

City of Pillager
City Council Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024

Mayor Adam Sparrow called the Truth in Taxation/Regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance being said.

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

Staff present: Lori Blumke and Justin Rogers

Visitors present: None

Truth In Taxation

Mayor Adam Sparrow opened the Truth in Taxation meeting and then asked for any public comment. There were no residents in attendance to speak about their proposed tax statements for 2025.

Motion by Council Klein to approve the 2025 Budget as presented, seconded by Council Smith. There were no changes made from the first approval in September. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson to approve the Certification of Final Levy for 2025 in the amount of \$375,756.00, seconded by Council Freelove. This is a 0% increase from last year. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Sparrow opened the regular council meeting and began by asking if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda. He requested to add under New Business #4 – Approve Memorandum of Understanding – Contract Extension for AFSCME Council 65, Local 3628-5 Licensed Peace Officer and New Business #5 – Review proposal from UpAhead. Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Mortenson to accept the agenda with these additions. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Minutes of November 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and November 19, 2024 Special Meeting
2. November 2024 Cash Control Statement
3. November 2024 Expenses
4. Financial Monthly Analysis
5. Three (3) Pass throughs for the Pillager Lions Club in the amounts of \$6,525.00, \$1,000.00 and \$700.00.
6. Cleaning service contract with Dianna Bjornsen
7. Snow removal service agreement with Cass County Agricultural Society
8. Resolution #121024-1 Exchange of Services Agreement with Ultimate Septic Service LLC

The motion carried unanimously.

Visitor Forum - None

Public Works Report

Justin Rogers updated council on the expenses paid from the Sourcewell Matching Fund grant, carport for salt/sand has been set up, 2 new water/sewer hookups in the Crossing, Jake Williams with MN Rural Water will be here next week to help with a water rate study, potential replacement of dated commercial meters and Christmas lights. The council also discussed dewatering and water/sewer availability options for lots on Palomino Avenue West.

Old Business

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Freelove to approve Resolution #121024-2 Adopt Finding of Fact and Reasons for Approval of Variance Application 04-24 for the First Baptist Church. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Smith to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFSCME Council No. 65, Local 3628, General Unit for 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2027. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Klein to approve four council members (Sparrow, Freelove, Klein and Mortenson) to attend the League of Minnesota Cities Elected Leaders Institute. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council further reviewed a proposal received from Alex Zelinski regarding a parcel for sale through Cass County next to his in The Crossing. After discussion, a motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Mortenson to lessen the assessment on Parcel 93-352-0605 (County Land Sale Parcel) by the same amount as the lot he is building on currently (Parcel 93-352-0610). This offer will be extended to any inquiry moving forward. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Freelove to approve transfer from Citizens Community Federal Bank in the amount of \$69,900.00 to Funds 100, 225, 601 and Roads Capital Outlay set aside account as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Mortenson to approve the transfer of two (2) Certificate of Deposits – (accounts # XXXX-117 and # XXXX-120) at Pine River State Bank to two (2) 19-month CD's at %4.15. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Mortenson to withdraw funds from Randall State Bank (account # XXXXXXXX-82) and transfer to Pine River State Bank to a 25-month CD at %4 with the approval of insured collateral. The motion carried unanimously.

The council discussed the possibility of developing a capital outlay plan or a comprehensive plan for the city. More information will be gathered for the next regular council meeting.

Motion by Council Freelove, seconded by Council Mortenson to approve the memorandum of Understanding for a contract extension for AFSCME Council 65, Local 3628-5 Peace Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed a proposal from UpAhead. They are a company that could provide text message alerts to our residents. No further review or action required.

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

Motion by Council Freelove to allow Mayor Sparrow to sign checks to pay the remaining bills for December 2024 before the end of the year, seconded by Council Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Klein to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Freelove. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Adam Sparrow - Mayor



Lori Blumke - City Clerk