads: The City of Sturgeon Lake sign at the north end of town and on Market Street are missing. Councilmember N. Dagele will check what other road signs are missing and compile a list to present to the county. Mike Buetow will build up the corner of Cemetery Road and Logan Drive to get it back to an actual corner. Look at installing wooden posts with reflectors along with the curb and gutter. Will ask the county to survey.

Public Works: The Public Works truck has been moved to the storage area. Will have pictures taken and put up for auction "as is."

Solid Waste: A blight letter was delivered to the resident, and some progress has been made.

Storage Facility: Snow has been removed from the north side of the building to allow for access to those units.

Water/Sewer Operator: Received a quote from Quality Flow for Lift Station #3, new QCI Controller 1500 CT in the amount of \$4,420.

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to approve the Quality Flow quote for Lift Station #3, new QCI Controller 1500 CT, in the amount of \$4,420, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagele. The motion was carried by a roll call vote, with all members present voting in favor.

KLM is scheduled to clean the outside of the water tower. It could be as early as next week. Calibration and Controls are scheduled to be on-site for pond meter calibration before the end of April.

Continue to reach out to contractors for updated bids on resurfacing RIB's once the bridge is open again. Start discharge once ice is off the ponds. It should be around May 1 to start the RIBs for the year.

Debris is still on the rocks to be cleaned. Councilmember T. Booker to check with Waldhalm's if they could provide a quote for removal. Councilmember K. Grey to check on hazardous waste disposal and provide an update at the next meeting. Continue reaching out to contractors for pond debris cleanup.

City Clerk/Treasurer: The first MDH increase notice was sent out on the April billing statement. A second reminder notice will go out with the May statements, as some payments are reflecting that the increase was missed. The 2025 Consumer Confidence Report has been completed and posted. Final stages of preparation for the upcoming audit. Compiling an Ordinance reference book.

Mayor: From the Lakes and Pines Energy Audit, reached out to a few HVAC contractors for quotes to install mini-splits. One quote received so far from Annex Heating and Air LLC for \$21,300 that did not include the electrical work. The units are pushing the line lengths at the current install locations. Waiting for a call back from another contractor. Will get additional quotes and provide more information at the May 12, 2026, meeting.

Councilmember T. Booker reached out to Greg Larson about doing three door repairs along with trims. He was quoted \$2,275 for the Fire Hall Back Door, Fire Chief Front Door, and the West Main Side Door.

The council discussed this quote and asked if seals for interior doors, window seals, and broken windows could be added. More information to follow at the next meeting.

New Business

The council discussed the announcement of the city attorney's retirement. Mayor Helfman and Councilmember T. Booker will talk to other attorneys to narrow the search for a replacement.

The council had reviewed the 2026 Property Tax Statements for the wastewater treatment facility, water tower, and storage units. The City Clerk/Treasurer will forward the storage unit information to the county assessor's office for the year.

Unfinished Business

Summary for Publication of Ordinance No. 100, which regulates the subdivision of real property that is located within the city limits of Sturgeon Lake.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to approve the summary for Publication of Ordinance No. 100, which regulates the subdivision of real property that is located within the city limits of Sturgeon Lake, seconded by Councilmember T. Booker. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ordinance No. 101: Mayor/Council Member Pay. The council is to consider and discuss it at a future meeting, as it would not take effect until January 1, 2027.

For the May 12, 2026, meeting, councilmembers are to bring a wish list of ordinances they would like to work on. Look at other cities and counties for references. Consider which fee structures, violations, and penalties should be put in place in the future. Look at what is currently in place and the current demand.

Mayor Helfman provided an update on the bridge reconstruction, noting that Pine County is making progress.

Announcements

The City Hall will be closed during the week of May 4-8, 2026.

The next Regular City Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

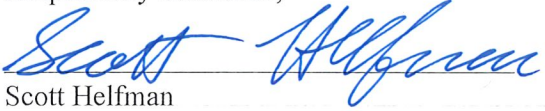
The Public Hearing for the Lakes and Pines Sturgeon Lake Small Cities Development Program Housing Rehabilitation Grant will be on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The Public Hearing of MN Power Franchise Ordinance # 98 Amendment will be on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilmember K. Grey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagele. The motion carried, with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourns at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Helfman

Sturgeon Lake Mayor



Sandra Osterdyk

Sturgeon Lake City Clerk/Treasurer