

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Plankinton City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 1, 2021, at the Senior Citizens' Center. Mayor Staller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Pam Vissia, Jim Hinckley, Brad Kehn, and Terry Schuldt. Absent was Jason Schurz. City employees present: Darin Cranny, Chance Boyd, and Eileen Sorsen. Visitors were J.P. Studeny, from SD Mail, and Beth Sampson, representing the City Library Board.

Mayor Staller asked to move wage discussion and Lifeguards following Executive Session, Personnel. Motion to approve the agenda, as changed, by Vissia. Seconded by Kehn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Vissia moved to approve the minutes of the regular January 4, 2021 meeting (as previously e-mailed to Council). Seconded by Hinckley. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VISITOR:

6:30 p.m.--Beth Sampson, representing the Plankinton Library Board, said they are looking at having winter library hours. The Librarian would cut back to 9 hours a week. In the summer, when the Summer Reading Program is happening, they would extend the hours to make it feasible for more visitors to come. The hours will now be Monday, Tuesday and Fridays, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Then, in May, they might go back to 10 hour weeks. The Council said that sounded fine. Also, Beth asked if Library Board members could stand in for Librarian, Carrie Brink, if she needs time off. That was approved by Council. Beth left at 6:35 p.m.

BILLS:

Mayor Staller entertained a motion to approve the following bills. Motion to approve by Kehn. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

EFT BILL LIST- PD. AFTER JAN. 4, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

BI-WEEKLY PAY 1--\$7,180.06; BI-WEEKLY PAY 2--\$7,736.80; FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK—Jan. Bank Fees—27.70; GW BANK—Bucket Truck Loan #14--\$3,186.19; IRS—Pay 1 941 Tax--\$2,332.93; HEARTLAND CONS. POWER—Jan. Elec. Loan #20 --\$2,483.36; IRS—Pay 2 941 Tax--\$2,485.08; SDDL—4th Quar. Unemployment Tax--\$24.49; SD DEPT OF REVENUE—Dec. State Sales Tax--\$6,304.48; SDRS—Jan. Retirement Due--\$2,308.38; WEALTH MGT—Quar. Water/Sewer Loan--\$19,009.17.

BILLS PAID AFTER JANUARY 4 MEETING AUTHORIZATION

AFLAC—Empl. Vol. Ins.--\$181.55; AVERA HEALTH PLAN—Feb. Empl. Health Ins.--\$5,483.55; CENTRAL ELECTRIC—Dec. Wheeling Fees & Ramp Lighting--\$2,533.92; DELTA DENTAL—Feb. Employee Dental Ins.--\$211.00; DEPT. OF ENERGY (WAPA)—Dec. Power Purchase--\$16,786.32; EAST RIVER ELECTRIC—Dec. Wheeling Fees--\$5,453.70; GUARDIAN—Feb. Empl. Life, Ltd. & Std. Ins.--\$308.26; HEARTLAND CONSUMERS POWER—Dec. Power Purchase--\$50,254.04; SDRS—Additional due for Dec. Retirement--\$16.32; VERIZON WIRELESS—Dec. Tower Internet & Surface Pro--\$75.16; VISA—Truck Parts & Office Supplies--\$485.21;

BILLS TO PAY AFTER FEBRUARY 1 MEETING

A & B BUSINESS—Copier Contract--\$162.79; ARAMARK—Rug Contract--\$39.79; AURORA BRULE RURAL WATER—Jan. Water/Debt Ret.--\$6,256.60; BARNES & NOBLE—Library Books--\$47.92; BORDER STATES—Elec. Supp./Mat.--\$1,885.43; CITY OF PLANKINTON—Meter Dep. applied to #00-342-01-8--\$50.00; CITY OF PLANKINTON—Meter Dep. Appl. to #00-007-05-2--\$250.00; CNA WESTERN SURETY CO.—Dep. F. O. Ann. Bond--\$525.00; COMMERCE STREET GRILLE—Employee Appreciation Meal--\$492.15; CORE & MAIN—Elec. Supplies--\$50.00; DAKOTA PUMP, INC.—Lagoon Panel Re-wire--\$458.88; DOLLAR GENERAL—Totes/supplies--\$41.85; GOLDEN WEST—Dec. Phones--\$389.63; KONECHNE HEATING & COOLING—Remove Units/ City Hall Roof--\$200.00; JUSTIN KRELL—Refund Met.

Dep. #01-87-01-5--\$250.00; MAIROSE & STEELE, PROF. LLC—Prof. Services--\$420.00; MIKE’S CONSTRUCTION—Garbage Service--\$65.00; MINN. MUNICIPAL UTL. ASSOC.—Module 2 Lineman Course & Quar. 8 Line-worker course--\$3366.00; OVERWEG AUTO—Repair Parts--\$192.76; PLANKINTON LUMBER CO.—Supp./Mat.--\$43.55; RAMAKER—Cemetery CIMS Contract--\$1,067.50; REGARDING CARDS—2021 Web-site Maint.--\$500.00; RESCO—Transformer- Overweg Auto--\$7,353.32; RUNNINGS—Floor Heater--\$24.99; SD 811—Dec. Message Fees--\$8.40; SD DEPT OF HEALTH—Water Testing--\$15.00; SD DEPT OF TRANSP.—Dec. Diesel Fuel--\$460.98; SD MAIL—Jan. Legal Publishing--\$1,016.37; STATE FLAG ACCT.—U.S. Flags--\$203.00; TITAN MACHINERY—Filters & Oil--\$402.25.

OLD BUSINESS:

USDA WATER/WASTEWATER GRANT/LOAN:

Mayor Staller has talked to James Bartel from James River Development about possible funding for the Briggs Development in north Plankinton. There are possible grants for 50% of engineering costs, and 50% of dirt work available.

NUISANCE PROPERTIES:

Mayor Staller stated that two sheds were taken down. A car was taken care of, thanks to Overweg Auto. He contacted Mr. Taylor, our city lawyer, about a nuisance property at State Street & Duff. Mr. Taylor suggested the Mayor, Building Inspector, Health Inspector and Sheriff, along with the owner (if possible) conduct an inspection, as the City has received a formal complaint on it. Mayor Staller said “it is time to address it”. He also wants another letter sent to the owner of a nuisance property on East 6th Street, for possible demolition.

POOL BATHHOUSE:

The Council decided to look for a local architect to work on the pool bathhouse. Mr. Larry Jirsa was contacted, and he projected his cost estimate for the building would now be around \$300,000, since building costs have gone up in the last couple of years. His fee for that size project would be \$18,000 for preparing plans and specs for bidding and construction, plus getting bids and doing inspections during construction. We can work on a design and bid specs, even though we don’t have the LWCF Grant through yet. Stockwell Engineers said their similar design that we like, was done at Ipswich, and is \$468,000. Mayor and Council said that is too much for us, and we want to see if we can get local bids and local contractors to build our bathhouse. Hinckley said “he feels we can get our local builders to do better”. Mayor Staller asked the Council if he should contact Mr. Jirsa. Kehn thinks “we should roll with it now”. Mayor entertained a motion to sign a contract with Mr. Jirsa for \$18,000. Hinckley made the motion, and Kehn seconded it. All voted aye. Motion carried.

CITY HALL LOCKDOWN:

The City Hall has been open for a week. Mayor Staller said the Covid mask suggestion has also cut down on flu outbreaks. Until it settles down, it would be great if residents would continue to use the drop box as much as possible for payments.

CITY HALL HAIL DAMAGE DISCUSSION:

Mayor Staller discussed taking the upper floor windows out, and installing LP Siding over them. It would be a big savings in heating costs to the city. Also, the R-value rating will go to R-30 with the new roof being installed. Chad Van Laecken is also checking into cost of siding and installing new windows on the east side of building, which wasn’t covered by insurance. The windows on that side are rotted, and siding

is damaged. It would make the whole building have a uniform appearance, and help with heating costs. The Senior Center will also have a new R-30 value roof installed on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

COLLECTION OF WINTER UTILITY BILLS:

At the March 1 meeting, The Mayor and Council would like to discuss the COLLECTION OF UTILITY BILLS Ordinance 16-2-7, about utility payments due dates.

COVID (FFCRA) LEAVE:

The Covid Cares Fund ended on December 30, 2020 for City claims, and is voluntary until 3-31-21. Kehn said it is now optional for employers to extend the Covid related sick leave hours. The Council feels that employees would have to use their sick leave now. Kehn thinks the Council should look at the sick leave policy, and switch from Sick Leave to Personal Time Off, and the City should not ask for a reason for sick leave. Mayor wants to discuss the policy at the March meeting.

ABATEMENT:

Mayor Staller and Council approved an abatement for Brian Reis' house that he demolished on 5-23-2020, at Lot 1, 1A & 2, Wallings 1st Addition to the City of Plankinton. Hinckley made a motion to approve, and Schuldt seconded it. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE BOOK:

The new ordinance Book will add some wording to the Sick Leave policy. Mr. Taylor suggested that it says "It is the policy of the City that upon separation from City Service, whether voluntary or involuntary, as set forth in Policy 8, below, 25% of accrued and unused sick leave will be paid to the employee". This change will be made in the Personnel Handbook, also. Hinckley made a motion to approve. Seconded by Kehn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

CEMETERY SHED ROOF:

City employees will replace the roof with new steel.

2022 INSURANCE RENEWAL:

Council wants to hold a discussion on Replacement Cost (RCV), and Actual Cash Value (ACV) coverage at the March meeting.

CHIP SEAL:

Ads will be in the paper in March. Darin recommends we have a 2" mat, but there should be a gravel base on all the roads that it is put on. Even the less traveled roads need a base. He wants to advertise for 30 blocks (approx. \$30,000) this year, and will keep \$20,000 for future matting and surfacing. There were no objections from Mayor or Council.

RESERVE FUNDS BALANCES:

Schoenfish Auditors will be at City hall on February 18 to work on the Annual Report for the City of Plankinton, so the Reserve Funds can be accurately stated after that.

SUMMER APPLICATIONS:

Deb Gould applied for the part-time R.U. Site Attendant position, and will be re-hired. Darin will decide when he wants to open the site this spring. There were 4 lifeguard applications. The Pool Committee (Schuldt, Schurz and Vissia) will conduct interviews, and hope for more applications.

BID OPENING:

Cemetery Mowing—Clay Brouwer sent in the only bid for 2021 cemetery mowing. Their bid was \$12,000 for 10 mowings, or \$1,200 for each mowing. Vissia made a motion to approve their bid. Kehn seconded it. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Grassland Bid-- Dustin & Darren Hohn sent in a bid for \$251.64 for 2021 Grassland hay. Tucker and Trent Greene sent in a bid of \$850.00. Vissia made a motion to accept the Greene's bid of \$850.00. Seconded by Kehn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

The Sheriff's report for December was handed out.

BUILDING PERMITS:

Rickey & Dianna Smith—Demo Permit #12021—Tear down shed @ 202 E Commerce St; Karl & Joan Swanson—Bldg. Permit #020121 @ 1001 East Meadow Drive.

UTILITY SUPT. REPORT:

The Maintenance people have been doing winter maintenance on equipment. A re-built motor was ordered for the 4-wheeler, and Darin will install it. Tree pile was burned, and they want to clean that area of extra dirt from uprooted trees. They have been locating lines in East Meadow Addition, as a new house is being built soon, and another possibly coming soon. Darin and Chance have been going through items for a future surplus sale. He said he has been ("harassed") told by fellow employees to get an air monitor for the sewer work, and the times he goes into wet or dry wells at the lagoon, or sewer manholes. It is a safety tool for him or anyone else that goes in them. Kehn said "we should get this done immediately. I can't believe we never had this safety equipment". Darin said they are not cheap (between \$3,000 and \$4,000), and he was going to look for a grant, but the Council wants him to order one immediately.

ELECTRIC SUPT. REPORT:

Chance changed out lights in city shop, with LEDs, and will be installing some new street lights that are supposed to be brighter. He will apply for a Heartland Grant to help pay for them. The new transformer for Overweg was installed. Old HVAC units on City Hall roof were taken off to help with new roof install. He will start tree trimming soon. He was asked to contact DGR for cost estimates for another underground project, which came to approximately \$400,000. He would like to get the Main Street crossings done during this project. The area would cover from Guidehouse to Roadside, to the elevator, to the vet clinic, west to old DOT shop, and east to TJ's shop. He also wants to figure from north side of courthouse east on 5th Street, to Duff Street. That project the City can do, but would need to hire for boring under the road. Facility Charges build up every year, so the plan is to use those to fund the project.

FINANCE OFF. REPORT:

Schoenfish Auditors will be at city hall on February 18 to work on the 2020 Annual Report. The picnic tables at the ballpark are in dis-repair, and no longer safe to use. Eileen asked to purchase 4 Lifetime Brand brown 6' tables. They have a 10 year warranty, and easy to keep clean. The Council agreed to purchase 4 this year, at a cost of \$256.92 each, for a total of \$1,027.68.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Staller received a request to vacate a section of 6th Street, however, it is awaiting request for a hearing from Mairose & Steele Law Office. The SDML District 4 meeting that Plankinton was supposed to host will now be on-line, on March 25, at 5:30 p.m. The railroad line will be sold, but the leases to current operators will continue. Flood mitigation was discussed. J.P. Studeny is hopeful recommendations will be in by June. It was done south of town, to Stoddard dam. In March the Equalization meeting date will fall on March 15.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PERSONNEL, As per SDCL 1-25-2 (1):

Mayor Staller entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. Hinckley made a motion to enter into Executive Session, Personnel, as per SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Staller declared the Council out of Executive Session at 7:52 p.m., with no action taken.

Mayor Staller stated that Deb Gould applied as R. U. Site attendant for 2021. Schuldt made a motion to set her wage at \$12.75 an hour. Vissia seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There were 3 Lifeguard applications. Starting wage is \$11.00 an hour. The Pool Committee is hoping for more applications.

Mayor Staller entertained a motion to raise Anna Klein's wage. Vissia made a motion to raise it to \$12.50 an hour, starting 2/1/21, due to her permanent part-time position. Hinckley seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

J. P. Studeny mentioned that KELO Land reporter Tom Hansen had a 2 hour visit and interview with Mayor Staller, Diana Spinar, Gayle Van Genderen Studeny, and himself, at the Sweep Van Dyke Museum, and it will be on the news on February 2, 2021. The city web-site will have a link to it. Mayor Staller said the reporter had seen the link to the Preservation Society on our city web-site, and it will be "good press for Plankinton".

The March 1, 2021, Council meeting will be held at city hall at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Staller adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Signed: John J. Staller, Mayor _____

Attest: Eileen Sorsen, Finance Officer _____