STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 13, 2026

The Stratford City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 13, 2026, 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, Clark Conklin Mark Scott. Council member Doug Timmons was absent. Also present were Randi Baker representing Stratford Community Development Corporation (SCDC), Randy Baker, Ryan Carroll, Levi Carroll, Lois Kidd, Alec Nicholson, Justin Lestina, Julio Ortiz, Jr. Ubben, Toni Larson, Cayden Heck, 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, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Clark Conklin, seconded by Mark Scott to approve previous regular meeting minutes from June 8, 2026 and special meeting on June 17, 2026. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve the tentative agenda as follows: Financial Report for June 2026, Current Claims since Previous Council Approval for $231,120.60, Oakwood Cemetery Donation of $5000, and Delinquent Utility Account Report. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Randi Baker from SCDC was present to give council update on the "Stratford on the Loose" activities. Thanks to all who attended and the volunteers. All went very well.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Carol Bergman to table request from SCDC to get more information from Office of Auditor of State on giving donations to non-profit organizations. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve invoices from United Leak Detection for $2,850.00, Williams Underground for $6,714.50, and JB Concrete for $1,737.01 totaling $11,301.51 using LOSST funds designated for pool. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Clark Conklin to approve invoice from Hall Backhoe & Tilling for materials only for pool repairs for $2,857.97. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Mark Scott, second by Catherine Bergman to approve GIS Web Application Transition of $6,500 from Bolton & Menk. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

A short discussion was held with council concerning auditing service. At the June 2026 meeting it was suggested that the City look into using the auditing service that Hamilton County uses. The City did look into them, however, the auditing firm was not interested in taking on new clients at this time. Council recommended looking into who the surrounding towns use.

Council had a lengthy discussion on drainage issues around the City of Stratford. Council Member Clark Conklin suggested we put together a sub-committee to look at the smoke testing that was done in 2026 and see if we can find a cross connection between the sanitary sewer and storm sewer. Jr Ubben was available to give the council notice of some areas of concern. Ubben talked about there being a problem by the sub-station which is being looked into by Midland Power. Also, there is a drain tile to the east that the county is looking into that takes a large part of the city's water. Council understands that there are drainage issues in the town and has decided to set up a sub-committee to investigate those issues.

Moved by Mark Scott, seconded by Carol Bergman to approve setting up a sub-committee and get an engineer involved into looking into drainage issues in the town. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded Carol Bergman to approve having an engineer looking into a Splash pad and getting rid of the baby pool. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded Clark Conklin to approve of special swim event at the Stratford Pool before the season ends. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Bergman, seconded Mark Scott to approve of applying for grant for the swimming pool for lifeguard umbrellas, swim lesson equipment, and shades for baby pool. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Catherine Bergman presented to council that she is looking to get Arbor committee back up and running. There will be representatives from the DNR here on August 25,2026 at 8:00 am to put together a new tree inventory. That will let the City know what they have for trees so we can start applying for grants to replace trees that have been taken down. There is an Alliant Energy grant that is due in November.

Moved by Catherine Bergman, seconded by Carol Bergman to adjourn at 8:34 P.M. Roll call vote: Carol Bergman – aye, Catherine Bergman – aye, Clark Conklin – aye, Mark Scott – aye. Motion carried.

Brian E Ouverson

Brian Ouverson, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Leeds

Kim Leeds, City Manager/Clerk