



**City Council Meeting
April 19, 2024, at 6 pm
Sturgeon Lake City Hall**

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

The following council members were absent:

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 Superintendent Larry Coursolle

Members of the public that were present: Ken Grey, Mark Seger, Yvonne Seger, Bill Grutkoski, Bernard Zuk, Nedene Kuhlman, and Ed Magdziarz

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

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Report: The Fire Chief was unable to make the meeting but did provide an update for the meeting. There had been a total of 7 calls for service. The Fire Department had a speaker from MN Fire join them to talk to the whole department regarding health and wellness. There are numerous programs developed to help firefighters with advocacy, awareness, training, and support. There have been changes to the mutual aid contract with the DNR to add the Wildland Fire Truck while removing the truck that was sold this past December.

Special Guests and Visitor Comment

Representatives from Sturgeon Lake Township and Birch Creek Township were present to ask questions regarding the proposal for a new Fire Hall for the City of Sturgeon Lake. Mayor Helfman responded to the question if this build was for a Fire Hall and City Hall and explained that at this time it is for a Fire Hall. City Hall may be a phase two item. Costs for both would remain separate as they are today. Councilmember A. Langhorst addressed that this is a four- five year process. The city has looked at state funding as well. At this time funding is needed to proceed forward. The feasibility study will take a deeper look at what can be renovated at the current location and provide. At this time it is unknown how long the Feasibility will take. Once the results are known, the results will be shared. It was agreed that townships be provided with an update at least on an annual or semi-annual basis going forward.

Ken Grey was present to continue the discussion regarding Cathedral Pines. It was shared that the properties cannot be sold. The city will look at getting signage added for No Trespassing, No Discharge of Fire Arms, and No Motorized Vehicles. The city will also look at blocking off some of the unused properties to restrict access and limit the dumping that occurs. The City Clerk/Treasurer will get size and pricing information.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 29, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting were submitted for approval.

Councilmember A. Langhorst made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 29, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, Councilmember N. Dagel seconded the motion. 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 made a motion to approve Claims Paid, seconded by Councilmember D. Lingle. 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 made a motion 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 a motion to approve the Financial Report/Review, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Reports of Departments

Park Committee: Todd Booker stopped at City Hall earlier to get information on the playground equipment as the Sturgeon Lake Lions Club is going to start working to put together a committee to start the process of getting the playground area prepped and ready for installation. Todd was looking for the site plan and instructions. Councilmember D. Lingle will bring in what he has and the City Clerk/Treasurer will ensure these get forwarded to all the parties involved.

Public Works: The lawn mover needs to get serviced. CIP dates are booked for the year. The City Clerk/Treasurer will get those from the Public Works Superintendent and forward them to the Mayor and council. There have been several calls from lawn maintenance companies asking if the city will be taking bids for the year. The council discussed this topic and decided to get quotes for the year.

Councilmember A. Langhorst a motion to place an ad in the North Pine County News and the Evergreen stating the City of Sturgeon Lake will be accepting quotes for lawn mowing quotes at the city cemetery, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Roads: Mike Buetow is going to list an estimate of gravel needed for the roads. There was not much snow last year, The extra funds can be applied towards gravel this year to help get them back into shape.

Councilmember N. Dagel a motion of \$5,000.00 to be allocated to the Roads Department to help get the roads back into shape, seconded by Councilmember D. Lingle. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Solid Waste: Everyone on the council will work on this as a group. Everyone is to bring back notes of the properties with the top issues they would like addressed. Narrow it down to several properties. The first round is to focus on what can be seen from the public point of view/from the road.

Storage Facility: No updates at this time.

Water/Sewer Operator: Locating curb stops with lead survey crew here for one day. The city will need to do a large portion of the prep work before the City Engineer and his survey crew arrive. The mayor suggests that Mikrot locate for one to two days. Timberline Campground is scheduled to open around May 1, 2024, or close to that time frame.

Pretreatment at wastewater ponds could be extremely costly to the city. Consider saving and re-evaluate next winter once Windemere is operational.

Zoning: No new building permits came in over the last month. Fences do not need building permits. Working on new ordinances. More information to follow. At this time will start with the old ordinances, bring up items, and work with the LMC to revise going forward.

Over the next few months will need to look at different ordinances. Need to write down items that need to be addressed around the community. Draft something that clearly states that Building and Land Use cannot have multiple campers on the property and that all campers on the property must have current licenses, and registrations and not be used as live-in dwellings. It needs to be simple so that it can be enforced. Will need to do some research to check the actual verbiage. Revisit the topic at the April 16, 2024, meeting.

City Clerk/Treasurer: The City Clerk/Treasurer shared that things are in the final stages in preparation for the auditor to be onsite. The number of residents signing up to use the online billpay feature continues to slowly increase each month. The Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute (MMCI) conference is May 6-10 and the City Clerk/Treasurer has asked for the council to approve this training and has shared it's a three-year program.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion to approve the City Clerk/Treasurer attending the Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute (MMCI) training program starting this May 2024 and continuing for the full three-year program, seconded by D. Lingle The motion carried with a roll call vote all members present voting in favor.

Mayor: Nothing that wasn't already discussed.

New Business

The council reviewed the 2024 Property Tax Statements

The council discussed the upcoming 2024 League of Minnesota Cities annual conference to be held in Rochester, MN on June 26-28. At this time no one is interested in attending.

Copies of the Snowplow and Road Grading contract have been provided to all council members and the mayor for review. The contract is up for renewal in September. The council will review the current contract and decide if they want to keep it as it is or make any changes. The contract term did change to two years on the current contract.

Pretreatment at wastewater ponds has begun with the mega bugs for the year already underway. The City Clerk/Treasurer will reach out to the vendor to try to get some free samples of the to see if that will help.

Federal Earmarks had been discussed briefly. Councilmember A. Langhorst handled them last year. He was asked to handle them again this year which he accepted.

Councilmember N. Dagel made a motion that Councilmember A. Langhorst submit all the Federal earmark grant requests on behalf of the City of Sturgeon Lake, seconded by D. Lingle The motion carried with a roll call vote all members present voting in favor

Old Business

The Farmers Market is tentatively scheduled to be held on Wednesday evenings in May through October. Feedback at this time is that Wednesday night is not the best time for the vendors to have a Farmer's Market. The City Clerk/Treasurer has drafted a Voluntary Waiver that she will send to the council for review before sending it to the City Attorney for review. This Voluntary Waiver was based on examples and guidance from the LMCIT.

Work on the playground equipment will be getting started in the very near future. More information to follow.

The City Clerk/Treasurer will reach out to the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Department to confirm they are still accepting claims from the December 2022 snow storms.

More information will follow over the next two months. The council asks that the City Clerk/Treasurer reach out to the insurance agent and LMC to confirm the city's Liability insurance plan will provide coverage for this type of event.

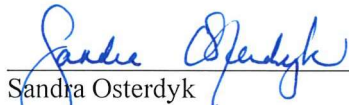
Announcements

The next Regular City Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

Councilmember D. Lingle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember N. Dagel. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Osterdyk
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Sturgeon Lake



Scott Helfman
Mayor, City of Sturgeon Lake