

Rutland City Council
June 2, 2025

The monthly City Council meeting convened at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2025. Mayor Mahrer, presiding. Council members Erickson, Hoflen, Lysne and McLaen present. City Auditor also present. Others present: Scott Haan, Michael Wyum, Nate Trossen, Collin Kremeier, Dale Rubisch. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

McLaen/Lysne moved approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

Hoflen/Lysne moved approval of the May 5, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Michael Wyum, Sargent County Water Board, and Nate Trossen, Moore Engineering, discussed Drain 8 and the need for a public information meeting before proceeding with the study. The Water Board has received a DES infrastructure grant to study alternatives to improve the slope of Drain 8 south of Rutland. The Water board wants to hold public meetings on the project in late July. Notices would be sent to property owners in the City and outside of town in Ransom and Rutland townships and others affected by any reassessment of Drain 8. Trossen discussed the updated City of Rutland water flow map. A public meeting will be scheduled to be held in Rutland.

Collin Kremeier and Dale Rubisch from Otter Tail Power discussed the franchise agreement renewal for the poles and wires in the city. This is a standard 20-year agreement. The City Attorney has reviewed the proposed agreement. Kremeier said the substation in Cayuga may be removed and OTP would use the Geneseo substation. Erickson asked if OTP would be replacing poles with underground lines. Kremeier said not at this time. Generally, the poles and lines have a 25-year life, and they are on a replacement schedule. They were informed that the city plans to replace the First Street sidewalk next year. Kremeier said OTP puts diamond squares around the poles so they can be replaced as needed without damaging the sidewalk.

Erickson/McLaen moved approval of the OTP Franchise Agreement and second reading and adoption of Ordinance #2025-1 for the franchise agreement. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the proposed draft chicken ordinance for the city that was requested by Council Member Lysne.

Erickson/Hoflen moved that the issue of allowing chickens in the City of Rutland be placed on the next general election ballot to be voted on by the residents of Rutland. Motion carried. Aye – Erickson, Hoflen, McLaen. Nay – Lysne.

McLaen/Lysne moved approval of the May financials as presented. Motion carried.

Erickson/Lysne moved approval of the payment of bills:

ACH	DRN	\$ 150.86	phone
ACH	Waste Management	\$ 108.06	Hall dumpster
ACH	Waste Management	\$1,705.87	Contract garbage
ACH	US Treasury	\$ 829.68	Apr. taxes due
ACH	US Treasury	\$ 829.70	Qtr. 2 monthly taxes
ACH	Amazon Capital	\$ 920.92	WSI grant/desk/chair/file cabinets
13974	US Post Office	\$ 56.00	Roll post card stamps

13975	Scott Haan	\$1,332.34	May 3-17, 2025
13976	Banyon	\$ 195.00	UB Direct pay support
13977	Deborah Banish	\$1,423.15	May
13978	John Deere Financial	\$ 142.97	Mower chute
13979	Kotaco Fuel	\$ 829.87	Hall propane 617 gals.
13980	Marshall Thol	\$ 50.00	Campground weed control
13981	MobilityPLUS	\$ 134.63	Ergo assessment 25% share
13982	Otter Tail Power	\$1,281.96	Utilities
13983	Quill	\$ 12.54	Office supplies/hanging file folders
13984	Scott Haan	\$1,114.38	May 18-31, 2025
13985	SE Water	\$ 830.17	255,437 gallons
13986	USPO	\$ 224.00	Postcard stamps, 4 rolls

Motion carried.

The City Auditor presented the map for layout of the property at 211 Arthur Street. The Conditional Use Permit was approved by the Zoning Board at the public hearing on May 27.

There are currently two delinquents. One will be assessed to the property unless it is paid this month.

Scott Haan informed the Council that the meter at 121 Second Street North is now working. The issue was a loose wire and not a defective reading meter inside the home. The water bill has been estimated for more than a year as access to check the meter was not permitted by the homeowner. The new reading shows that the bill was underestimated, and the owner will have an additional 20,000 gallons of use to be paid. The Auditor will allocate the cost over a period of three to five months so alleviate a large bill to the homeowner.

Scott asked the Council about hiring a youth to help with various painting needs this summer – white poles, fire hydrants, and other items.

Lysne/Erickson moved to hire Greta Bladow at the rate of \$15.00/hour to complete various painting needs for the city. Motion carried.

Scott informed the Council that the boulevard tree at 220 Gay Street will be cut down as it is dead. The stump will be ground at that location in addition to tree stumps at Rutland Housing.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m. The next meeting will be July 7, 2025.

ATTEST:

Deborah Banish, City Auditor

Michael Mahrer, Mayor