

The Stanhope City Council met in Regular Session Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Stanhope Community Building starting at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Kelly Wirtz called the meeting to order with Council Members: Jill Haman, Mindy Hetland, and Kempton Young present. Council members Beau Jensen and Doug Sogard were absent.

Members of the public present: Cayden Heck, Paul Hetland, Jackie Baker, Gary Baker, Polly Hayes, Roger Hayes, Robert Johnson, Devin Hensley, Harlee Shelton, William Watts, Danielle Scheidt, Carlyle Peterson and Dennis Hall.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: Young made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

- Approval of the agenda for April 8, 2025
- Approval of March 11, 2025 City Council minutes
- Approval for the payment of claims
- Approval of financial reports for period of 3/1/2025 – 3/31/2025

Haman seconded the motion. Roll call 3-0. Motion carried.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REQUESTS:

- Cayden Heck asked about the City's ordinance book and if MIDAS has completed it. Mayor Wirtz is checking into progress. Danielle Scheidt and Dennis Hall expressed their concern and felt they were being "targeted" by our local police because of furniture in their yard. Mayor Wirtz explained we have asked our local police to go around and talk to our patrons who have had items laying in their yards for a lengthy period of time. Our police are doing what is asked of them. Council Member Young suggested attending a Police Board Meeting. Roger Hayes asked if Stanhope has made cuts in any areas around town. He feels we need to cut and everything should be on the table.

GENERAL AGENDA

- **PUBLIC HEARING:** Motion was made by Young and seconded by Hetland to approve adopting the proposed property tax levy for FY26. All were in favor and motion was carried.
- **PUBLIC HEARING ACTION ITEM:** Motion was made by Haman to approve setting the public hearing for the Proposed FY26 Budget for April 21, 2025. Seconded by Young all in favor and motion was carried.

Motion was made by Hetland to approve setting the date to adopt FY26 Budget for April 21, 2025 following the public hearing. Seconded by Haman all in favor and motion carried.

- **WINS AND RECOGNITIONS:** Council member Haman brought to council attention some wins and recognitions going on around Stanhope. Ron McKenzie was thanked for his hard work around town! Ron has helped with painting park-buildings and playground equipment, mowing, landscaping, and painting inside water tower. Haman asked if people see him to give him a "High Five." Chuck Clabaugh was thanked for volunteering his time to help with snow removal and odd jobs. Roger Anderson was thanked for all his time putting in the new playground equipment in the park, which is now completed. Kempton Young was thanked for his help spreading rock at the park. Stanhope Fire Department received over \$12,000.00 in grant money from Enhance Hamilton County for new fire gear. Once new gear arrives the old gear will be donated to Brett Ahrens who then sends them overseas to those in need. Fire Department will go down to one meeting a month vs. two to help with their budget. Council expressed there are many good things happening in Stanhope and are appreciative of all the volunteer hours citizens put in to help around town.
- **560 ALFRED:** Owner did not show. Item not addressed at this time.

- **CITY PROPERTY AND PROPERTY ON BELL STREET:** Mr. Johnson would like until winter to get his items out of the city alley. Council would like to see it done in three months, but as long as obvious progress is being made this should not be a problem. Council will check on progress each month.
- **DAKOTA STATE/HEARTLAND ENERGY:** Motion was made by Young to approve Dakota State conducting the annual security assessment for Heartland Energy, our electric distributor. Seconded by Hetland all were in favor and motion was carried.
- **GARBAGE VACATION RATE:** Approval was given for vacation rate for account number 01-00002030-00-8.
- **ACCOUNT 01-00001801-00-7:** Mr. Peterson wanted council to know he is working on getting his property cleaned up. He is aware he has a lot in his yard and explained it didn't get there overnight and it will not be cleaned up overnight, but he is working on it. Council would like to see it completed and as long as there is obvious progress council thought this should not be a problem. Council thanked him for understanding the issue. Council will check on progress each month.
- **COUNCIL ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Wirtz spoke with our city attorney to discuss council attendance. If a council member misses three consecutive meetings there is a concern. Council may seek further action, but this will incur additional cost to the city. Mayor Wirtz would like council to start using one email address instead of council items being sent to personal accounts. All info would be sent to this address only, stanhopecouncil@netins.net. This email will only be utilized for material/information distribution.
- **ACCOUNT 00-00002012-00-9:** No fees will be deleted from this account. Council may further discuss this once payment is made and/or payment agreement is filled out and payment terms are followed.
- **WATERMELON DAY PARADE ROUTE:** Motion was made by Haman to approve parade route and detour route for the Watermelon Day Parade as submitted by Stanhope Lions, and directed Officer Morton to file request with the DOT. Seconded by Young all in favor and motion was carried.
- **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:** Councilman Young gave update on the lift station generator. The generator has been purchased. The pad is formed we are waiting on concrete to be poured. Progress is being made. The Community Center Panel Pad will be poured soon as well. Information is being gathered to confirm generator at Water Treatment Plant will not function and to look into cost to hook water treatment plant to generator at Community Center.
- **MAYOR COMMENTS:** CIT Sewer Solutions is continuing to scope and clean our sewer system around town. The City will notify residence of when and where they will be working when in town. Patrons are encouraged to sign up for Stanhope alerts through our website.
- **ADJOURNMENT:** Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hetland seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

Vickie Anderson

Kelly Wirtz, Mayor