

**STANDISH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
November 10, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Link led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: King

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Myers to accept roll call with King absent.
All approved. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Lincoln and supported by Fleszar to approve the agenda as presented.
All approved. Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A representative from APM provided a review of the mosquito control services performed over the summer.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Myers to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2025 regular meeting.
All approved. Motion carried.

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Lincoln to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2025 special meeting.
All approved. Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Niernberg to approve payment of the invoices for the month of November.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: King

Motion carried.

8. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing – Second Reading of Ordinance 286 (Regulating Panhandling, Vagrancy, Loitering, and Long-Term/Overnight Parking)

MOTION by Myers, supported by Fleszar, to enter a Public Hearing for the second reading of Ordinance No. 286 at 6:15 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

- The City Attorney reviewed Ordinance 286.
 - Added definitions for panhandling and solicitation.
 - Removed the 3-day limit due to concerns it was too restrictive and could violate freedom of speech protections.
- The Under-Sheriff expressed support for the ordinance and stated it is clearly written.

MOTION by Myers, supported by Niernberg, to close the Public Hearing at 6:25 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Moved by Myers and supported by Lincoln to approve Ordinance 286.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: King

Motion carried.

B. Public Hearing – First Reading of Sewer Rate Increase

MOTION by Fleszar, supported by Niernberg, to enter a Public Hearing for the first reading of the sewer rate increase at 6:26 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

- A rate study was completed as part of the sewer improvement project, and an increase was recommended.
- The City Manager recommends increasing ready-to-serve rates based on meter size:
 - ¾": \$5 → \$15.16 (inside) / \$10 → \$30.31 (outside)
 - 1": \$5.50 → \$26.98 (inside) / \$11 → \$53.96 (outside)
 - 1½": \$9 → \$60.63 (inside) / \$18 → \$121.26 (outside)
 - 2": \$14.50 → \$107.77 (inside) / \$29 → \$215.54 (outside)
 - 3": \$55 → \$242.52 (inside) / \$110 → \$485.03 (outside)
 - 4": \$70 → \$431.07 (inside) / \$140 → \$862.14 (outside)
 - 6": \$105 → \$970.06 (inside) / \$210 → \$1,940.12 (outside)

Additional notes:

- Sewer debt fees will no longer be charged.
- Even with increases, rates remain below State-recommended amounts.
- Rates have not changed in 13 years.
- Current rates place more burden on residents than businesses; the new structure would rebalance this.
- Rates should be reviewed more regularly to avoid large increases in the future.
- The sewer fund is struggling due to frequent major repairs.
- Chemical treatment costs have risen significantly.
- Businesses may pass added costs on to customers.

MOTION by Myers, supported by Fleszar, to close the Public Hearing at 6:39 p.m.
All in favor. Motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Airpark Drive Repair Project

- SSI assisted with a grant application for Airpark Drive repairs.
- The grant awarded was \$250,000.
- Estimated project cost is approximately \$2.3 million.
- Additional grants or bonding will be necessary to fund the remainder.
- The roadway receives significant heavy-vehicle traffic from the industries located there.

B. Front St. Water/Sewer, Repaving, and Curbing Project

- SSI is assisting with submission of a State Revolving Fund grant for Front St. repairs.
- The project includes replacing aging water and sewer mains beneath the street.
- Front St. contains the oldest water and sewer lines in the city.
- Repairs will include full road replacement and curb repairs.
- Standish qualifies as an economically disadvantaged area, placing the project at a high priority for funding.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Mason reported:

- Spark Grant project is out for bids. Bids open November 21 and must be awarded by year-end.
- 207 N. Main St.: Soil testing is complete; awaiting final approval from the Land Bank.
- Box Culvert on M-13 (Dobson Drain): Replacement is scheduled for spring 2026.
- SSC Water Project: Pump house structure expected early next year.
 - Water service to the school will be connected during summer break to avoid disruptions.
- Sewer Project: Currently on hold due to the federal government shutdown impacting USDA operations.
- Boy Scout Troop 188 placed flags on veterans' graves at Woodmere Cemetery.

11. MAYOR & FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

12. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- **Lincoln** – Complimented the work on South Cass St. and the parking lots.
- **Link** – Thanked the DPW for their efforts in leaf removal.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Link adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Champagne Southworth, City Clerk

Jeff Link, Mayor Pro Tem