

City of Pillager
City Council Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2025

Mayor Adam Sparrow called the 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, Tom Youngblom and Bethany Soderlund

Visitors present: Alex Hardy, Gayle and Bill Keehr, Alissa Lane, Tom Wicks, Eric Hanson and Arlene Schmit

Mayor Sparrow opened the regular council meeting and began by asking if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. He requested to add under New Business #5 - Pillager Fest Sponsorship discussion. Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Freelove to accept the agenda with this addition. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Smith, second by Council Mortenson to accept the consent agenda with the following items to include a revision of the June 10, 2025 meeting minutes.

1. Minutes of June 10, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. June 2025 Cash Control Statement
3. June 2025 Expenses
4. Financial Monthly Analysis
5. Accept Third-Party Services grant from Sourcewell for \$16,500.00
6. Adopt Resolution No. 070825-2 - Authorizing Grant Application for Community Impact Funding through Sourcewell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Visitor Forum - None

Public Works Report

Supervisor Guy Efraimson reported on the following: Justin Rogers passed his Water exam, so he now has both Water and Waste/Water Certifications; Team Labs was out with a remote-control boat to sonar the sewer ponds and he requested a quote for additional electrical outlets along Hazel Ave.

Old Business

Council further discussed a request from Bill Keehr to extend the fence along the west side of the cemetery. Guy will get quotes for a chain link fence and reach out about the permitting process through Sylvan Township.

Community Docks

Mayor Sparrow updated the council regarding a meeting held last week about the community dock. Those attending were Adam Sparrow, Wade Mortenson, Lori Blumke, Guy Efraimson, Chad Harting, Dave Schmit and Wiley Buck with Great River Greening. An onsite visit was made so that Wiley could advise the group about the prairie restoration and archaeological dig that has been completed with his help. Other topics covered were insurance, portable restroom, garbage, additional information from the DNR and permitting. Arlene Schmit with Sylvan Township was in attendance to ask additional questions about the project.

New Business

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Klein to establish a subcommittee to review and recommend a cannabis regulations ordinance. The committee members are Adam Sparrow, Rob Freelove, Lori Blumke, Tom Youngblom and Bethany Soderlund. The motion carried unanimously.

Community Development Administrator, Bethany Soderlund informed council that three applications for a determination of similar uses, each requesting that the City of Pillager determine that the proposed off-premises sign request is similar to an on-premises sign request. After questions and discussion:

A motion was made by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Smith, that it has been determined that this is not similar use based on findings and facts as follows:

1. The subject property is located at TBD Dorado Dr. No – PID # 93-352-0120.
2. The subject property is zoned Commercial (C).
3. The proposed use is not allowed within the Commercial (C) zoning district.
4. The proposed use is not substantially similar to an allowed use within the commercial zoning district because: only onsite is permitted and off site is not and onsite is not the same as offsite.
5. If similar use is established, the council must determine whether it shall be deemed a permitted, interim, conditional, or accessory use. The Council finds the proposed use to be: Not applicable as the proposed use is not substantially similar to a similar use allowed in the commercial zoning district.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Smith, seconded by Council Klein, that it has been determined that this is not similar use based on findings and facts as follows:

1. The subject property is located at TBD Dorado Dr. No – PID # 93-352-0110.
2. The subject property is zoned Commercial (C).
3. The proposed use is not allowed within the Commercial (C) zoning district.
4. The proposed use is not substantially similar to an allowed use within the commercial zoning district because: only onsite is permitted and off site is not and onsite is not the same as offsite.
5. If similar use is established, the council must determine whether it shall be deemed a permitted, interim, conditional, or accessory use. The Council finds the proposed use to be: Not applicable as the proposed use is not substantially similar to a similar use allowed in the commercial zoning district.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Freelove, that it has been determined that this is not similar use based on findings and facts as follows:

1. The subject property is located at TBD Dorado Dr. No – PID # 93-352-0105.
2. The subject property is zoned Commercial (C).
3. The proposed use is not allowed within the Commercial (C) zoning district.
4. The proposed use is not substantially similar to an allowed use within the commercial zoning district because: only onsite is permitted and off site is not and onsite is not the same as offsite.
5. If similar use is established, the council must determine whether it shall be deemed a permitted, interim, conditional, or accessory use. The Council finds the proposed use to be: Not applicable as the proposed use is not substantially similar to a similar use allowed in the commercial zoning district.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Smith seconded by Council Freelove to Adopt Resolution 070825-1 – Amending the Boundaries of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-6. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Freelove to adopt Resolution No. 070825-3 Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of a Temporary General Obligation Utility Revenue Note, Series 2025A. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Klein to sponsor \$1,000.00 to Pillager Fest provided there is a cushion or funds available in public relations. Voting in favor of: Rob Frelove, Joe Klein, Wade Mortenson and Leroy Smith. Abstaining: Adam Sparrow. The motion carried.

The council reviewed and discussed a request from a resident to adjust their June water bill due to a leak. The council denied this request.

Police Chief Tom Youngblom updated the council regarding a property cleanup in progress.

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

Motion by Council Frelove, seconded by Council Mortenson to adjourn this meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Adam Sparrow - Mayor



Lori Blumke - City Clerk