

**City of Pillager**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2026**

Mayor Adam Sparrow called this regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance being said.

Members present by roll call: Mayor Adam Sparrow, Council Members Rob Freelove, Joe Klein, Wade Mortenson and Leroy Smith

Staff present: Lori Blumke, Guy Efraimson, Tom Youngblom and Bethany Soderlund

Visitors present: CSM Chad Turner, LTC Steve Hall, Jamie Hauge, Donna Klimek, Cathy Tripp, Bob Tripp, Robert Sawyer and Sue VanHal.

Mayor Adam Sparrow opened the regular meeting and began by asking if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda. Council Smith requested to add under New Business #3 – Employee Issue. Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Smith to accept the agenda with this addition. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Minutes of March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. March 2026 Cash Control Statement
3. March 2026 Expenses
4. Financial Monthly Analysis

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Visitor Forum**

Robert Sawyer was in attendance to speak to council regarding the Minnesota State Flag that is flying at the city park. He is wondering if council would consider going back to the old flag as other counties and municipalities have done so.

#### **Camp Ripley Community Brief 2026**

Command Sergeant Major Chad Turner and Colonel Steve Hall with Camp Ripley presented to the council the 2026 Camp Ripley Community Brief. He reviewed what is new at Camp Ripley as well as events and training that will take place throughout the year.

#### **Pillager Briefs**

Sue VanHal informed council that she will be starting a newsletter for the community called The Pillager Briefs. It is a once-a-month digital newsletter that community members can subscribe to for free by contacting Sue Vanhal at [PillagerBriefs@gmail.com](mailto:PillagerBriefs@gmail.com). She also asked that the City of Pillager consider being a sponsor. Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Freelove to serve as a Community Partner for The Pillager Briefs at \$500 annually. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Cannabis and Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retail Registration**

Community Development Administrator, Bethany Soderlund informed council that any local establishment selling lower potency hemp edibles including beverages are required to hold a state license. In the current ordinance lower potency hemp edibles are listed under retail which requires a CUP. A separate ordinance can be adopted to just address lower potency hemp edibles. Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Freelove to ask staff to prepare an ordinance amendment to address lower potency hemp edibles as an allowed use in certain zoning districts. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Motion by Council Mortenson seconded by Council Klein to approve the Final Plat 26-01: Subdivision of an 11.15-acre parcel within the R-1 Residential zoning district based on the Findings of Fact and Conditions as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Mortenson to approve Ordinance Amendment 26-02: To amend the City Land Use & Subdivision Ordinance, Section 5.5, Commercial District & 13.1, Planned Unit Developments (PUD) to allow for dwelling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor or above in the Commercial zoning district. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Klein to Publish the Official Summary of Ordinance Amendment 26-02. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Smith to adopt Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pillager and AFSCME Council 65 for the purpose of correcting and clarifying the wage scale contained in the current collective bargaining agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Mortenson to adopt Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pillager and AFSCME Council 65 to include the Deputy Clerk position in the current collective bargaining agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

Verizon Site Lease renewal was tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Council Joe Klein, seconded by Council Mortenson to change the city website from a .com to .gov as required for administering absentee voting and will be fully transitioned by June 1, 2028. The motion carried unanimously.

Council held discussion regarding internal procedures for handling employee complaints. A policy will be drafted for review.

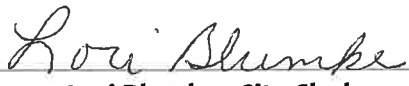
### **Public Works Report**

Public Works Supervisor, Guy Efraimson reported on a sewer backup in a residential basement by lift station #2. It was determined that there was a power loss at the lift station, resulting from a power converter failure. The city has made an investment to update lift stations. Guy presented a template letter to property owners regarding sanitary sewer backups. This letter will be sent to the city attorney for review. Also reported was Exchange of Service Agreements are completed, calcium chloride application, quotes for class 5, and Minnesota Power upgrades for lift stations. Guy also shared a request from Eric Miller of St. Charles Rentals to create a ditch at both rental properties to redirect water off the driveways.

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

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

  
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**Adam Sparrow - Mayor**

  
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**Lori Blumke - City Clerk**