

Regular Council Meeting June 1, 2026

Mayor Stan Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members in attendance were Darwin Sietsema, Brian Baartman, and Chris McCurdy. Absent was Stu Peterson. Also in attendance were Jason Kloss, Darrin Haroldson and Rochelle VanderWoude.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those all in attendance.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved with corrections by M/Sietsema 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

Jason Kloss, Environmental Health Manager from Southwest Health and Human Services, was here to discuss the process of condemning houses here in the City of Ruthton. He said that he is a starting point in the process. He comes in and does sight inspections looking for hazards affecting health and writes letters of recommendation at no cost to the city. The council gave him a couple of addresses, and he went out and did an inspection. He returned to the meeting and noted that both residences had substantial debris but did not see a cause for demolition at this time. He recommended the city to contact our city attorney about what steps the city needs to take next to clean the properties up.

Wastewater Supervisor Darrin Haroldson gave the council his report for the month of May and answered the council's questions.

Building permits for Yasonary Michelle Johnson to replace shingles with steel at 830 Nelson Avenue and for Jamie Johnson to build a 26' x 30' garage and install a fence form the corner of the house on both the east and west side to the rear set back at 230 Cleveland Street were approved by M/Baartman 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

The May bills were presented and approved by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously. Receipts = \$123,430.47
Disbursements = \$163,868.05

After discussion, the council decided to rescind the motion to rehab the water tower made at the April 6, 2026 council meeting by M/Sietsema 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

The garbage contract renewal from VanDyke Sanitation was reviewed again. Brad VanDyke, President of VanDyke Sanitation approved the addition of "the contractor will only pick up full additional dumpsters" to the contract. It was approved to sign the 3-year contract by M/Sietsema 2/Baartman/cd unanimously.

The council reviewed the proposed 3-year Assessor Contract with Pipestone County. The cost will be \$14.00 per parcel for a total of 247 parcels resulting in an expense of \$3,458.00. A motion to approve and sign the 3-year Assessor Contract with Pipestone County by M/Sietsema 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

Blighted properties were discussed. The city attorney will be notified and letters will be going out soon.

Stop signs will be placed on Leo Avenue going both directions at the corner of Harrison Street by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Rochelle VanderWoude
Ruthton City Clerk/Treasurer