

Sutherland, Iowa City Council Meeting – September 8, 2025 – 7:00 PM – 110 Ash Street – Meeting Room

Mayor Kay Gifford called the council meeting to order. Roll call showed councilmembers present were: Patrick Nelson, Nancy Kuehl, Johanna Homan, Bruce Engelke, and Tyler Draper. Others present were: Marlin Sjaarda, Kayle Bandstra, Jill Jurgensen, Elaine French, Nancy Hill, Mari Radtke, Rich Van Beek, Brent Koppie and Amanda Vanderhoff.

A motion was made by Kuehl seconded by Homan to approve the agenda, previous minutes, and clerk's report. Roll call: Ayes - Nelson, Kuehl, Homan, Engelke, and Draper. Motion carried.

Guests: City of Paullina's Mayor Marlin Sjaarda was present to discuss with council a potential agreement for a combined police department between Paullina, Sutherland and Calumet. Chief Brent Koppie went into further detail of the plan explaining to council the different options available to the communities if they choose to move forward. Chief Koppie thinks having combined a public safety department would open up more opportunity for full-time certified officers to apply. A meeting will be scheduled between representing councilmembers from each community and Chief Koppie to further discuss the potential proposal. More information is available at city hall.

No public comments.

A motion was made by Draper seconded by Nelson to pay current bills. Roll call: Ayes - Nelson, Kuehl, Homan, Engelke, and Draper. Motion carried.

Economic Development Report was given by Nelson. The Board discussed this years Labor Day and some improvement they can make for next year. They are discussing keeping Leah Morris on retainer for needed updates to the city website. The Board is drafting a letter to send to nuisance properties in town, focusing on abandoned properties.

Library Report was given by Director Nancy Hill. Nancy is having a difficult time finding anyone to fix the door at the library. She has a call out to Wheelchair Dynamics for a quote. A motion was made by Nelson seconded by Engelke approve Gabrielle Pierce to the Library Board. All in favor. Motion carried. The Library Board will be cleaning out the can cage at the maintenance building on Saturday 13th.

Fire and Ambulance report was given by Chief Rich Van Beek. There were 5 ambulance and 2 fire calls. The tanker truck is at Triple R for repairs.

Police Report was given by Chief Brent Koppie. Chief Koppie informed council that there were no major incidents over Labor Day. Chief Koppie read through his report. The city has a new part-time officer, April Degner. A motion was made by Nelson seconded by Homan to approve the resignation of Cain Junkman. All in favor. Motion carried.

Communications and topics for discussion:

A motion was made by Nelson seconded Draper approve the closure of 2nd Street from Ash Street to Noah's Ark Daycare on October 18, 2025 from 2 pm – 8 pm for a Halloween event. All in favor. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Water: 2,699,647 gallons in at tower. Iowa Rural Water Association provided a leak detection service for Sutherland. There was 1 leak found on 1st Street. SCE will be here sometime this week to repair it. A consultant from Viking Industrial Painting inspected the water tower. He will provide a report.

Streets: Rich is waiting for cold patch to be delivered.

Sanitation: 6,728,000 gallons into the ponds. Rich provided council with a lagoon mapping report from Team Lab. The quotes from the report will be revisited at the budget workshop.

Town Property: Setting the date for the sale of loader has been tabled. Rich provided council with quotes for a new siren. There was also talk of moving the siren to a different location.

Park: Kuehl informed council the park's Labor Day weekend events were successful. Bingo brought in \$1,845.00 and they received \$600.00 from entry fees and a donation for cow plop bingo.

Weed and Debris: The clerk will call/send out letters to the properties that were discussed.

Lights: No report.

Sanitary Landfill: No report.

A motion was made by Draper seconded by Homan to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

_____. Mayor Kay Gifford

_____. Amanda Vanderhoff City Clerk