

The Stanhope City Council met in Regular Session Tuesday, July 8, 2025 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 and Kempton Young present. Council members Beau Jensen and Doug Sogard were absent.

Members of the public present: Paul Block, Paul Hetland, Debbie Gisch, Kristi Vandivier, Peggy Phipps, Keith Bockoven, Erma Bockoven, Robert Johnson, Polly Hayes, Lucy Haman, Gary Green, Michaeline Acker and Officer Morton.

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

- Approval of the agenda for July 8, 2025
- Approval of June 10, 2025 City Council minutes
- Approval for the payment of claims
- Approval of financial reports for period of 6/1/2025 – 6/30/2025

City Clerk was instructed to pay bills when they are due do not have to wait for council meeting.

Haman seconded the motion. Roll call 3-0. Motion carried.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REQUESTS: Patron Polly Hayes brought to council all forms needed for The Thirsty Pig to serve alcohol at the Envision Block Party. Liquor license approval from state is pending. Mayor Wirtz will sign off once the license approval has been completed.

GENERAL AGENDA

- **WINS AND RECOGNITIONS:** Council member Haman started off our Wins and Recognitions with thanking Kempton Young for spraying the weeds around town. Thanks also went out to Tim Dally for working on painting cross walks. EMS was also recognized for zero deficiencies during their June audit. Paul and Mindy Hetland were thanked for making the ambulance look great for the audit. Thanks to Cathy Miller for her hard work around town pulling weeds and trimming bushes. City clerk was thanked for time spent on preparing for the city's audit coming up. Mayor Wirtz was thanked for all her hard work at keeping the town running smoothly. Officer Morton was thanked for going above and beyond the call of duty on an EMS call in Stanhope recently. Everyone's work is greatly appreciated. Council expressed there are many good things happening in Stanhope and are appreciative of all the volunteer hours citizens put in to help around town.
- **28E AGREEMENT WITH SHERIFF'S OFFICE:** Mayor Wirtz explained this is a 28E Agreement with Hamilton County Supervisors for additional patrol from the county. The 28E agreement is good for 3 years, so any requests for an increase cannot be made until the three years are up. Stanhope will be involved in the discussion when the new 28E agreement is up and will include the services that are requested by the city of Stanhope. Payment to the Sheriff's Office for this fiscal year will be \$5096.00.
- **ENERGY REBATES:** Discussion on energy rebate offers was discussed and tabled at this time, since most appliances are now energy efficient.
- **MIDAS UPDATE:** Mayor Wirtz recommended council have MIDAS use model language for our ordinances, take out all illegal ordinances that we no longer can enforce, and codify. Once MIDAS is done the council is encouraged to go through their ordinance book and make recommendations for any change. Young made the motion to have MIDAS use model language for our ordinances, take out all illegal ordinances that we no longer can enforce, and codify. Seconded by Hetland all were in favor and motion carried.
- **EMS AUDIT UPDATE:** Mindy Hetland gave an update on the EMS audit. The following are things that needed attention: One EMT did not have their file updated and let their license expire. The EMT is no longer on the roster and has not done anything for the city since March 31.

EMS roster needed updated in the state software and that has been done with a thank you to Brad Westrum with Stratford Fire Department for his help.

An update was made in editing driving protocol. A copy of insurance could not be found in the unit, but was there under the visor. The ambulance had a couple of expired items that have been discarded. New batteries were also put in the AED units around town. One final note the auditor shared was to put the cot back in the ambulance. If there is a catastrophic moment Stanhope may transport to the nearest hospital. Mayor Wirtz also added the essential EMS tax starts next fiscal year and she thanked all that voted for this.

- **WATERMELON DAY WIFI:** The Lions Club is looking into the capability of using WIFI in the park for credit card payments at Watermelon Day. The Lions Club approached the Telephone Company about putting in WIFI. The Telephone Company will install a WIFI unit for a one-time fee of \$225.00 and would have to connect to the Stanhope Fitness Center internet. Council agreed this would be a good thing to have for Watermelon Day. The Lion's Club agreed to pay the \$225.00 installation/unit price.
- **WATER RATE STUDY:** Moving forward with the Water Rate Study has been tabled for now.
- **ELECTION UPDATE:** This is an election year. The first day to file an Affidavit of Candidacy and Nomination Petition is August 5, 2025. Forms must be completed and turned in no later than September 18 at 5:00. Election Day is November 4, 2025. Polls are open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Three council seats and mayor are open.
- **UPDATE ON 400-410 PARKER-NUISANCE ABATMENT:** Mayor Wirtz explained there has been no progress made on the nuisance abatement by the owner and a municipal infraction has been filed with the court by the city attorney.
- **650 TAYLOR STREET-NUISANCE ABATMENT:** The motion was made by Hetland and seconded by Haman to have Officer Morton move to the next step at 650 Taylor Street as there has been no progress in the last 60 days.
- **860-870 PARKER-NUISANCE ABATMENT:** Officer Morton gave an update on the property at 860 and 870 Parker. Officer Morton gave pictures that showed progress being made. Officer Morton presented a typed letter from the homeowner requesting an additional 30 days as 10 days was just not enough. The homeowner was present and was thanked for the progress and was granted the extension.
- **420 HOWARD-NUISANCE ABATMENT:** Officer Morton has asked that the property at 420 Howard be mowed. Pictures need to be taken of the property before mowing is done and put in a file. Councilman Young agreed to work with Tim Dally to get this property mowed.
- **STATE AUDIT:** Mayor Wirtz filled council in on the state audit that will be held the week of July 14, 2025.
- **MAYOR COMMENTS:** Mayor Wirtz advised council we transferred \$10,000.00 plus the Fire Departments checking account of \$15,000.00 into a Fire Department 6 month \$25,000.00 CD. This will be additional to the \$22,000.00 CD that was set up last year.
- **ADJOURNMENT:** Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hetland seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

Vickie Anderson

Kelly Wirtz, Mayor