STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 12, 2026

The Stratford City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 2026, 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, Mark Scott, and Doug Timmons. Council Member Clark Conklin was absent. Also present were Nancy Baker, Randi Baker and Chase Haman representing Stratford Community Development Corporation (SCDC), Chuck Mullen, Karen and Nile Richey, Toni Larson, Molly Vaughn, Brad Larson and Kim Leeds.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the tentative agenda. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve previous regular meeting minutes from September 14, 2026. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Mark Scott to approve the tentative agenda as follows: Financial Report for September 2026, Current Claims since Previous Council Approval for $19,875.18, Copperhead Saloon Renewal Application #LC0045910 Class C Retail Alcohol License and Delinquent Utility Account Report. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Chase Haman was present to address the council in public comments about SCDC hosting a movie in the park event. Council agreed that SCDC does not need council approval for the event and that SCDC just needs to rent the park for that day. He said they would have the appropriate licenses.

Nancy Baker addressed the council concerning several drainage issues around town. She explained that she would like the alley on the 800 block between Shakespeare Avenue and Byron Street to be on the subcommittee list of items to be looked at. She went on to explain that when the Fitness Center gets water in their basement, they put a hose in the alley that is already flooding. She also commented on her home on Washington Avenue that gets water as well. Wanted to have City investigate enlarging intake there. She asked council about possibly having a town hall meeting about drainage because some people won't come to council meetings. Council explained that residents can talk to council members or call City Hall at any time. Leeds also pointed out that if you have water in your basement please contact City Hall so we can track that and turn into the DNR.

Chuck Mullen was present to address the council concerning his acreage being grandfathered in as a livestock farm back in July 1994. He said that they have always thought that they were grandfathered in. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that if they decide to get any new livestock, they will get council permission.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve Chuck & Julie Mullen property as a livestock farm as long as they get rid of the two pigs and one steer as stated by Chuck and to get council approval for any new livestock in the future. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Mark Scott to acknowledge the Street Finance Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Roll call vote: Catherine Bergman – aye, Carol Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons - aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve Urban Renewal Report for Fiscal Year 2026. Roll call vote: Catherine Bergman – aye, Carol Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve quote from JB Concrete and Construction LLC for $1,550.00 to remove and replace City Hall front steps. Roll call vote: Catherine Bergman – aye, Carol Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve quote from KT&T Landscaping for $1,500.00 to remove leaning tree north of 1125 Byron Street. Roll call vote: Catherine Bergman – aye, Carol Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve quote from HI Service for $3,843.00 for Care Center lift station basket and $1,350.00 for elbow replacement on lift station totaling $5,193.00. Roll call vote: Catherine Bergman – aye, Carol Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve quote from HI Service for $14, 458.83 for Lagoon east manhole valve replacement. Roll call vote: Catherine Bergman – aye, Carol Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve invoice from Van Wert for $21,126.40 for radio read electric meters using LOSST designated for any public purpose. Roll call vote: Catherine Bergman – aye, Carol Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – nay, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Mark Scott to approve quote from JB Concrete and Construction for $4,600.00 for road patch on Goldsmith between Shakespeare Avenue and Burns Street. Roll call vote: Catherine Bergman – aye, Carol Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve insurance renewal for volunteer firefighter accidental death & dismemberment coverage for annual fee of $13.30 for single coverage and $19.00 for employee/spouse and employee/family coverage; total of $573.80. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – abstain. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the current water and sewer rates. City Manager Leeds reviewed the projected estimated revenues if rates were increased. It was suggested that council move forward with a five percent increase in water and sewer rates. City Manager will build ordinance to bring back to next regular meeting, November 9th, 2026.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve City Manager Leeds to build an ordinance with five percent increase on water and sewer rates and bring to the next council meeting on November 9, 2026. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – abstain. Motion carried.

A short discussion was held on the road maintenance plan. City Manager explained that the budget for fiscal year 2028 will already include payment for Teneyck and possibly Bellville Road. City Manager asked council to take a look and decide which city streets are in the most need of repair.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Mark Scott to approve Ordinance 2026-01 – An ordinance amending Chapter 50 to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Stratford, Iowa, regarding nuisance abatement procedures. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve Resolution 2026-23 – A resolution to appoint a representative and alternate representative to the Hamilton County E-911 Service Board. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Resolution 2026-24 – A Resolution to appoint a representative and alternate representative to the Hamilton County Emergency Management Commission. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried

City Manager Leeds reported that the merry-go-round at the park is in rough shape and no longer safe. Council discussed it and decided it is best to take it out before someone gets hurt.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to adjourn at 8:48 P.M. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Brian E Ouverson

Brian Ouverson, Mayor

Attest:

Molly Vaughn

Molly Vaughn, Deputy City Clerk