

**CITY OF STARBUCK
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2025
6:30 P.M.**

Mayor:	Gary Swenson	City Clerk/Treasurer:	Joan Kerkvliet
Councilors:	Chris Taffe Mary Baukol Dane Christensen Kris Goracke	Police Chief:	Mitch Johnsrud

MINUTES – Approved 3/10/25

Public Hearing: None

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance - Meeting was called to order by Mayor Swenson at 6:30 pm.
2. Roll Call - Swenson, Goracke, Taffe, Christensen, and Baukol Present. Absent - None

II. CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Claims for Payment
5. Approve Minutes from previous meeting(s)
 - a) Council Meeting - January 13, 2025
 - b) Public Hearing - January 13, 2025
 - c) Special Council Meeting – January 24, 2024
Motion by Christensen; second by Taffe to approve the consent agenda as amended to exclude the payment to the Pope County Tribune for \$74.40 and the add Gene Rossum and a discussion of the airport grant offer to the agenda. **Motion carried (4-0).**
Motion by Taffe; second by Christensen to approve the payment of \$74.40 to the Pope County Tribune. **Motion carried (3-0). Goracke-Abstained.**

III. ANYONE BEFORE THE COUNCIL

6. Tom Beuckens – Starbuck Chamber of Commerce
 - a) American Ninja Warrior Course for Heritage Days.
Tom Beuckens spoke on behalf of the Starbuck Chamber and thanked the city for the use of the community center for their annual meeting.
Mr. Beuckens told the council the chamber would like to sponsor an American Ninja Course for Heritage Days. They would like approval from the city to set up a 100’x100’ area in the city park on Saturday July 5, 2025. They would also like the city to act as the fiscal agent for payment to the vendor.
Motion by Baukol; second by Goracke to approve using an area in the city park to set up the American Ninja course and allowing the City of Starbuck to act as the fiscal agent for the event. **Motion carried (4-0).**
7. Tracy Ogdahl, Vicki Halvorson, Lisa Shepersky and Kecia Noyes
 - a) Issues of Improvements at Hobo Park

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The above group of Hobo Park seasonal campers addressed the council to request updates and repairs to Hobo Park. The group submitted a list of proposed improvements they would like to see. One example mentioned was for additional gravel at multiple sites. Randy Peterson, Sewer/Water Superintendent, said to give him a call when gravel was needed, and he would get a load down to the park. Councilor Baukol stated that The Riders, a new group that is part of the VFW Auxiliary, would be a good resource to help with some repairs. Councilor Christensen said the council is aware of the situation at Hobo Park and will work to improve communication between the city and the campground.

8. Nick Koos - Widseth

a) Future Projects for Water/Sewer/Streets

Mr. Koos gave a quick update on the Water Treatment Plant and Water Tower Rehabilitation project. Detailed cost updates will be presented at the March council meeting.

b) Engineering Study for Wastewater Facility Plan and Water System Costs

At a work session with the council on January 24, 2025, Widseth outlined a plan to update the wastewater facility and complete a street and utility project. The first step will be for the council to approve Widseth to prepare a facility plan for the wastewater system, prepare environmental documents required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and also prepare cost estimates for water distribution system improvements. The cost estimate for this step of the project is \$40,000.

Motion by Taffe; second by Goracke to approve Widseth's Confirmation of Request for Engineering Services for the Wastewater Facility Plan and Water System Costs at the estimated engineering cost of \$40,000. **Motion carried (4-0).**

9. Gene Rossum

a) Blight and Street Issues

Gene Rossum addressed the council to discuss blight and street issues. Mr. Rossum asked how the city determined what streets would be repaired. Randy Peterson, Water/Sewer Superintendent, stated that he checks the roads frequently to determine which are most in need of repair, and works within the city budget to schedule these repairs with council approval.

Mr. Rossum complained about blight issues in the city and brought some pictures to the council as examples. Chief Johnsrud said citations had been sent out this summer and most residents had complied. He said the council would need to decide how to proceed with those that will not comply.

IV. PERSONNEL REPORTS

10. Mayor

a)

11. Police Department

a) Recap of 2024

Chief Johnsrud stated there had been 189 calls for service in January which was a slight increase from last month. Chief Johnsrud gave a presentation comparing 2024 calls to prior years. These statistics can be found on the police website. Some highlights included the department had 214 traffic stops in 2024 of which 86% resulted in warnings. There had

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been an increase in domestic assaults calls in 2024 and the department continues to work with Someplace Safe and other agencies to provide resources for those that need it. The Police Department is no longer participating in Towards Zero Death (TZD) as they do not have resources for this program. Councilor Christenson thanked the department for programs they run such as Safety Camp and the Bike Rodeo.

12. Fire Department
 - a) Monthly Report – No Updates.
13. Water/Sewer Department
 - a) No Updates.
14. City Clerk/Treasurer
 - a) Performance Bond for Verizon Tower Removal Completed.
Clerk/Treasurer Kerkvliet stated that the bond requested from Verizon for removal of tower equipment in the event it was abandoned had been approved and a copy of the contract from Verizon was included in the council packet.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

15. Planning & Zoning
 - a)
16. Airport/Streets Committee – Tom Beuckens
 - a) Discuss MnDOT State Grant Offer of \$21,892 for a 2024 Kubota Mower with a 72” Deck, with the trade in of the Cities Current 2008 Kubota Mower. This will be a 90/10 Split with the State.
Motion by Taffe; second by Christensen to approve pursuing the grant offer of \$21,892 from MnDOT for the purchase of a new 2024 Kubota Mower with a 72” deck for the airport. This includes the trade in of the current 2008 Kubota Mower. **Motion carried (4-0).**
17. Parks & Recreation Committee
 - a) Kris Goracke – Update on Parks Meeting and AARP Grant
Councilor Goracke updated the council on park committee activity. The committee met to discuss possible projects at the park that could be completed with the help of an AARP no match grant available up to \$25,000. After a visit to the park, the committee decided they would like to pursue the grant for enlarging the parking area for shelter #2 including one marked handicapped spot. The project would also include an ADA accessible path from the road to the bathrooms at shelter #2.
Motion by Taffe; second by Baukol to pursue an AARP grant for the purpose of expending parking by shelter #2, with one marked handicapped spot, and creating an ADA accessible path from the road to the shelter #2 bathrooms. **Motion carried (4-0).**
18. Community Center

VI. OLD BUSINESS

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VII. NEW BUSINESS

19. Approve Resolution #2025-06 – Accepting Donation from Beachside RV Park for the Starbuck Multi-Use Path.
Motion by Taffe; second by Christensen to accept the final \$10,000 donation, with appreciation, from Beachside RV Park for the Starbuck Multi-Use Path. **Motion carried (4-0).**
20. Discuss Hiring Summer Help for 2025 – Hobo Park and General Maintenance.
The Personnel Committee will discuss 2025 summer help and bring their recommendations to the council in March.
21. Approve Rainbow Rider Contract for 2025 Forward.
Motion by Taffe; second by Christensen to approve the Rainbow Rider contract for 2025 going forward at a yearly cost of \$12,000. **Motion carried (4-0).**
22. Discuss Approval of a Public Hearing for Vacating Gaarder St. between E. 2nd St and E. 3rd St.
The council discussed the request by Ryan Franks and Cody Kleinschmidt to vacate the plated road between parcels 27-0534-60 and 27-0530-000 north of E. 2nd St. Planning & Zoning had recommended in their 2/4/25 meeting vacating the entire plated roadway between E. 2nd St and E. Third St. Any vacation would require a utility easement as there are utilities under this plated roadway. There was a discussion that once you give away city land you cannot get it back and that if you vacate this for one resident there will be others asking for the same thing. The city council may vacate a street only if it is “in the interest of the public”.
Motion by Taffe; second by Christensen to approve a public hearing to discuss vacation of Gaarder St. between E. 2nd St and E. 3rd St. **Motion carried (4-0). Taffe-Aye Goracke-Aye Christensen-Aye Baukol-Aye.**
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.

VIII. CLOSED MEETING – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Baukol to adjourn meeting at 7:43pm. Motion carried (4-0).

Submitted by,
Joan Kerkvliet
City Clerk/Treasurer