

City of Pillager
Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025

Mayor Adam Sparrow called the public hearing/regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance being said. Members present by roll call: Adam Sparrow, Rob Freelove, Joe Klein, Wade Mortenson and Leroy Smith

Staff present: Lori Blumke, Guy Efraimson and Steve Jones from Sourcewell

Visitors present: Alexander Hardy, Bill and Gayle Keehr

Mayor Sparrow opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to give comments regarding Ordinance No. 2025-04 – To amend the city code to implement the provision of Minnesota Statues Chapter 342, which authorizes the City of Pillager to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Pillager residents by regulating cannabis businesses within the legal boundaries of the City of Pillager. Applicant: City of Pillager.

Steve Jones with Sourcewell reviewed that this is an ordinance to regulate cannabis businesses in the city limits of Pillager. The ordinance is based off a model that is used by many cities in the state. The state is now starting to license different types of cannabis businesses, but the cities will have the control of where they may go.

Public Comments: None

Council Discussion: None

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Smith to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-04 – Amending the City Code to Regulate Cannabis Businesses. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Mortenson to publish the official summary of Ordinance Amendment No. 2025-04. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sparrow closed this public hearing at 6:41 p.m.

Mayor Sparrow opened the regular council meeting and began by asking if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Hearing none. Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Smith to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Smith, second by Council Klein to accept the consent agenda with the following items:

1. Minutes of July 8, 2025 Regular Meeting
 2. July 2025 Cash Control Statement
 3. July 2025 Expenses
 4. Financial Monthly Analysis
 5. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Mule Deer Foundation to hold a raffle at the Huntin Shack on September 26, 2025
 6. Accept donations
 7. Approve 2026 budget support confirmation to the Initiative Foundation for \$260.00
- The motion carried unanimously.

Visitor Forum - None

Old Business

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Freelove to grant an additional 30 days for property clean-up at 605 W 1st Street. Voting for: Adam Sparrow, Rob Freelove, Joe Klein and Wade Mortenson. Voting against the same: Leroy Smith. The motion carried.

New Business

At the August 5th, 2025 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission recommended approval to the City Council – Ordinance Amendment No. 2025-05. Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Klein to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-05, Amending the City Land Use & Subdivision Ordinance, Section 3:3.1 Definitions and Section 5: 5.5 Commercial District (C), 5.6 Downtown Commercial (DC), and 5.6 Industrial (I). The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Mortenson to publish the official summary of Ordinance Amendment No. 2025-05. The motion carried unanimously.

Pillager Lake Park Update

Council Mortenson gave an update from the Pillager Lake Park Committee. A new dock was installed and the DNR fixed the boat landing. There is a new park host this year and is doing a very nice job. A senior at the high school is in the Eagle Scout program and will be doing a project at the park as part of giving back to the community. She will be rebuilding the fence and looking for donations.

Public Works

Supervisor Guy Efraimson reported on: quote from Elite Fence & Deck for fencing at the cemetery, quote from Ideal Construction for street paving, quote from Quality Flow for well pump VFDs, information on cemetery restoration plan and wastewater treatment energy efficiency assessment.

Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Mortenson to table the conversation regarding a fence at the cemetery until the need arises. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Mortenson to pave Fir Avenue, Goldenrod Avenue, north gravel portion of W 1st and W 2nd, repairs on Elm and W 3rd and Ironwood West at approximate cost of \$74,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Mortenson to accept the quote from Quality Flow for well pump VFDs. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Klein to approve monthly bills as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Smith to adjourn this meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



Adam Sparrow - Mayor



Lori Blumke - City Clerk