

**STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 8, 2024**

The Stratford City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2024, with Mayor Brian Ouverson calling the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members answering roll call were: Carol Bergman, Catherine Bergman, Terry Bryan, and Clark Conklin. Also present were Grant Carlson, Tanner Jensen, Toni Larson, Mitch Peterson, Rick Woodard, Brad Larson, Kim Leeds, and Cathy Siefken.

Council member Chase Haman arrived at 7:03 P.M.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the tentative agenda. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve previous meeting minutes from regular meeting on March 11, 2024, and Special Meetings on March 28, 2024. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

In public comments, Rick Woodard was present to discuss his concerns with the City Council on nuisance properties, and the nuisance abatement process.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the consent agenda as follows: Financial Report for March 2024, Current Claims since Previous Council approval for \$117,378.59, and Delinquent Utility Account Report. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Chase Haman to the open public hearing for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Amendment at 7:24 P.M. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

No written or verbal comments were received.

Moved by Terry Bryan, seconded by Catherine Bergman to close the public hearing for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Amendment at 7:26 P.M. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve Resolution 2024-16 - A resolution amending Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the Stratford Fire and Rescue applications for membership from Kit Paper, Brooke Trammell, and Brayden Evans. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

A discussion was held between City Manager Leeds and City Council explaining the 2024 Tree Plan. There was a total of twenty-seven Emerald Ash Tree that still need to be removed in city limits. City staff will begin removing fifteen of those trees all through the spring and into the fall. We received a quote from KT & T Landscaping to remove the other twelve, using lost, road use and electric funds for removal.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the Tree Plan for calendar year 2024 and quote \$13,000 from KT & T for removal of twelve trees. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – nay, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Carol Bergman to not to approve the use of the yellow Trash Man garbage bags for extra garbage in the City of Stratford. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve The Pavement Doctor quote to not exceed \$3,000.00 for street patching. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve the Water Utility Emergency Response Plan. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

City Manager Leeds and City Council discussed the options for the City of Stratford to upgrade the electric meters to radio read meters and upgrading the current software. These upgrades would eliminate human error and accurately provide the citizens with updated information concerning their electric usages. A representative from Van Wert Company will be at the next regular city council meeting to answer more questions.

The City Council discussed the ongoing United Cooperative project. Currently they have a rough estimate of \$ 31,423 for the remainder of the project's electric portion. City Council will discuss option of payment as invoices are received.

A short discussion was held with City Council on upgrading the current City Hall copier. Currently the contract with Gordon Flesh is up at the end of April 2024. To upgrade to the new model the city would save \$6.83 per month and \$81.96 per year.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve the Gordon Flesch to upgrade the City Hall copy machine. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Terry Bryan to approve Ordinance 2024-03 – An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Stratford, Iowa by adding a new section pertaining to debits subject to Set Off Program. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Chase Haman to approve Resolution 2024-17 – A resolution setting wages for employees of the City of Stratford, Iowa. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

City Manager Leeds reported that the Stratford Municipal Pool has a tentative opening date of June 3, 2024. We currently do not have enough guards to operate full hours. Council suggested that the City of Stratford offer an incentive of paying for full re-certification this year to attract lifeguards.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Carol Bergman to adjourn at 8:34 P.M. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Ouverson, Mayor

**Attest:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Leeds, City Manager/ Clerk