

City of Pillager
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026

Acting Mayor Rob Freelove called this public hearing/regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance being said.

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

Absent: Mayor Adam Sparrow

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

Visitors present: Katie and Brandon Burgau, Rick Gillson, Mark Klema

Acting Mayor Rob Freelove opened the regular meeting and began by asking if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda. Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Smith to accept the agenda with the following addition: under Old Business #4 – Approve to publish the official summary of Ordinance Amendment 26-01. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Acting Mayor Rob Freelove opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. This public hearing is to discuss a Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) grant and Rural Development (RD) funding application that will be submitted to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and USDA- Rural Development (RD) for the City of Pillager. The public hearing is intended to provide citizens with learning more about the proposed project, including the costs associated with the activities described as well as solicit input on community development and housing needs in the community that might be addressed through the programs. Mark Klema with Bollig Engineering presented information regarding proposed infrastructure improvements to the water treatment plant, wastewater control structure and lift stations. He then reviewed potential project costs and funding options. A pdf of this presentation is available at city hall.

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Mortenson to approve Bollig Engineering to submit these project improvements to funding agencies for review and consideration with revisions as stated. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no visitors in attendance to speak at this public hearing.

Acting Mayor Rob Freelove closed the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

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

1. Minutes of January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. January 2026 Cash Control Statement
3. January 2026 Expenses
4. Financial Monthly Analysis

The motion carried unanimously.

Visitor Forum - None

Public Works Report

Supervisor Guy Efraimson reported on: CTC quote to get internet at the water plant for SCADA alarm system, grant information for VFD purchase and installation, price quote for snowplow blade, oils changes done, purchase of salt through the county and update on exchange of service agreements for dumping at the ponds.

Old Business

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Smith to approve Preliminary Plat 26-01 for subdivision of an 11.15-acre parcel within the R-1 Residential zoning district as recommended by the Planning Commission on February 4, 2026 based on the Findings of Fact and Conditions. Voting in favor of: Council Joe Klein, Wade Mortenson, Leroy Smith and Rob Frelove. Voting against the same: None. The motion carried.

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Smith to approve Ordinance Amendment 26-01 to amend the City Land Use & Subdivision Ordinance, Section 30 as recommended by the Planning Commission on February 4, 2026. Voting in favor of: Council Joe Klein, Wade Mortenson, Leroy Smith and Rob Frelove. Voting against the same: None. The motion carried.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Klein to publish the official summary of Ordinance Amendment 26-01. The motion carried unanimously.

Council reviewed a request from the Burgau's regarding the repairs to their basement. They have provided council with a list of materials for reconstruction. After discussion, the Burgau's will provide at least 3 estimates as soon as possible for further consideration.

New Business

Motion by Council Smith, seconded by Council Mortenson to adopt the Citizen Participation plan which states that the city will hold the necessary public hearings to allow for citizen participation and input regarding proposed CDBG funding and how the funds will be used. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Mortenson, seconded by Council Klein to transfer the payment made to Preferred Controls on 1/15/2026 – check #8999 for \$39, 751.00 from the general account to capital outlay. The funds will come from a CD at the Pine River State Bank in July 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Council Klein, seconded by Council Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Adam Sparrow - Mayor



Lori Blumke - City Clerk