

**STANDISH CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 9, 2025**

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## **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**

Mayor King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Niernberg

Moved by Link and supported by Fleszar to accept the roll call with Councilmember Niernberg absent and to excuse Councilmember Niernberg's absence.

All approved. Motion carried.

## **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Myers to approve the agenda as presented.

All approved. Motion carried.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- **Ben – 300 E. Cedar St.** – Renter of a one-level unit; requested permission to park in the City Parking Lot at Lions Park due to insufficient on-site parking for all tenants.
- **Whitney** – Reported the Christmas Parade was wonderful with over 40 floats.
  - Large turnout for the Santa Train.
  - The Polar Bear has officially been named *Mr. Shivers* through an online contest and board selection.

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Myers to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025 regular meeting.

All approved. Motion carried.

## **7. APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Lincoln to approve payment of the invoices for the month of December.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

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## **8. CURRENT BUSINESS**

### **A. Public Hearing – First Reading of Sewer Rate Increase – Resolution 25.04**

MOTION by Myers, supported by Spencer, to enter a Public Hearing for the second reading of the sewer rate increase at 6:33 p.m.

All approved. Motion carried.

The City Manager reviewed the ready-to-serve rate increases by 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)

The resolution will be published, with the rate increase effective in January and reflected on February bills for January usage.

MOTION by Fleszar, supported by Spencer, to close the Public Hearing at 6:34 p.m.

All approved. Motion carried.

Moved by Myers and supported by Fleszar to approve Resolution 25.04 increasing the ready-to-serve rates for sewer and removing the ready sewer debt fees.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

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## **B. Spark Grant – Contract Award**

- Engineer’s Estimated Cost: \$778,727.24
- Bids Received:
  - Wilcox Contracting – \$595,723.58
  - TBD Construction – \$611,711.35
  - Reilly Contracting – \$618,380.62
  - Champagne & Marx – \$736,595.00
  - John Henry Excavating – \$761,282.70
  - Katterman Trucking – \$762,697.00
  - Schephe – \$772,304.40
  - Anglin Civil – \$909,742.29

The grant requires awarding the lowest bid.

Some project components may be upgraded due to the bid being significantly lower than anticipated.

A contingency fund will be reserved for unexpected costs.

Moved by Myers and supported by Fleszar to accept the Wilcox Contracting bid of \$595,723.58, subject to final approval from CSM. If Wilcox is not approved, the award will go to TBD Construction for \$611,711.35.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

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## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Monthly Meeting Dates – 2026**

Regular meetings will continue on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Dates approved: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, 2026.

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Spencer to approve the 2026 meeting dates.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

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## **B. Tribal Grant Award – Fall Cycle**

- Much of the 2% funding was allocated to schools.
- Ongoing projects also received priority.
- Reduced casino profits resulted in less 2% funding available overall.
- The city was awarded \$7,500 for the Chamber of Commerce to bring back the *Standish Strong* event, which increases traffic and activity for local businesses.

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## **C. Ruse Excavation – Brush Pile at DPW Garage**

- Ruse Excavation offered to remove the brush pile for \$15,000, including disposal.
- DPW previously hauled over 40 dump-truck loads in one shift and barely reduced the pile.

**Tabled until next meeting.**

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## **D. Potable Water System – Temporary Water Tank**

- A temporary tank is required during repainting and repairing of water towers.
  - Small tower in 2026; large tower in 2028.
  - Repairs required by the State.
- Rental cost: \$13,000 for the first month + \$200/day thereafter.
- Work is not expected to exceed one month.

Moved by Link and supported by Fleszar to lease a temporary water tank during the water tower repairs.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

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## **E. Snowplow – 2023 Chevrolet**

- Truck was requested on the 2% tribal grant with a plow package; only partial funding was approved (without plow).
- A plow is needed for clearing the lagoons and will also help with streets and parking lots.

- Quotes:
  - Scientific – \$7,019.20
  - Napa – \$9,767.19

Moved by Fleszar and supported by Myers to purchase the snowplow package for the 2023 Chevrolet from Scientific.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

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**F. Office Computer System**

- Current computer and server system is outdated.
- Network Service recommends upgrades to remain compliant with state requirements.
- Estimated cost: \$19,500 for equipment upgrades across City Hall, DPW, and Lagoons.

**Tabled until next meeting.**

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**G. 2026 Poverty Exemption Guidelines**

- State-provided exemption guidelines reviewed.
- Three residents applied this year; none qualified.

Moved by Link and supported by Fleszar to approve the 2026 Poverty Exemption Guidelines.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Niernberg

Motion carried.

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**10. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Mason provided the following updates:

- **Sewer Project:** On hold due to the federal government shutdown affecting USDA operations.

- **School Water Project:** Hookup pushed back to August.
  - **307 N. Main St.:** Crushed asphalt placed for staging equipment for the next box-culvert installation under M-13.
    - EGLE has taken final soil samples to determine if any further action is required before releasing the lot for sale.
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## 11. MAYOR & FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

- Fire Authority will begin charging for services (between \$500–\$1,000).
  - Volunteers will now be paid hourly for calls they attend.
  - The merger with Sterling Fire Department is still pending approval regarding service areas.
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## 12. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- **Fleszar:** Asked if the city salts sidewalks using the tractor.
    - No; the tractor only removes snow as a courtesy. Property owners remain responsible for salting.
  - **Spencer:** Snowblower leaves a layer of snow; asked if a blade could be used instead.
    - No; blades are too wide for sidewalks. The snowblower is also wide, but it is the most effective tool for heavy snow.
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## 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Champagne Southworth  
City Clerk

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Kevin King  
Mayor