The Stanhope City Council met in Regular Session Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at The Stanhope Community Building starting at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Kelly Wirtz called the meeting to order with Council Members: Jill Haman, Mindy Hetland, Doug Sogard and Kempton Young present. Council member Beau Jensen absent.

Members of the public present: Paul Hetland, Peggy Phipps, Danielle Edwards, Cayden Heck, Gary Green, Keith Bockoven, Erma Bockoven, Rick Young and Robert Johnson. Fire Chief Brad Anderson, Officer Kaleb Morton, Public works Tim Dally were also present.

***APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA*:** Young made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

* Approval of the agenda for December 10, 2024
* Approval of November 12, 2024 City Council minutes
* Approval for the payment of claims
* Approval of financial reports for period of 11/1/2024 – 11/30/2024

Hetland seconded the motion. Roll call 4-0. Motion carried.

***PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REQUESTS:***

* Cayden Heck discussed trees he has taken down on his property. He wanted council to know he is working on it, but the tree will be fully removed by spring. Cayden was thanked for keeping the city informed.

***GENERAL AGENDA***

* Councilman Haman asked that our community keep Pat Thompson and family in our thoughts and prayers in the loss of Brian.
* **WINS AND RECOGNITIONS:** Council member Haman brought to council attention some wins and recognitions going on around Stanhope. The Fire Department had a huge fire south of town a while back. She explained how it was good to see our Fire Department work so well together. She felt it was a win for all involved. Our EMS has had a couple of back to back hard calls. Another win when the whole department worked together and helped each other get past the heartache. Haman also thanked everyone for the donations to the Fire/EMS Departments during their luncheon fund raiser. Whether it was monetary, making a side dish/dessert or lending a helping hand Haman thanked all involved. She also expressed what a fine Fire Department Stanhope has. On a final note, Haman said the park is 99% complete. Just a few small things to finish up and the play equipment will be complete.

Stanhope is a great example of small town living.

* **IOWAY WATERSHED:** The IOWAY Board is a group of people that oversee and help protect the ground water in our area. They manage the water quality and help to keep it safe. This board meets quarterly. Motion was made by Sogard and seconded by Haman to approve Mayor Wirtz as the representative from Stanhope. Kempton Young offered to be alternate. All were in favor and motion was carried.
* **SETTING DATES FOR BUDGET:** It is time again for our city budget. Mayor Wirtz asked that all committees have their budget requests turned in by next council meeting which is January 14th.
* **WATER/WASTE WATER OPERATOR CONTRACT:** Mayor Wirtz asked city clerk to put this on next months agenda. Tabled for this month.
* **DRAINAGE AND TRUSTEES:** Rick Young was present to discuss drainage in and around Stanhope. Rick explained there are 320 drainage districts in Hamilton County. With two new supervisors elected in November he suggested turning control of the drainage district in Stanhope over to the City of Stanhope. Rick explained not everyone lives in a drainage district and patrons within a drainage district will see no difference in the way things are done now. Each district owns their own drainage tile and if repairs are to be made on a drainage tile, only people within that district pay to fix the repair. Nothing has been done yet, but Rick wanted to make the city aware this may be an option in the near future.
* **OFFICE COMPUTER UPDATE:** Motion was made by Young and seconded by Sogard to direct Clerk Vickie Anderson to order office computer and install. All were in favor and motion was carried.
* **PAST DUE UTILITY BILLS:** Utility committee discussed past due utility bills. All agreed to continue with payment plans. For accounts that are old and the patron no longer lives in our town/state and no known address should possibly be write offs. Others, the city will be looking at putting liens on homes in the next week. It was agreed that if our patrons don’t make their city payments then the city cannot make city payments. Thus, affecting the entire town. Council was optimistic that our city citizens will continue to do their best to pay their bills on time.
* **APPROVAL OF BILL CHANGES FOR THE WINTER:** Motioned by Haman to approve account #01-00002040-00-1 for vacation garbage rate effective January 1st – April 1st, 2025. Seconded by Hetland.

Motioned was also made by Haman to shut off water for acct # 01-0000-1541-00-8 for the winter. A fee of $25.00 will be charged for disconnection and $25.00 to reconnect in the spring. Effective Nov. 20, 2024 – March 21, 2025. All in favor and motion was carried.

* **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:** Public works Tim Dally said the bucket truck and the snow plow are both ready to go. The water plant dialer malfunctioned and should be fixed now. We had to have a pump rebuilt in the lift station. This also should be fixed for now.
* ***ADJOURNMENT***: Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Haman seconded the motion. All in favor. The public meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.
* ***THE CITY COUNCIL WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 7:*09 TO DISCUSS EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS**

***Adjournment of closed session:* Motioned by Young and seconded by Sogard to adjourn the closed session at 8:27pm. All in favor and meeting was adjourned.**

ATTEST:

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Vickie Anderson Kelly Wirtz, Mayor