

**City of Stewartville
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Stewartville City Hall
September 23, 2025**

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor King called the meeting to order on September 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Present: King, Arndt, Beyer & Oeltjen

Absent: Anderson

Also Present: City Administrator Schimmel, Public Works Director Hale, Finance Officer Grabau, City Engineer Obernolte, Library Director Deprey and City Clerk Roeder

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Motion by Beyer, second by Oeltjen to approve the agenda. Unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Beyer, second by Arndt to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 23, 2025. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Beyer, second by Arndt to approve the special budget meeting minutes of September 23, 2025. Unanimously approved.

V. FINANCE AND BUDGET –Accounts Payable

Motion by Arndt, second by Oeltjen to approve the accounts payable listing. Unanimously approved.

VI. GENERAL BUSINESS –

A. Public Hearing- 202 2nd Ave SW Property Clean Up – Mayor King opened a public hearing regarding the condition of the property owned by Lori Chinn, 202 2nd Ave SW, Pursuant to City Code Section 600 and 610, Public Nuisance. Notice of the public hearing was sent by City Attorney Leth on August 26, 2025. As the property owner was not in attendance, Mayor King closed the public hearing.

Motion by Beyer, second by Oeltjen to declare the property a nuisance and ordered the abatement on the following Findings of Facts. Unanimously approved.

1. That the property owner has failed to abate or prevent the nuisance on the premises of 202 2nd Ave. SW and is currently present in plain view of the abutting property owners;
2. That photograph's documenting the weeds, tires, scrap wood and RV show that the owner has failed to abate or prevent the nuisance on the property and are attached hereto as Exhibit A;
3. That the failure to abate or prevent the nuisance on the premises of 202 2nd Ave. SW is in such quantities as to reasonably annoy, injury, or endanger the safety, health, morals, comfort or repose of the public;
4. That the failure to abate or prevent the nuisance on the premises of 202 2nd Ave. SW, is in such quantities as to be indecent or offensive to the senses, and an obstruction of the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property of the public

B. Flag Display Ordinance- 1st Reading -Mayor King informed Council that the city does not currently have a formal policy regarding the display of flags on city-owned property. Establishing a clear and consistent policy will ensure that flag displays are managed in a respectful, non-discriminatory and legally compliant manner. A formal policy also provides guidance for staff, reinforces community values and minimizes the risk of disputes or challenges. As this was the first reading, Council discussed the various sections and will consider approval at their next meeting.

C. Water Meter Replacement – Mayor King reminded Council that during their spring workshop and subsequent budget meetings, the water meters are coming to end of life. After receiving bids, it is recommended staying with SENSUS (Core & Main), which was also the low bid. Hale stated that we are currently updating meters with the new meters and radios as needed, so this will decrease replacement in every home with the project by staying with SENSUS. Total cost of the project would be \$755,200 and will be paid for with reserves from the water/wastewater funds.

Motion by Beyer, second by Arndt to approve the low bid with SENSUS for meters, radios, AMI & yearly subscription. Unanimously approved.

D. 2026 Budget- As a result of the special budget meetings, Council directed staff to prepare the proposed certified levy at a 4.5% increase in city taxes on an average value home. Based on the proposed preliminary 2026 budget of \$12,959,892 this will amount to a proposed levy of \$5,583,475 and an increase of \$704,975 from the 2025 certified levy. The levy is based on the tax capacity increase and the homestead exclusion credit adjustment. The Pool referendum levy is \$139,229 and Fire Hall referendum is \$114,580.

It was also noted that the Truth in Taxation meeting needs to be scheduled to present the proposed levy and budget to the public and receive their input. Staff is recommending that TNT be set for Monday, December 1st at 6 pm., with a continuation meeting, if necessary at their regular December 9th meeting.

King opened discussion noting, that he felt it the budget could be decreased from the proposal. Arndt suggested that Council approve the 4.5% and requested staff to recommend other reductions as they review the budget and proposed projects. Council complimented Grabau on the budget preparation and thanked her for the work she's done.

Motion by Arndt, second by Beyer to approve Resolution 2025-10, A Resolution Approving the 2025 Proposed Tax Levy Collectible in 2026. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Beyer, second by Arndt to set the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing for Monday, December 1st at 6pm. Unanimously approved.

VII. MAYOR, STAFF AND CONSULTANT'S REPORTS

A. Mayor-

- Sympathy to Families of: Pat Hurley
- Happy 75th Birthday to Roger Petson
- Oktoberfest will be held this Saturday at 2Brothers from 6-8pm
- 50th Annual Fire Fighter's Breakfast is Sunday, Oct 5th from 8-Noon
- Stewie Cruisers Car Show will have their last event this Friday
- Farmer's Market @ SUMC – Every Wednesday thru September

B. City Administrator-

- Bi-Weekly Report
- Shout out to Angelie Hovey & Jacob Chopp for their extra work on the meter replacement project and lead/copper testing work

C. Finance Director-

- No Report

D. Public Works Director-

- Bi-Weekly Report
- Working on the city hall outside repairs and step replacement project
- Entrance Sign on 10th St NW should be up soon
- Dog Park update – city policy is that no extra seating can be left at the park, but have added an extra bench to be used by patrons

A. City Engineer-

- Legacy Drive bids have been received and confirmation given from BP that they will approve the design. Should have bid acceptance at the next meeting

B. Library Director–

- Monthly Report

C. Fire Chief–

- No Report

D. Pool Director–

- No Report

VIII. COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONS AND BOARD REPORTS

- A. Chamber of Commerce: Oktoberfest will be on Sept 27th
- B. EDA/HRA: Minutes of Sept 16th
- C. Finance: No Report
- D. Library: No Report
- E. Park Board: Minutes of Sept 10th
- F. Personnel: No Report
- G. Planning & Zoning: No Report
- H. Public Safety/Safety: August Calls for Service
- I. Public Works: No Report
- J. RAEDI: No Report
- K. ROCOG: No Report
- L. Transit Advisory Committee: No Report

IX. COMMUNICATIONS – None

X. RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) OPEN MIC – None

XI. ADJOURN –

Motion by Beyer, second by Oeltjen to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Roeder
City Clerk