

# City of Stewart Council Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2025

7:00 pm      Call to Order the Regular Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call;      Mayor: Jason Peirce - here  
                    Council Member: Carol Altrichter - here  
                    Council Member: James Eitel - here  
                    Council Member: Wes Holtz – absent  
                    Council Member: Daniel Broucek – here

Approval of Minutes from April 14th;

Motion to approve minutes from April 14, 2025, Eitel/Broucek, all in favor, motion carries

Consent of Agenda;

Motion to approve agenda with additions, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

Approval of Balance Sheet;

Motion to approve Balance Sheet, Broucek/Altrichter, all in favor, motion carries

Approval of Statement of Revenue and Expenditures;

Motion to approve Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

Approval of Payments (Claims);

Motion to approve Payments, Altrichter/Broucek, all in favor, motion carries

Approval of Utility Billing Information;

Motion to approve Utility Billing Information, Altrichter/Broucek, all in favor, motion carries

Approval of Bank Reconciliation;

Motion to approve Bank Reconciliation for General Checking, General Savings, and Jetter, Eitel/Altrichter, all in favor, motion carries

## Emergency Services Report

### 1. Fire Department

- a. 1 Fire
- b. Trucks will start going in for regular maintenance
- c. CPR- drill
- d. Brownton firefighter will be joining to help with day calls since he works in town

Motion to approve Fire Department Report, Altrichter/Broucek, all in favor, motion carries

### 2. EMR Department

Motion to approve EMR Department Report, Eitel/Altrichter, all in favor, motion carries

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## Petitions, requests, and communications

1. Bolton & Menk Update
  - a. Pre-construction meeting is this Wednesday at 2pm
  - b. We should start to see the PFA money in June or July – there are 6 towns ahead of us for paperwork
2. McLeod County Update -Commissioner Paul Wright
  - a. Mayor Peirce asked the county representatives how we can hold the state accountable- the City's LGA money was budgeted, but it ended up being shot down anyway
    - i. Commissioner Paul Wright said that often you need to have a squeaky voice to get anything heard at the state level
    - ii. A lot of issues get grouped together at the State level, so smaller issues get overlooked in a vote when buried in larger issues
  - b. ARPA funds have been finalized- about \$2.6 million were put towards parks and fairgrounds
  - c. It cost \$317,000 for McLeod county to run the Presidential elections every 4 years
  - d. Upcoming challenges:
    - i. the roof and structure of the court house need long term fixes to issues
    - ii. the State overspent, especially in the area of DHS, so now they are way behind – they are now looking to the counties to pay for the things that they cannot
  - e. Councilmember Altrichter asked about state funding to take down old buildings
    - i. Sheila from the County said she has a contact at the State that she will reach out to for information on this
  - f. The county has come to a decision on the assessor issue
    - i. There is one assessor per county, and everything falls on them
      1. They must be in compliance with all state requirements
    - ii. Because some assessors were not keeping up on assessing each property at least once every 5 years, the county now manages all 21,000 parcels as a whole unit and rotate through them, to be sure that every parcel is being seen
    - iii. It is not possible for someone to go off on their own anymore, because it is being audited more rigorously by the county
    - iv. Everything is done through the county going forward
3. Aerial Project Contribution – update
  - a. The City's Street Project will be mostly done by the time the footage is complete
  - b. Motion to approve the contribution to the Aerial Project Contribution for \$646.72 , Altrichter/Broucek, all in favor, motion carries
4. 2025A Bond Closing
5. Girl Scouts- Gerri Fitzloff
  - a. Gerri is wondering if they can plant apple trees within the fence they are putting up

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- b. Mayor Peirce said that he does not believe that it will be a problem
  - i. If they do put up buildings later on, the trees can be transplanted

## **Ordinances and Resolutions;**

Resolution 2025-47 Lighting Maintenance Agreement

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-47 Lighting Maintenance Agreement, Eitel/Broucek, all in favor, Broucek-yea, Eitel-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yea, motion carries

## **Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees;**

### 1. Police Department Report –

Motion to approve Police Department Report, Altrichter/Broucek, all in favor, motion carries

- a. Snowfall citation from resident
  - i. Mike Hahn and his neighbors got ticketed in April during the last snowfall of the year
  - ii. He did not believe there was enough snow on the ground for there to be a question that a plow was needed
  - iii. He is wondering if the ordinance can be altered in a way to say that there has to be so many inches of snowfall on the ground for there to be a snowbird violation in place
  - iv. Mayor Peirce stated that the ordinance is very clear on inches and type of snow
  - v. Typically, the Sheriff reaches out to the Maintenance Supervisor before issuing a ticket, but that did not happen this time
  - vi. The City contracts through the County, and there should be instructions on the ticket on how to contest it- in the future he can have them call the Maintenance Supervisor to help contest it

### 2. Public Works Reports

#### A. Maintenance Report

- a. Councilmember Altrichter asked about the new employee – the City has hired a part time employee to help Nate

Motion to approve Maintenance Report, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

#### 1. Tree removal request from resident

- a. Mike Hahn stated that a couple trees on the boulevard of his dad's property has died and the branches are falling down with all of the wind
- b. Mayor Peirce asked Nate to take a look at the trees
  - i. Nate stated that last year they did trim one of the trees that Mike has requested be taken care of

#### B. Water/Waste Water Report

-Mike has been working on the THMs with the John Tom

-They should be taken care of by the end of this month or the beginning of next month

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Resolution 2025-48 Bid for New PLC and HMI for Water Plant

-Mike said that the computer for the water plant can no longer be updated/repared because it is out of date

-If this system goes down, he cannot pump any wells and the city would have about 24 hours worth of water

-The computers need to be replaced every 20 years

-By adding the firewall- everything will be more protected from cyberattacks

-Mike will also have more accessible features with the firewall protection

-To have the auto-dialer feature, Mike and Mayor Peirce believe he would need to be connected all the time

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-48 with Firewall protection, the money will come from the Water Media for Capital fund and the Water Repair and Maintenance- Vehicle fund, Broucek/Altrichter, all in favor, Broucek-yea, Eitel-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yea, motion carries

Motion to approve Water/Waste Water Report, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

## **Building & Planning & Zoning Permits**

Approved Building Permits;

Unfinished business;

Employee Review;

Next Month: Mike Hansen

Miscellaneous

A Special meeting to discuss land use for city property, the Buffalo Lake Ambulance budget, and department asset lists will be on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn at 8:41, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

By:

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Jason Peirce – Mayor

ATTESTS:

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Laura Ranieri, City Clerk - Treasurer