

**STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 12, 2025**

The Stratford City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 12, 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 Derrick Anderson, Nancy Baker representing Stratford Community Development Corporation (SCDC), Lee and Tara Carlson, Andrew and Mary Hensley, Jamie Nielson, Jim Leiding from Bolton & Menk, Inc., Toni Larson, Rick Woodard, Cayden Heck, Brad Larson, Gina Swanson and Kim Leeds.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Chase Haman 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 April 14, 2025, with the following correction of the adjournment vote with Catherine Bergman and Terry Bryan being absent with no vote, and the Special Meetings on April 21, 2025, with the correction of the adjournment vote with Catherine Bergman being absent with no vote. 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 Terry Bryan to approve the consent agenda as follows: Financial Report for April 2025, Renewal of Stratford Food Center License #LE0001771 for Class E Retail Alcohol Licenses, Renewal Stratford Country Store #LE0003829 for Class E Retail Alcohol License, Current Claims since Previous Council approval for \$23,036.84 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 Catherine Bergman, seconded by Chase Haman to open public hearing for Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment at 7:09 PM. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman - aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

There were no written or oral comments received.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Terry Bryan to close public hearing for Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment at 7:10 PM. 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 Carol Bergman to approve Resolution 2025 -18- A Resolution amending Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan -aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman - aye. Motion carried.

Nancy Baker was present to update the City Council on the Stratford Community Development Corporation (SCDC) happenings, Stratford on the Loose, and request the \$3000 donation for fiscal year 2025-2026. Nancy stated that SCDC would apply the funding towards fundraising for

numerous events, and roof repairs. Nancy also stated that during ‘Stratford on the Loose’ July 12, 2025, SCDC would like to close Shakespeare Avenue from the Library to Tennyson Avenue starting at noon.

Moved by Terry Bryan, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve SCDC request for \$3000.00 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 donation, and to close Shakespeare Avenue from library to Tennyson Avenue at noon on July 12, 2025 for Stratford on the Loose event. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Jim Leiding Engineer from Bolton and Menk, Inc. was present to update council on 2024 Stratford Drainage issues. Jim stated that the City of Stratford hired Bolton & Menk, Inc. to address several drainage concerns: North Dryden Street Tile Disconnects (Carlson Property), Culvert at Teneyck Avenue and Dryden Street, and Ponding at Teneyck Avenue and Commercial Street. The tile disconnect stems from discussions last fall about the tiling on the Carlson Property (field north of Dryden Street) and the old system in that field would be disconnected from either the 24” storm sewer that drains to the west or the 12” tile that drains to the east. Bolton & Menk, Inc. was hired to observe these disconnects to ensure that the contractor completed them. That work was delayed while discussions were held on the final connection of the new pattern tile system. Once that was determined, Bolton & Menk, Inc coordinated with Ubben Tiling for the disconnects. Currently all tiles have been disconnected. The second drainage issue was the culvert at Teneyck Avenue and Dryden Street. It was review for possible improvement prior to the Hamilton County completing a mill and overlay project on Teneyck Avenue. After the review it was determined that the impact of the improvement is minimal and does not justify the cost of installing the new culvert, therefor the county will complete the in-place lining work as they had planned at this time and the city will need to revisit the issue of improved storm water drainage on the east side of Teneyck Avenue in the future. The last issue in the 2024 Drainage was the ponding at the corner of Commercial Street and Teneyck Avenue. After review it was determined that City needs to hire a contractor to do exploratory excavation in the corner to try and locate the tile. Once the tile is located and accessible the contractor can trace the existing tile. Then the City can install a 6” tile of existing 10” tile to the low point of ponding. It is assumed that after normal or typical rates are restored the surface intake would allow the ponding area to be drained more completely and not have water standing as it does for long periods of time.

Motion by Carol Bergman, seconded by Chase Haman to approve a building permit request with side yard variance from Dan George at 1001 Teneyck Avenue for a fence. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, second by Clark Conklin to follow Ordinance Chapter 135.13 that states the property owner shall bear any and all expenses for repairs regarding the culvert under private driveway located at 1124 Moore Street. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was held pertaining to the playground equipment at the City Park. After inspection from Boland Recreation, they suggested replacing the playground equipment after 20 years. The equipment was erected in 2007. The equipment will be power washed and panels for the rock wall and bubble window will be replaced this year, as any future expenses are not included in the current budget.

Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Clark Conklin to move forward with Nuisance Abatement procedures. Nuisances was tabled at last meeting on April 14, 2025, so everyone could utilize clean up day. 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 continue with current animal protection and control ordinance for chickens within City limits. 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 table until next regular meeting June 16, 2025 to compare current ordinance with other city ordinances on tree's. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding an alley easement behind Larson Addition. Homeowners were present to express concerns that Leland Carlson was farming past the 10 feet easement and approaching private property lines. Lee Carlson was present to discuss the issue and stated he wanted to be a good neighbor and farm his ground and some private property owners have gardens or items on Leland Carlson's property. The Council advised making sure the 10' easement is clear. Complaints regarding property lines would be between the neighbors.

Greg Anderson one of the board members of the Swedish Historical Society approached the city about someone interested in buying their property. The Swedish Historical Society is dissolving and want to give the land back to the city. The city sold the land to the Swedish Historical Society for \$1.00 with the stipulation that they cannot sell it to anyone else for profit and would be sold back to the city for \$1.00. If the city would obtain the property and then decided to sell it, that would go thru the proper legal and proper public hearings to sell the property. Which gives any resident or citizen the opportunity to purchase.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Catherine Bergman to table until the next regular meeting on June 16, 2025, to gather more information on property currently owned by Swedish Historical Society. 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 a noise permit for the Copperhead Saloon for July 5<sup>th</sup> celebration. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded by Terry Bryan to approve The Snack Shack from Boone, to sell Tropical Snow a few times this summer at the Stratford Pool. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – abstain, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.


Moved by Chase Haman, seconded by Terry Bryan to approve 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 Terry Bryan, seconded by Catherine Bergman to approve Resolution 2025-16. A resolution approving policy for change funds at Stratford City Hall and at Stratford Swimming Pool Office and Concessions. 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 the Resolution 2025-17. A resolution transfer of TIF funds to Debt Service to pay our General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Terry Bryan – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, and Chase Haman – aye. Motion carried.

City Manager reported that the Stratford City Pool will tentatively open May 31, at 1:00 p.m. Currently we have three certified full-time lifeguards, and two part time lifeguards. The City would like to hire at the very least two more certified lifeguards for the pool to remain open for the summer season without disruption of operations. Swim Lessons will start on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and run through June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Moved by Terry Bryan, seconded by Chase Haman 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.

  
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Brian Ouverson, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Gina Swanson, Deputy City Clerk