

**STANDISH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 14, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor King called the regular meeting of the Standish City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: King, Link, Fleszar, Lincoln, Spencer, Myers

Absent: Niernberg

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Link and supported by Fleszar to approve the agenda with addition of item D. Teamsters Contract to Current business.

All approved. Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Whitney – Thank the DDA for all they do for the Depot

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Lincoln to approve the minutes of June 9, 2025, Regular Meeting.

All approved. Motion carried.

MOVED by Myers and supported by Fleszar to approve the minutes of June 9, 2025, Closed Session.

All approved. Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Myers to pay the invoices for the month of July.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Fleszar, Spencer, Lincoln, Myers, Link, King

Nays: Niernberg

Absent: None

Motion carried.

8. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing – Ordinance # 283, Grass Ordinance

MOVED by Myers and supported by Fleszar to enter Public Hearing for the Ordinance #283, Grass Ordinance at 6:16pm

All approved. Motion carried.

- Change sending letters to residences with long grass that a home or structure is on to hanging a door tag.
 - This would also change the length of time to comply to 7 days before the city steps in to cut the lawn
- Owners of empty lots would still receive a letter to cut the grass
 - The number of days to comply would change from 14 days to 10 days.

MOVED by Link and supported by Fleszar to leave Public Hearing for the Ordinance #283, Grass Ordinance at 6:22pm

All approved. Motion carried

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Myers to change the grass ordinance to door tags for property with structures with a 7-day compliance window and for empty lots to receive letters with a 10-day compliance window before the city will step in and cut grass or weeds.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Fleszar, Myers, Spencer, Lincoln, Link, King

Nays: None

Absent: Neirnberg

Motion carried.

B. Public Hearing – 100 E Cedar, Special Use Permit

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Lincoln to enter Public Hearing for 100 E Cedar St Special Use Permit at 6:24pm

All approved. Motion carried.

- Mr. Mitzryk would like to make the building at 100 E Cedar into short term apartments
 - Would have approximately 3 to 4 apartments in the building

- Parking in front of the building on the road is for the business that operates day to day and not for overnight parking
 - o People staying in the apartments would need to park in the city lots on Forest St.
- The historical look of the building remains the same.

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Myers to leave Public Hearing for the special use permit for 100 E Cedar St. at 6:34pm

All approved. Motion carried

MOVED by Myers and supported by Fleszar to approve the special use permit for 100 E Cedar St. to make the building into temporary apartments.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Lincoln, Myers, Fleszar, Spencer, Link, King

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

C. Keegan Foltz, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Resignation & Removal from Bank Accounts

- Keegan has put in her letter of resignation
 - Job posting has been posted at City Hall, social media, and the local paper
 - o The last day to submit applications will be July 15, 2025
 - o Interviews will be held on July 22 if any council members would like to attend
 - Keegan will need to be removed from the City Bank Accounts.
- MOVED** by Link and supported by Myers to accept Keegan Foltz's resignation letter and to have her removed from the City's bank accounts.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Link, Myers, Spencer, Fleszar, Lincoln, King

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

D. Teamsters' Contract

- The new contract consists of:
 - o 6% wage increase the first year with additional raise of 3% for the following 3 years
 - o 180 trial period for new hires
 - o 2 attempts to pass certification
 - o \$1 per hour increase in hourly rate per water or sewer license held
 - o New employees will not be on call for the first three months

MOVED by Myers and supported by Fleszar to accept the new four-year contract presented by Teamsters.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Link, Myers, Spencer, Fleszar, Lincoln, King

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. USDA Sewer Project – Sewer User Rate Study & Proposed Rate Increase

- Sewer would need \$129,000 additional funds each year
 - o Approximately \$20 increase in residential bills
- Larger meters are not currently being charged state recommended rates for ready-to-serve fees
 - o Increasing this to the recommendations of the state would lower the residential cost increase

B. Utility Bill Error & Refund

- 515 S Main St – McDonald's has two meters, one is for a sprinkler system for their lawn, the other is for the restaurant
 - o The sprinkler account was established 9/2020
- Both meters were set up with sewer when the sprinkler system should not have had anything but water
- \$8,594.64 in sewer fees has been charged since the establishment of the account

MOVED by Link and supported by Fleszar to correct the setup of McDonald's sprinkler account and refund them \$8,594.64

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Myers, Lincoln, Spencer, Fleszar, Link, King

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

C. Standish Area Fire Authority – Resignation/Appointment

- City representative Jerry Brown must step down from his position as representative for the City.
- Chris Morris has offered to fulfill the role of representative on the Fire Authority Board for the City of Standish

MOVED by Lincoln and supported by Myers to accept Jerry Brown's resignation as City Representative on the Fire Authority Board and to appoint Chris Morris as the new City Representative.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Spencer, Myers, Fleszar, Lincoln, Link, King

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

D. Standish Area Fire Authority – Sterling Fire Authority Merger

- The Sterling Area Fire Authority has been struggling to maintain enough volunteers that can answer calls during the day
- Sterling Authority services 3 townships
- They have expressed interest in merging with Standish Area Fire Authority
 - o This would need to be approached with each township that Sterling services and voted on
- If this was to take place it would be a long process

E. Rohn – New Tower & Antenna at Water Treatment Plant

- Tree growth over the years is affecting the signal from the water tower to the water treatment plant, causing additional overtime to be paid
- The current antenna has been extended out as far as it can be
- It would cost \$3,000 to have a company come out and determine what tower and antenna we would need to purchase
- DPW would be able to install the new tower and antenna

MOVED by Link and supported by Fleszar to spend up to \$3,000 to have a new tower and antenna designed for the Water Treatment Plant.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Fleszar, Spencer, Lincoln, Myers, Link, King

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Mason reported:

- Interviews for Deputy Treasurer Clerk will be Tuesday
- Lance has passed his water treatment test and will remain out at the Water Treatment Plant
 - o DPW position will be posted to start accepting applications

- USDA Sewer Project bids will be opened August 18th
- Water to SSC Schools – The project is moving along quickly, however, a problem at Grove and Wyatte Rd with the location of the school’s sewer line and where the water line would run has arisen
 - o Contractor would like to put the water line deeper, but this was rejected due to repair concerns
 - o Water should be to the school by the end of the month
- Spark Grant – Waiting on EGLE for permits
- Pre-audit went well, auditors will be here the first week of August
- 307 N Main St – Waiting on EGLE to permit soil removal to finish cleanup
- Water Leak – 3 homes were without water for 3–4 days due to a main break by the library
 - o A company was hired to complete repairs due to equipment limitations

11. MAYOR & FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

Mayor King reported:

- DPW is doing a great job trimming trees and cleaning the weeds in the sidewalks

12. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- **Link:** Elm St. needs repair where the road was previously dug up
- **Fleszar:**
 - o Complaints of speeding on Orchard St and Cedar St
 - o Suggested a deputy agreement with the County
 - o Possible installation of cameras to monitor speeding
- **Myers:**
 - o Complaints about noise from loud vehicles
 - o Blight at 210 Church St and 127 Court St
 - o Dirt bikes driving through town – ORV ordinance concerns
 - o Asked about updates on the prison property – EDC has toured the property

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Champagne Southworth, City Clerk

Kevin King, Mayor