

City of Pillager
City Council Meeting Minutes
June 10, 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, and Wade Mortenson
Absent: Leroy Smith

Staff present: Lori Blumke, Guy Efraimson, Tom Youngblom

Visitors present: Linda Meach, Jeromy Sherp, Jon and Brittany Giberson, Bill Keehr, Brandon Johnson, Mark Klema, Chad Harting, Linda Steffen, Scott Savage and Jason Sachs.

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: presentation from Cowboy Cannabis and under Old Business #2 - Schulz property. Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Klein to accept the agenda with these additions. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Minutes of May 13, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. May 2025 Cash Control Statement
3. May 2025 Expenses
4. Financial Monthly Analysis
5. Accept Apprentice Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.00 from Minnesota Rural Water Association for Justin Rogers
6. Accept GovDeals payment of \$4,708.13 and Pillager Area Fire Protection Association payment of \$3,000.00 for the Ford Explorer squad car and radio

The motion carried unanimously.

Visitor Forum

Bill and Gayle Keehr were in attendance to speak with council regarding property that they own on the west side of the cemetery that they will be developing to construct a triplex on. Their request is for a fence to be put up between the two parcels. This will be put on the July agenda for discussion.

Cable Television Franchise Agreement

Scott Savage with SCI Broadband/Savage Communications and Jason Sachs with Midco were in attendance to review and answer questions from council regarding the Cable Television Franchise Agreement renewal and the transfer of this renewal with SCI Broadband to Minco.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Freelove to approve the Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Savage Communications Inc. Voting in favor of: Wade Mortenson, Rob Freelove and Adam Sparrow. Voting against the same: Joe Klein. The motion carried.

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Mortenson to approve Resolution No. 61025-1 – Consent to Assignment of Franchise with Savage Communication, Inc to Minco. Voting in favor of: Wade Mortenson, Rob Freelove and Adam Sparrow. Voting against the same: Joe Klein. The motion carried.

Community Docks

Chad Harting was in attendance to review a proposal with council for a community dock on the Crow Wing River just past the cemetery. Chad has secured donations for the dock, mulch and dirt work.

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Klein to approve to continue with the installation of the dock contingent upon the city not funding it. The motion carried unanimously

Cowboy Cannabis

Jonathan Giberson with Cowboy Cannabis Company was in attendance to seek city council approval on a proposal to establish a cultivation center within the Pillager city limits. After discussion and questions from council, Jonathan will move forward with the Conditional Use Permit process to be on the agenda at an upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Bollig Engineering – Needs Assessment Review

Brandon Johnson and Mark Klema with Bollig Engineering were in attendance to review with council the Needs Assessment results, their recommended next steps and funding options.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Klein to approve Bollig Engineering Task Order No. 2 - Assist with MnDOT Roundabout project. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Freelove to approve Bollig Engineering Task Order No. 3 – Prepare Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Report

Supervisor Guy Efraimson reported on the following: Justin Rogers passed his Class D Wastewater exam, Sylvan Township reached out about calcium chloride application, purchased chemical feed pump for the water plant and 2 community service students working with Public Works at the cemetery.

Old Business

Chief of Police, Tom Youngblom continued discussion regarding Ordinance enforcement procedures for handling property violations once two notices have been sent with no compliance from the property owner. The council will further review at the July Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Mayor Sparrow reviewed that Jim and Veronica Schulz have contacted him and are interested in selling their lot in the Crossing that they recently purchased. Consensus of council was not to discuss purchasing it back.

New Business

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Mortenson to approve 2025-2026 Liquor Licenses for The Shante, Huntin' Shack Bar/Grill and KC's Uptown Saloon. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Mortenson to approve the update of the 2025 Fee Schedule for Sunday Liquor Licenses according to MN Statue 340A.504 Sub 3. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Mortenson to refund the business that have been charged and paid for Sunday Liquor Licenses for 2025-2026. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Freelove to adjourn this meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Adam Sparrow - Mayor



Lori Blumke - City Clerk