

The Stanhope City Council met in Regular Session on May 12, 2026 at the Stanhope Community Center starting at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Jeff Schroeder called the meeting to order with Council Members: Jill Haman, Thomas Stupp, Devin Hensley and Grant Young. Absent: Beau Jensen.

Members of the public present: Kelly Wirtz, Bob McNally, Robert Johnson, Peggy Phipps, Linda Jennings, William Watts, Paul & Mindy Hetland, EJS Chief Kaleb Morton, Lucy Haman, Polly & Roger Hayes and Maeve Danielson.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the agenda for May 12, 2026

Approval of City Council minutes of April 27, 2026

Approval of City Council Special Meeting Minutes May 6, 2026

Approval for the payment of claims.

Approval of the financial reports for the period of 4/1/26-4/30/26 and 5/1/2026 – present day

A motion to approve the consent agenda items was made by Stupp and seconded by G. Young. All in favor – motion carried.

### **PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REQUESTS:**

Kelly Wirtz addressed the council with concerns regarding the 28E agreement with EJS and the lack of a city council vote. Mayor Schroeder stated that Public Safety Update is the #4 item on the agenda and her concerns would be addressed at that time.

Two (2) complaint forms were addressed by the council and will be followed up on, accordingly.

### **GENERAL AGENDA**

1. **Wins & Recognition:** Council member Haman thanked Public Works employee for getting the damaged playground equipment fixed and set up in the park. She also read a multi-page statement recognizing the various groups and individuals that work together behind the scenes to promote Stanhope and support those in need. She expressed gratitude and thanks to everyone who helps in the community.
2. **Update Library Board** – new board member, Jacque Read. Mayor Appointed her. Roll call vote 4 – 0 motion carried.
3. **City Clerk – coverage & audit oversight:** Council member Hensley offered to assist with deposits and come in to the Clerk’s office throughout the month to review financials.
4. **Public Safety Update:** Mayor Schroeder attended the most recent EJS board meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the EJS board had voted on April 2, 2026 to proceed without Stanhope in the 28E Agreement. A motion had been made by Walker, seconded by Olson, all members were in favor and the motion was carried. As of April 2, 2026 there was no 28E Agreement that included Stanhope, therefore there was nothing for the Stanhope City Council to vote on.

Chief Morton stated that wasn’t the intent of EJS and that the EJS board should be approached again and ask to include Stanhope in the 28E Agreement. Chief Morton, who was in uniform and was attending the meeting in official capacity made statements that could be construed as engaging in political conversations, which could be a violation of the HATCH Act, which states in part *“Generally prohibited from Engaging in political activity while on duty, in a federal building, while wearing an official uniform, or while using a government vehicle”*. Council member Young pointed this out to Chief Morton and Chief Morton stated that he was unaware that he is unable to speak of the intent of the EJS board. Young replied that it appeared that Chief Morton was lobbying for his job in uniform, at a public meeting.

## **ORDINANCES AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

### **ORDINANCES**

1. 800 Adopting the Stanhope Code of Ordinances. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Hensley and seconded by Stupp. Roll call vote. 4 – 0. Motion Carried

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. 2025 – 2026.11 Solar Resolution. Stupp made a motion to table this resolution, Young seconded the motion. Roll call vote 4 – 0. Motion Carried.
2. 2025-2026.12 Resolution Authorizing Clerk to Certify to the county for collection for unpaid utility bills. 420 Howard St. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Hensley and seconded by Haman. Roll call vote 4 – 0. Motion Carried.
3. 2025-2026.13 Resolution Assessing Fees for Ordinance Abatement. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Stupp and seconded by Hensley. Roll call vote 4 – 0. Motion Carried.
4. 2025 – 2026.14 Resolution to Amend FY2025 -2026 Budget. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Hensley and seconded by Stupp. Roll call vote 4 – 0. Motion Carried.
5. 2025 - 2026.15 Resolution Residential Digging. A motion to table the resolution was made by Stupp and seconded by Young. Roll call vote 4 – 0. Motion Carried.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS**

None

### **MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Schroeder stated that per guidance from the League of Cities, it is commonly understood that since the April 2, 2026 EJS meeting, there has not been a new 28E agreement, which includes Stanhope after July 1, 2026; therefore, there is no agreement for the City Council to vote on. The current 28E agreement expires at midnight on June 30, 2026. He acknowledged that the City Clerk was directed to reach out to the Hamilton County Sheriff's office to inquire about the process to update the long standing 28E agreement between Stanhope and the Hamilton County Sheriff's office, to reflect the change of not being included in EJS, effective July 1, 2026. The email communication has been ongoing since January, when Stanhope Council members Hetland and Jensen reached out to both Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and EJS for research in making a decision in how to proceed with law enforcement coverage, on or after July 1, 2026. Chief Morton declined to meet with Hetland and Jensen at that time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Haman and seconded by Hensley. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

### **ATTESTATION**

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Jori Young, City Clerk

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Jeff Schroeder, Mayor

**May 17, 2026.**