

The Stanhope City Council met in Regular Session Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at the Stanhope Community Building starting at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Jeff Schroeder called the meeting to order with Council Members: Jill Haman, Mindy Hetland, Devin Hensley, Beau Jensen and Tom Stupp present.

Members of the public present: Tim Dally, Public Works, Paul Hetland, Bob McNally, David Staples, Paul Block, Linda Jennings, Petty Phipps, Lucy Haman, Keith Bockoven, Erma Bockoven, Kelly Wirts, Chief Kaleb Morton, Gary Green and Robert Johnson.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the agenda for January 13, 2026

Approval of the City Council minutes of December 9, 2025

Approval of City Council Special minutes of January 5, 2026

Approval for the payment of claims.

Approval of the financial reports for the period of 12/1/25-12/31/25 and 12/31/2025 – present day

Haman made a motion to approve the consent agenda Stupp seconded the motion. Roll call 5-0. Motion carried.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REQUESTS:

- Council member Haman presented community member concerns that have been given to her.
 - The snow was not cleared timely on the sidewalk on some city-owned sidewalks.
 - Haman stated that she did not have adequate notice of the Special City Council meeting, held on January 5, 2026. City Clerk Young agreed that the meeting was short notice, however it was posted on Friday, January 2, 2026. The Asbestos Report for the property of topic was delivered to the City Clerk's office on that same date, therefore prompting the need for the Special Meeting. An email with the Asbestos Report was sent to all City Council members on 1/2/26 and they were informed of the meeting. Haman stated that she did not open or read the email.
 - Haman stated that a citizen had brought concerns to her about the prior delinquent utility balances and what is being done, present day, to mitigate that risk. City Clerk Young responded that at the November City Council meeting, the council approved participation in the State Setoff program. In order to facilitate this, social security numbers must be provided to the State. Up until the Fall of 2025, the Application for Utility Services for the City of Stanhope did not include this information. The Itron electronic meter reading has significantly improved the accuracy of meter readings. A report generates for high/low/no readings, prior to bills being prepared for mailing. The City Clerk and the Maintenance department work closely to identify problems and re-verify readings as necessary. They also contact homeowners when necessary to alert them of a potential electric or water problem, as a result of the monthly meter readings.

GENERAL AGENDA

- **WINS AND RECOGNITIONS:** Mayor Schroeder spoke about meeting with Ottie Maxey and City Clerk Young about the Regional Economic Growth Partnership. He is excited to start working with the group this Spring.
- **BUDGET OVERVIEW:** Mayor Schroeder pointed out that we are halfway through our budget for the fiscal year and he's pleased with the numbers so far. He acknowledged that larger payments come later in the year, however he is pleased where the City is at currently. He asked council members to familiarize themselves with the budget and the specific committees they are assigned to. He stated that he is unsure where proper tax money is going to be, there's a lot undecided by the state at this time. The budget process is now and the budget committee will meet soon to get numbers together.

- **BIDS FOR OVERSEER OF WATER AND WAST WATER DISTRUBUTION:** The City will begin accepting bids, immediately for this role. The role is to include occasional weekend water chores and training and working with Tim Dally to work towards his certification. **Bids will be accepted at PO Box 128, Stanhope, IA 50246 or dropped off at the City Office at 600 Main St. Stanhope until February 1, 2026.**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** There was an EJS meeting recently. Mindy Hetland attended as the appointed representative for the City of Stanhope. Beau Jensen attended as a citizen at the request of Mayor Schroeder who was unable to attend. Council member Hetland read a portion of the current 28E agreement that states that "*one council member and the mayor for each town will attend EJS meetings.*" She then asked Mayor Schroeder if he intends to have council member Jensen/Mayor Pro Tem, attend all meetings in the future. Mayor Schroeder stated "*No, he intends to attend, as Mayor in the future*". Mayor Schoeder stated that he would like Beau and Mindy to meet with the Hamilton County Sheriff and Chief Morton and come up with a recommendation for Public Safety for the City of Stanhope. Chief Morton stated that the renewal of the 4-year 28E agreement was discussed at the recent EJS meeting. Mayor Schroeder stated that if the City of Stanhope decides to not renew the agreement, a 90-day notice would be required.
- **EXCESS TABLES & CHAIRS:** Tim will prepare an inventory for the next Council Meeting and the council will decide how many to put up for sale and at what price.
- **DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN:** Mayor Schroeder discussed that we should have a plan in place for Stanhope, in the event of an emergency. Kelly Wirtz stated that Hamilton County EMS/911 has a disaster plan in place and that the city should work with them. It was also mentioned that Brad Anderson, as fire chief attends those meetings regularly and would likely be the point of contact in the event of an emergency.
- **FITNESS CENTER:** Discussion regarding moving the location of the fitness center, which is currently at the old Community Building to the Medical Arts Building. There is no A/C in the (old) building and the stairs are inhibitive to patrons with mobility issues. City Clerk Young stated that she'd spoken to the coffee group, Pat's Hair Care and Erma Bockoven about looking into moving the Fitness Center to the Medical Arts building, as they currently occupy various areas of the building. Pat's Hair Care would not be affected by the Fitness Center moving to the Medical Arts building; however, the coffee group and Ms. Bockoven would likely need to move. Ms. Bockoven addressed the council and stated that she "was told by Rick Young and Kelly Wirtz that she'd have space in the Medical Arts building as long as she wants" She further stated that she would move out on March 1, 2028. Further discussions concluded and Mayor Schroeder directed council members Haman and Stupp to work with Ms. Bockoven and come up with a plan to be presented at a future council meeting.

- **APPLICATIONS FOR VACATION GARBAGE RATE:**

Baker

Gannon

Haman made a motion to approve and Hensley seconded the motion. Roll call 5 – 0. Motion carried.

- **CITY EMPLOYEE WAGE PUBLICATION:**
 - *Tim Dally: Public Works \$21.50/hour*
 - *Jori Young: City Clerk \$20.50/hour*
 - *Jill Babowice: Custodian \$12.50*
 - *Dee Malmquist: Librarian \$15.00*
 - *Kempton Young: PT/Seasonal \$19.00/hour*

- **ORDINANCES AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

700-1 Ordinance Authorizing the increase in Electrical rates. Roll vote: All Ayes. Passed.

2025-2026-07 Resolution approving Electric rate increase. Roll vote: All Ayes. Passed

2025-2026-08 Re-Organization Resolution. Roll vote: Haman, Hensley, Stupp and Jensen Voting Yes. Hetland: No. Passed 4 to 1.

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Gary Green asked for an update on 600 & 610 Parker St. Council Jensen stated that he'd most recently spoken with the building owners and they stated that they had filed the asbestos report with the DNR. Erma Bockoven stated that the building is a health hazard, in her opinion. Paul Block asked if the foundation was rock. Council Jensen stated that is was a possibility. Block asked if the city could repurpose some of the foundation around the depot or some other area around town. Jensen stated that building is private property and the current owners will dispose of the contents in accordance to State and DNR requirements. Once the City has confirmation that the DNR has received the asbestos report, the council can move forward with the owner in establishing a plan and timeline for demolition of portions of the property. They current owner had stated in a previous meeting, that they intend to preserve the garage building that faces the South. Gary Green further pressed the council for answers as to why it has taken so long to get the project going. City Clerk Young, physically moved from the table and sat among the citizens. She stated that the following statements were those of her own, not those of the City Clerk. "The former Mayor Pro Tem worked with City Attorney Chizek last fall to extend the court date for the owners. Mayor Pro Tem Young had multiple in-person and phone conversations with the owner and acknowledged that a plan was not in place that would satisfy the Citation for Violation of an Ordinance with the court. They agreed to delay the proceedings until 2026, to allow more time for the owner to make arrangements and avoid a possible Civil Penalty".

- **MAYOR COMMENTS:** None

- **ADJOURNMENT:** Haman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stupp seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jori Young, City Clerk

Jeff Schroeder, Mayor