

Regular Council Meeting July 6, 2026

Mayor Stan Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Darwin Sietsema, Brian Baartman, and Chris McCurdy. Also in attendance were Matt Taubert, Dennis Olson, Dustin Seiler, and Rochelle VanderWoude.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

Councilmember Stewart Peterson passed away on June 26, 2026. His term would have expired at the end of 2028. Because the vacancy occurred before the first day to file as a candidate for the next regular city election and more than two years remain in the unexpired term, the city must hold a special election to fill the council vacancy at or before the next regular City election. The council was saddened to approve Resolution 2026-06; A Resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the City Council and Holding of Special Election by M/Sietsema 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

Accountant Matt Taubert from Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co. was here for Ruthton's 2025 Audit Report. The city received a clean audit opinion. The council approved the Journal Entries for the beginning of the year by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously. The council accepted the 2025 Audit Report by M/McCurdy 2/Baartman/cd unanimously.

Mayor, Stan Townsend gave Wastewater Supervisor-Darrin Haroldson's report for the month of June.

A building permit for Denis Flores for a 15' x 33' addition to east side of house at 850 Smith Avenue was approved by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

The June bills were presented and approved by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously. Receipts = \$98,346.33 Disbursements = \$79,931.35

Cilla Hughes from Hope Mutual called wondering if the city wanted to cover the school memorial under the cities policy. After discussion, the council decided to not cover the school monument by M/Baartman 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

The Ruthton Fire Department has been awarded a grant for a Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor Dryer. The total amount of the reward is \$18,788.00 with the reimbursable amount of \$17,080.00 and a 10% local match of \$1708.00. It was approved to cover the \$1,708.00 local match by M/Sietsema 2/Baartman/cd unanimously.

Dennis Olson was here showing interest in filling the council vacancy. M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously to appoint Dennis Olson to fill the vacancy of Stu Peterson.

Pipestone County Sheriff Candidate, Dustin Seiler was here to introduce himself and see how Ruthton runs things.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. by M/Baartman.

Rochelle VanderWoude
Ruthton City Clerk/Treasurer