

**STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2026**

The Stratford City Council met for a budget work session on Monday, January 12, 2026, with Mayor Brian Ouverson calling the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Council members answering roll call were: Catherine Bergman, Carol Bergman, Clark Conklin Mark Scott and Doug Timmons. Also present was Cayden Heck, Brad Larson, Molly Vaughn and Kim Leeds.

The Stratford City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 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, Clark Conklin Mark Scott and Doug Timmons. Also present were, Nancy Baker, Tom Link, Julio Ortiz, Grant Carlson, Mitch Peterson, Brad Westrum representing Stratford Fire & Rescue Department, Rick Woodard, Toni Larson, Cayden Heck, Brad Larson, Molly Vaughn, and Kim Leeds.

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

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve previous meeting minutes from regular meeting on December 8, 2025. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman - aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Nancy Baker addressed the city council concerning the downtown buildings. Nancy explained that there are several buildings in need of new roofs. She went on to explain to council that she has been in contact with Cindy Im, Hamilton County Economic Director, about a Façade grant that is available. The Façade grant was written by Cindy Im, using part of the Local Option Sales and Service Tax to reinvest back into downtown revitalization. It must be applied for by the city and there is a required fifty percent match to be made by the city.

Rick Woodard was also present to address the council in public comments concerning the use of electric bikes and bicycles on Mainstreet. He explained to council that there is an ordinance that covers bicycling on Mainstreet. Woodard also presented to City Council with an insurance dividend check of \$11,613.16 from EMC insurance Safety Group for fiscal 2024-2025.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the consent agenda as follows: Financial Report for December 2025, Current Claims since Previous Council approval for \$36,290.19, Copperhead Saloon for renewal of Class E Liquor License LE#0045910, and Delinquent Utility Account Report. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Nancy Baker was available to address council on behalf of the board of the Stratford Community Center. She is asking for funding to help with operations of the non-profit. The board includes Sara Bryan, Keith Leeds, Toni Larson, Ron Powell, and Vicki Smith. Nancy went to ask if

something could be put into the budget to help the organization. The organization does do a few fundraisers each year which are well attended, but the Stratford Community Center does not generate enough rentals to maintain their operating obligations.

Julio Ortiz spoke with council on his plans to renovate the building he purchased at 829 Shakespeare Avenue. Plans are to renovate the upstairs into four affordable apartments. The store front is still undecided at this time. He is meeting with Ottie Maxie from Hamilton County Growth Partners this week to come up with ideas for grant funding.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve Resolution 2026-01 – City of Stratford City Council Procedural Rules. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve Catherine Bergman as Mayor Pro-Tem as appointed by the Mayor and authorize this person to sign checks in the Mayor's absence. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – abstain, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve Brian Ouverson as board member and Doug Timmons as alternate for North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye and Doug Timmons – abstain. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Mark Scott as board member and Catherine Bergman as alternate for Ioway Creek Watershed Management Authority. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded Mark Scott to approve Tree Board Committee Members as appointed by Mayor as follows: Catherine Bergman, Clark Conklin, Suzanne Carlson, Trevor Carlson, Julie Ehresmann, Amber Gable, and Darrell Young. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Mark Scott to approve Brian Ouverson board member and Grant Carlson, Dan Ostrem and Gary Johnson as alternates for Hamilton County Emergency Management board. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Brian Ouverson board member and Mitch Peterson and Dan Ostrem as alternates for Webster County Emergency Management board. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve Grant Carlson board member and Brian Ouverson and Dan Ostrem as alternates for Hamilton County E-911 Service board. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Mark Scott to approve Brian Ouverson, Mark Scott, Doug Timmons, and Kim Leeds as the personnel committee members for the City of Stratford calendar year 2026. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve Resolution 2026-02 – A Resolution approving mayoral appointments and organization board member approvals for calendar year 2026. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons - aye. Motion carried.

Brad Westrum, Rescue Chief, was in attendance to explain the Stratford Fire and Rescue Capital Improvement Plan. The Plan included a building addition, outfit a brush truck, upgrading Rescue truck, and then replace Rescue truck. The first step is to get a low interest loan that will be paid back with the essential service money. Essential service money is money that was voted on in 2024, that sits in a trust at the county and able to be released in the coming month to the Stratford Fire & Rescue. It will then go into a fund with the City that they will use to pay for the items on their Capital Improvement Plan. They will receive about \$50,000 from Hamilton County, and a about \$20,000 from Webster County.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Mark Scott to approve Stratford Fire and Rescue Capital Improvement Plan. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons - abstain. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Stratford Fire and Rescue applying for low interest loan not to exceed \$400,000. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons - abstain. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve Bolton & Menk Inc., invoice for \$475.00 for Stratford Municipal Pool leak using LOSST funds. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Arbor budget request. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Library budget with a 3% increase on the 8:10 levy. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Fire Department budget request. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – abstain. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Mark Scott to approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Rescue Department budget request. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – abstain. Motion carried.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Mark Scott to approve wage increase of 3% for city staff effective on the first payroll paid out in Fiscal Year 2027 starting July 1, 2026. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve donation request for \$520.00 from Upper Des Moines Opportunity. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott- aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve Interstate Power Systems three-year Customer Support Agreement for generator for Water Plant, the large Lift Station, and the small Lift Station. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – nay, Mark Scott- aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Doug Timmons to acknowledge the Wastewater Treatment Facility Inspection done by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott- aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Carol Bergman to acknowledge Iowa Utilities Commission Electrical Inspection. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott- aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve Bolton & Menk survey proposal for \$3,500 to survey property located on west side of Bellville Road south of Tennyson Avenue previously owned by Swedish Historical Society into two or three new plots. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott- aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve request to hold budget work session at 6:30 pm before the February 9, 2026, regular council meeting. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott- aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve Ordinance 2025-11 – An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Stratford by adding Chapter 56 Animal Protection and Control. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Mark Scott to approve 2025-12 – An Ordinance amending the Code of ordinances of the City of Stratford, Iowa, by amending Chapter 69 Recreation Vehicles. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott -aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Resolution 2026-03 – A Resolution authorizing city employees to attend meetings deemed necessary pertaining to their work and for city employees to receive reimbursement for mileage and related expenses. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve Resolution 2026-04 – A Resolution approving Stratford Courier as official publication for the City of Stratford for calendar year 2026. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve Resolution 2026-05 – A Resolution authorizing payment of certain types of expenditures prior to council approval. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doug Timmons, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Resolution 2026-06 – A Resolution adopting policies on access to customer’s utility records. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve Resolution 2026-07 – A Resolution naming depositories for city funds and signators for depositories. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to table Resolution 2026-08 – A Resolution establishing a policy for snow removal South Marion and Oakwood cemeteries. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Resolution 2026-09 – City of Stratford policy statement on conflict of interest, code of ethics, and gifts. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve Resolution 2026-10 – A Resolution designating fire department members by rank and compensation received per City of Stratford Code of Ordinance §35.05. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – abstain. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Mark Scott to approve Resolution 2026-11 – A Resolution adopting a records management and retention policy. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve Resolution 2026-12 – A Resolution approving the City of Stratford Financial Policy. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Doug Timmons to approve Resolution 2026-13 – A Resolution re-establishing the Stratford Public Library Trust Fund. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman

– aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.


Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Mark Scott to approve Resolution 2026-14 – A Resolution re-establishing Stratford Volunteer Fire Department Capital Equipment Reserve Fund. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye, and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Catherine Bergman to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. and Doug Timmons – aye. Motion carried.



Brian Ouverson, Mayor

Attest:



Molly Vaughn, Deputy City Clerk