

**STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 14, 2025**

The Stratford City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 14, 2025, 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, Clark Conklin and Chase Haman. Also present were, Randi Baker, Tabi Westbrooke, and Tom Herren representing the Lutheran Church, Toni Larson, Cayden Heck, Brad Larson, Gina Swanson 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, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Terry Bryan to approve previous meeting minutes from regular meeting on June 16, 2025. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, and Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman - aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the consent agenda as follows: Financial Report for June 2025, Current Claims since Previous Council approval for \$111,630.38, 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 Chase Haman and seconded by Carol Bergman to approve an asphalt parking for the Lutheran Church. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Tom Heeren from the Lutheran Church was present to discuss an asphalt parking. This project would be a continuous asphalt from the road up to the concrete sidewalk. Heeren explained this would be the appropriate time since Fort. Dodge Asphalt is currently working on Stagecoach Road resurfacing project. Heeren explained this project would improve snow removal and improve handicap accessibility to the church.

Randi Baker was present to encourage council to work on plan for a Community Garden in the City of Stratford. Master gardener classes are available in Hamilton County for anyone interested. Randi Baker discussed plots would be available for patrons to garden vegetables and flowers to encourage pollination. No pesticides will be used creating a more organic yield. Overflow of vegetables could be used for the City Pantry. Patrons are encouraged to sign up for the 2026 planting season.

Moved by Clark Conklin and seconded by Chase Haman to approve to move forward with a plan for a Community Garden plot, at the Railroad right of way. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Terry Bryan, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve the Acco invoice of \$1887.50 for dye testing the pool, and using LOSST funds. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman -aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Clark Conklin, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve KT & T Landscape quote of \$1,500.00 to remove tree at 1200 Tennyson Avenue. 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, second by Carol Bergman to deny Dalton Higgins request to have chickens at his property at 1001 Milton Street., due to lack of neighbor signatures for approval. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – nay, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – nay. Motion carried.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve City Manager/Clerk Kim Leeds to create chicken ordinance. Roll call vote; Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the Pool leak and the fall painting of the pool basin. Currently the pool leak is in the gutter return system and is plugged causing the baby pool to be inoperable due the drains are connected to gutter system and are plugged. The City has had two contractors come to locate the leak, both were unsuccessful to find the exact location of the leak. Iowa Rural Water will bring equipment to find the exact location. The City also needs to look into painting pool offices and bathhouse exterior while basin painters will be on site. Council suggested Paint Iowa Beautiful Grant to offset costs.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Terry Bryan to approve Notice of Termination of Farm Tenancy. 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 quote from Central Iowa Building supply for \$618.89 for sheet metal to replace bad areas on the dump truck. 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 council discussed delinquent utility accounts. The city will continue the process to work on getting all those accounts paid.

Moved by Terry Bryan, seconded by Chase Haman to approve two chaise lounge chairs for the pool using LOSST funds. 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 Terry Bryan to approve quote for \$3,000.00 from Sun Country Distributing to replace diving board using LOSST funds. 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 Terry Bryan to approve 2025-26 An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Stratford, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to

Fireworks. 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 Terry Bryan to approve 2025-07-An Ordinance amending the code of Ordinances of the City of Stratford, Iowa by amending provisions pertaining to trees. 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 elections are right around the corner. Candidate Filing begins Monday, August 25, 2025 and ends September 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. The City of Stratford will have three Council Members and Mayor term in November 2025 election.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to adjourn at 8:40 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:


Gina Swanson, Deputy City Clerk