



**Emergency Special City Council Meeting
May 2, 2023, at 7 pm
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

The following council members were present at the hall: Mayor Scott Helfman, Council member Adam Langhorst and Council member David Lingle

The following council members were absent: Council member Nick Dagele and Council member Kris Philipps

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

The following city staff members were absent: Fire Chief Al Cekalla and Public Works Employees Larry Coursolle and Bob Pladson

Members of the public that were present: John Palmer, Ken Gray, Emily Danelski, Lavonne Sullivan and Tim Sullivan

Call to order: Mayor Helfman called the Emergency Special City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Guest

John Palmer, Palmer Logging

Emergency Special Meeting

Mayor Helfman was doing his daily drive and noticed there was logging taking place at Cathedral Pines earlier today and there was no approval of logging to take place. A few days after the April 11, 2023, City Council Meeting former Mayor Danelski forwarded Mayor Helfman what appeared to be a proposal from John Palmer with Palmer Logging as the document received by Mayor Helfman only had John Palmer's signature on it, which made it appear to be proposal for consideration.

John Palmer indicated he took it as it was a contract, as he and former Mayor Danelski both had signed the contract, the City Clerk asked if he had a copy of this document, which he did produce to show both signatures on the document, and the document was different than the one that was forwarded to Mayor Helfman from the former Mayor Danelski earlier. Mayor Helfman had stated that he noticed that John Palmer had already cleared a lot of trees in the Cathedral Pines areas. John Palmer stated he could clear his equipment out.

Mayor Helfman stated that the city does not want a lot of stacks of limbs laying around. They would prefer to have logs chips, John Palmer said not many places take chips. Having stacks of limbs laying around draws in animals and is a fire concern. The fire department is not doing a burn. It's a very risky situation. Safety is the top concern for the council.

There was lengthy discussion on what can and should be done on the tree branches and treetops. What can be hauled away immediately, what will remain and what will be chipped later. It was agreed to leave a buffer of at least eight to ten trees on private owner's property lines.

Mayor Helfman stated that this would be discussed at the May 16th, 2023, council meeting and John Palmer indicated that he would pull his equipment out then as he would prefer to have an answer tonight.

[D. Lingle made a motion to approve Palmer Logger to continue logging Cathedral Pines, seconded by A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Motion carried.](#)

John Palmer only wants one person to inspect the property. Mayor Helfman will be the point of contact for the logging project. An updated contract will be signed tonight between John Palmer and Mayor Helfman with the following terms:

John Palmer with Palmer Logging will continue to harvest Norway Pine and clean up the storm damage on property belonging to the City of Sturgeon Lake in Cathedral Pines. Norway Bolts will be made from the better treetops and stumps and Palmer Logging will pay the City of Sturgeon Lake \$10.00 per cord. Norway Chips will be made from the remaining treetops and Palmer Logging will pay the City of Sturgeon Lake \$1.00 per ton. This will be evaluated on August 1, 2023, to determine if selling is possible. If not, they will be hauled away before October 1, 2023, and the City of Sturgeon Lake will be paid \$0.00.

Mayor Helfman brought up that the Fire Chief reached out to him that the Fire Department is looking to purchase a new Grass Rig Truck and would like council approval to spend \$129,000 from their budget.

D. Lingle made a motion to spend up to \$129,000 on a new fire truck, seconded by A. Langhorst. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Motion carried.

Next Regular City Council Meeting: The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 6 pm.

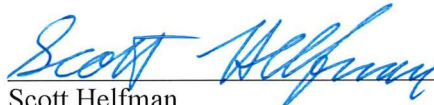
Adjournment

A. Langhorst made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded D. Lingle. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Osterdyk
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake



Scott Helfman
Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake