

The Stanhope City Council met in Regular Session Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at the Stanhope Community Building starting at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Kempton Young called the meeting to order with Council Members: Jill Haman, Mindy Hetland, Beau Jensen, Doug Sogard and Kempton Young present. Mayor Kelly Wirtz arrived at 6:02 PM.

Members of the public present: Cayden Heck, Paul Hetland, Chris Kehoe (Trashman), Brad Schmidt (American Sanitation), Jackie Baker, Gary Baker, Robert Johnson, Devin Hensley, Harlee Shelton, Keith Bockoven, Erma Bockoven, Peggy Phipps, Paul Block, Meagan Rogers, Jody Jebron, Leslie Dally, Public Works Tim Dally, and Fire Chief Brad Anderson.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of the agenda for May 13, 2025
- Approval of April 8, 2025 City Council minutes
- Approval for the payment of claims
- Approval of financial reports for period of 4/1/2025 – 4/30/2025

Council members had a few questions regarding claims paid to Pat Thompson, Dave Ulicki and Debbie Gisch. Council agreed these items need to be further looked at along with phone bill and Summit Fire. Council member Haman asked if ash trees are done. Mayor Wirtz replied trees are not done but they are getting closer. Just to the north of Iowa Street and a couple allies have yet to be done. We have not heard when Tanner Jensen is coming back to Stanhope.

Young made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Hetland seconded the motion. Roll call 5-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ACTION:

Motion was made by Jensen to set public hearing on budget amendment for Tuesday May 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Seconded by Haman. All were in favor and motion was carried

Motion was made by Jensen to set special meeting to approve resolution required to amend the FY25 budget immediately following the public hearing on budget amendment set for Tuesday May 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Seconded by Haman. All were in favor and motion was carried

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REQUESTS:

Request was presented to Council to approve Friday, July 18, 2025 as Envision Stanhope's Block Party from 5:00 PM to 12:00 AM. Pending completion of all paper work involved, Haman made the motion to allow Thirsty Pig and Javier from Webster City's Taco Truck to serve food and drinks for the evening. ID's will be checked and wrist bands put on for those 21 and older. The street will be fenced off with the City's snow fence. Seconded by Sogard. All were in favor and motion was carried.

Erma Bockoven approached council with ideas of adding fees to vacant lot owners as we have a few that need addressed. She suggested starting with \$200.00 for the first year, \$500.00 the second year and \$700.00 the third year. She also suggested doing this for abandoned vehicles. It was expressed patrons in Stanhope are getting tired of looking at these properties and vehicles and something needs to get done. Mayor Wirtz explained procedures have begun and to have patience as it takes time to get things like this done. Council thanked Erma and others for bringing this to their attention.

Council member Jill Haman told Council the tile on School Street has issues and needs to be looked at.

Patron Paul Block talked about the curb stop at apartments. They believe they have found it and it appears to be under concrete. The apartments are going to be doing water work and need access to the shut off. Council member Young explained we will not dig up the street to find the curb stop. Instead, we will have to relocate the shut off. We will move this up to priority.

Robert Johnson told council he is making progress on his property. Council thanked him on his progress.

GENERAL AGENDA

- **UPDATE ON NON LICENSED CAR ON CITY RIGHT OF WAY:** The vehicle owner came to the council and explained she just lost track of time. The car is on battery charger now but she still doesn't have the money for tags. Officer Morton suggested giving her an additional 30 days. Council agreed to give an additional 30 days with an update at Junes meeting.
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMS NEWS:** Fire Chief Anderson gave an update on the gear that has been ordered. The quote given will be a little cheaper due to only ordering 7 helmets not 10. Brett Ahrens was at fire meeting and has taken all old supplies. Brett sends them to third world countries that have nothing. Stanhope Fire/EMS thought this was a great way to dispose of their old equipment. Anderson also said the brush pile has been burned. Fire Department also help open and flush drains around town at their last meeting.
- **WINS AND RECOGNITIONS:** Council member Haman brought to council attention some wins and recognitions going on around Stanhope. Ron McKenzie was thanked once again for all his hard work at the park! Kempton Young was thanked for all his time put in to spraying weeds around town. Stratford Fire and Rescue was thanked for all the support they give Stanhope and the Piano Studio was thanked for all their work put into their building to help make the Main Street of Stanhope better! Brett Ahrens was also thanked for taking all the Fire Departments outdated supplies and sending the items overseas to third world countries in need.
- **TOWN AND COUNTRY INSURANCE:** Justin Malloy was present to give an update to Council on insurance for 2025-2026. Stanhope had a 4.87% increase from the year before.
- **GARBAGE CONTRACT:** The city had two bids for garbage pickup. American Sanitation and The Trashman. After discussion of differences Council member Jensen made the motion to stay with The Trashman and extend their contract another 3 years. This was seconded by Sogard.
Roll call: Young: Aye, Sogard: Aye, Jensen: Aye, Hetland: Aye, Haman: Nay
Majority ruled and motion carried.

Brad Schmidt with American Sanitation wanted to let people of Stanhope know that years ago when he started into business, he found that the city was being charged \$42.00 per household by the Trashman. Brad feels he saved the City of Stanhope a lot of money. Chris Kehoe with The Trashman explained that is when The Trashman was paying for landfill fees. They no longer pay this the city pays the landfill fee directly.

- **UTILITY RATE STUDY:** Stanhope is in need of a utility rate study per the Iowa Utilities Commission. One quote was presented to council. This was tabled for now.
- **ACCOUNT NUMBER 01-00001230-00-3:** The home owner at 270 Main Street inquired about property adjacent to their property. Council member Young checked with the county assessor and this particular land is "ghost property." The county assessor said there are a few "ghost properties" left in Hamilton County and this is one. The city is looking into what we need to do to get this property back into the tax base.

- **UPDATE ON ACCOUNT 01-00001801-00-7:** Slow progress is happening at this address. Cayden Heck is helping the homeowner to clean up some vehicles. Cayden explained he is waiting on paperwork to take away a couple more vehicles from this address. Officer Morton said the city needs a time frame for this homeowner to go by. Council then decided to give the home owner 60 days to complete the tasks on the list that Officer Morton has given. If tasks are not completed in the 60 days given the city will proceed with charges.
- **BAT HOUSES:** Council member Jensen brought to council the idea of bat houses around town to help with mosquito control. Council seemed to think we need more community input. Jensen will bring some house designs to next council meeting. Contacting John Laird with the DNR was also suggested.
- **SUMMIT FIRE PROPOSAL:** This was tabled for this month pending other fire inspection proposals.
- **4-H REQUEST:** It was requested by the 4-H Club that Stanhope help pay the advertising costs for the Easter Egg Hunt for next year. Mayor Wirtz explained The City of Stanhope gives Envision money to do these projects for Stanhope throughout the year. The 4H Club was advised to go to Envision Stanhope with their request. It was also suggested there are many free ways to advertise. Motion was made by Jensen to deny the request by the 4-H Club. Seconded by Hetland. All were in favor and motion was carried.
- **UPDATE ON LIFT STATION:** The City is waiting on Heartland to install propane tank.
- **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CENTER GENERATOR:** The project at the Community Center is complete. We are waiting on a quote for the generator to run the water plant. This project is on hold at this time.
- **MAYOR COMMENTS:** CIT Sewer Solutions will continue to work on sewer lines in Stanhope. Patrons are encouraged to sign up for Stanhope alerts through our website.
The bell out front of City Hall has been broke. Working with 4-H on a solution.
Jill Haman was thanked for her contribution to the City Park through United Way and Mary Greeley. We are still waiting on the ordinance book MIDAS will be sending the city a copy of the draft to look over.
- **ADJOURNMENT:** Haman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hetland seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

Vickie Anderson

Kelly Wirtz, Mayor