

**STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 16, 2025**

The Stratford City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 16, 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 and Sara Bryan, representing Stratford Community Development Corporation (SCDC), Cindi Im, Hamilton County Economic Director, Toni Larson, Cayden Heck, Brad Larson, Gina Swanson and Kim Leeds.

Moved by Chase Haman, 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 Catherine Bergman, seconded by Chase Haman to approve previous meeting minutes from regular meeting on May 12, 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 Catherine Bergman to approve the consent agenda as follows: Financial Report for May 2025, Current Claims since Previous Council approval for \$32,287.06, Renewal of Stratford Country Store Retail Cigarette/Tobacco Permit, Renewal Stratford Food Center Retail Cigarette/Tobacco Permit, Oakwood Cemetery Donation of \$5,000.00, 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.

Randi Baker was available to discuss electrical usage at the park, as well as the ability to close Avon Street to run the train. There will also be a bounce house and vendors available at the Stratford on the Loose on July 12, 2025.

Moved by Terry Bryan, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve the road closures on Tennyson Avenue for “Stratford On The Loose” parade route, and Avon Street for the train on July 12, 2025, and to allow SCDC to use the electricity at the Park. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Cindi Im from Hamilton County Economic Director was present to discuss Hamilton County Housing Needs Assessment. Cindy explained that there is a housing need in the county as well as Stratford according to the assessment that was done in October 2024. She went on to explain that they are seeing a big increase in senior population. Cindy went on to explain the job market in the county. These was also a breakdown of the housing type for Stratford, and what tools and strategies are available if the town were to look at a housing development project.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Chase Haman to approve Cayden Heck attending electric utility systems operation course July 8 thru July 10, 2025 at IAMU in Ankeny for \$1,000.00 Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman -aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Chase Haman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve SCDC donation request for a season pool pass for the 2026 season for July 12, 2025 "Stratford on the Loose" silent auction. 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, second by Terry Bryan to approve Micah Morris to have chickens on her property at 1124 Tennyson Avenue, with the stipulations of six female hens and for personal use only. 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 Pool Lifeguard End of Year Bonus policy. 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 Carol Bergman to approve the replacement of the rock wall front panel and hardware for City Park playground equipment at the cost of \$1,961.00. 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 Carol Bergman to nominate Levi Studer for the Midland Power District 3 Ballot 2025. 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 had a lengthy discussion on the current tree ordinance and looked at various other cities tree ordinances. Council requested City Manager build tree ordinance and put on agenda of July 14, 2025 Council Meeting.

A discussion was held on the property currently owned by the Swedish Historical Society on Bellville Road. The Swedish Historical Society no longer have a use for this property. The property was given to the Swedish Historical Society back in 1982 for \$1.00 with the stipulation that they cannot sell any or all of this property to anyone for profit and that it must be sold back to the City for their purchase price if the project does not materialize.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Terry Bryan to purchase the property currently owned by the Swedish Historical Society for the sale price of \$1.00, with the stipulation the Swedish Historical Society remove the block foundation prior to sale. 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 the purchase of a recognition plaque for years of service for Larry Runyan. 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 Catherine Bergman to approve installation of a gate to monitor debris site entry, due to large debris loads entering without going through the city. 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 the second and waive the third reading of Ordinance amending 65.02 "Stop Required" by including Shakespeare Avenue at the school gravel driveway entrance. 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 approve Resolution 2025-19. A resolution setting wages and salaries for employees of 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 Terry Bryan, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the Resolution 2025-20. A resolution to simplify and solve fund balances authorizing transfers and fund adjustments. 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 Carol Bergman to approve Resolution 2025-21 – a resolution to transfer funds from the electric fund to the general fund as a payment in lieu of taxes using surplus funds per Iowa code 384.89. 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 pool is up and running and that the pool ended up with two part-time guards, three full-time guards, and one more possibility. Lessons will be very small group with only three guards available. Leeds also explained that there is a new state code on fireworks.

Moved by Terry Bryan, seconded by Carol Bergman to adjourn at 8:26 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