

The Plankinton City Council met in regular session Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm. Council members present included Mayor Brad Kehn, Councilmembers Jason Schurz, Terry Schuldt, Jim Nielsen and Carl Bode. Visitors included Tracy & Clifton Walsh, Clint & Amy Bultsma, Don Scott, Brian Reis, Jeff Briggs, Alan Birmeier, Skyler Kehn, Linda Heath, Dan & Marlene Geiman and JP Studeny. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

#### AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Kehn asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Nobody had any changes. Nielsen made a motion to approve the agenda as is. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### GARBAGE ORDINANCE

Many city residents and both garbage providers attended the meeting to voice their opinions. Mayor Kehn firstly wanted to mention that he does not agree with charging our garbage people any fees to operate, as we do not charge anybody else in town for any other business and turned the discussion over to Bode. Bode said He doesn't want to be a burden but doesn't want dumpsters where they are an eyesore. Nielsen brought up how much the garbage services need to be insured on for liability in the event of an accident and asked if we needed to up that. Both Mayor Kehn and councilmember Schurz agreed that we should not have any business telling them what they need to be insured for at all since they are not contracted by the city. Nielsen also said he thinks we should take out the clause of Darin doing any inspections, because he is not trained for that. Don Scott voiced his opinion that he can't do the blue canisters, as he cannot walk them up and down the driveway and he wanted to keep his dumpster. Dan and Marlene Geiman also said they want to keep their dumpster. Amy and Clint Bultsma said their dumpster is very convenient and works very well for them and the others using it and they don't see a problem with having their dumpster. The discussion is tabled until next meeting.

#### BILLS TO PAY

Schurz made a motion to approve the finance officer to pay bills. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

AMERICINN—CHANCES HOTEL--\$370.53; AURORA-BRULE WATER—WATER PURCHASE--\$7364.50; BARNES & NOBLE—BOOK PURCHASE--\$195.45; COMMERCE STREET—EMPLOYEE APP. DINNERS--\$631.20; CORE & MAIN—WARRANTY--\$46.16; DEMCO—LIBRARY SUPPLY--\$274.14; GOLDEN WEST—UTILITIES--\$481.28; JUSTICE FIRE & SAFETY—FIRE EXTINGUISHERS CHECKS--\$686.25; KONECHNE HEATING & COOLING—SERVICE FURNACE SSC--\$202.82; MAIROSE & STEELE—W2 PREPERATION--\$700.00; MITCHELL IRON & SUPPLY—SUPPLY--\$74.12; PLANKINTON LUMBER—SUPPLIES--\$185.52; SPN & ASSOCIATES—WASTEWATER SYSTEM--\$99000.00; SDDOT—FUEL--\$1712.81; SD MAIL—PUBLISHING--\$1525.14; SD STURDEVANTS—SUPPLY--\$2468.62; TECH SOLUTIONS—IT CONTRACT--\$695.00; TITAN MACHINARY—CONTRACT--\$2402.46; BARRY GEIMAN—AFLAC REIMB--\$281.05; ROADSIDE—FUEL--\$537.62; CLINT BULTSMA—METER DEP REFUND--\$250.00

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schurz made a motion to approve the minutes as they have already been sent out prior. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### MURAL

Nielsen let the council know the artist Zach DeBoer asked him where we are at with our decision on the council and said he was ready when we are. The council decided to put the final rendering out there to get the towns opinions once more before starting this.

#### FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GRANT

Mayor Kehn turned the meeting over to the firefighters that attended. Skyler Kehn started off by saying the grant is a 95% match, meaning the fire department would only have to pay 5% of the cost for a new tender. They also explained they have to do this through the city, because they are under the same UEI number as the city, so all grants requiring one will have to go through the city until they have their own UEI again. Jeff Briggs explained to the council that their cost would only be about \$25,000. They will start awarding the grant in March and finish in June. They also said with the price it is, there is only about a 15% chance of them getting it, but they want to try. Bode made a motion to assist the firefighters with the grant. Seconded by Nielsen. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The firefighters also discussed they would have another grant that may have to go to the city as well, that is due soon too. They get this grant every year, and it shouldn't affect the city at all. It is the Wildland Grant. Nielsen made a motion to assist if needed for the wildlife grant. Seconded by Schurz. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### DEVELOPMENT BOARD FUNDS

Clint asked the city to receive their \$15,000 development board funds from 2022 that they had not asked for and also their 2023 \$15,000 development board funds. Schuldt made a motion to give the development board their funds from 2022 and 2023. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor Kehn appointed a new council member for Ward II Magdalena Popek-Hurst. She recited the oath and was sworn in to be a new council member.

#### EMPLOYEE VOLUNTARY INSURANCE & FSA

Clint Bultsma, Insurance Agent, wanted to discuss with the council a possibility of offering extra voluntary life insurance for their employees. The monthly payment would be made by the employees themselves, but it would be billed to the city and paid by the city through payroll. He also discussed the opportunity for an FSA plan for employees who were interested. The council agreed to allow this, and pay the fees (\$4.95/employee per month) for the FSA plan for the employees who were interested. Nielsen made a motion to accept both plans. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Heath- Linda came to the council meeting to discuss the letter we have sent her about her property. She told the council that all of her vehicles run perfectly fine and she is not selling any of them and will get the two of them licensed as soon as she can. She also told the council that there are no rodents in her house, and no windows boarded up, as stated in past letters. She also explained she will be getting rid of her motorhome around Summer time and is looking for a new place to live and will try to be out around Fall time. Mayor Kehn told her that if she needed help with anything to let him know

and he will work with you and help her as much as possible. Mayor Kehn also told her that she just needs to make sure she is communicating with us during the process.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ORDINANCE

Schuldt made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption of the Supplemental Budget Ordinance.

**CITY OF PLANKINTON ORDINANCE #2022-12  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION  
TO THE 2022 FISCAL BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the budget adoption process was already completed when the additional budget items were implemented, it is necessary to make, approve, and adopt a supplemental appropriation ordinance for the fiscal year 2022.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of Plankinton that the Finance Officer be authorized to make the following budget adjustments to the 2022 Budget:

**SEWER Fund:**

SEWER--

603-434-422----PROFESSIONAL SERVICES----- **\$159,000.00**  
Money derived from sewer federal grant (604-33100) for wastewater infrastructure project

**TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS----- \$159,000.00**

First Reading: January 9, 2023  
Second Reading & Adoption: February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Published:

Signed: Brad Kehn, Acting Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: Kylee Urban, Finance Officer \_\_\_\_\_

GRASSLAND BIDS

Mayor Kehn opened three grassland bids. The first bid was from Trent & Tucker Green for \$1,500.00. The second bid was from Darren & Dustin Hohn for \$951.59. The third bid was from Justin Krell for \$1,026.13. Nielsen made a motion to accept Trent and Tucker Greene’s bid for \$1,500.00. Seconded by Schurz. All voted aye. Motion carried.

## CEMETERY MOWING BIDS

Mayor Kehn opened the one bid the city received from Kase and Clay Brouwer for \$1,400/ mowing or \$14,000/10 times minimum. Nielsen made a motion to accept the bid. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

## AWARD OF SEWER BID

Mayor Kehn turned the meeting over to Darin. Darin reported to the council that Camden Hofer, SPN, Chance Boyd, Kylee Urban, two bidders and himself met on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 2:00pm to open sewer bids. The first bid was from H&W Contracting for \$4,011,136.45. The second bid was from First Rate Excavate for \$4,536,820.00 and the third bid was from Mennings Excavating for \$4,237,721.25. Darin asked the council to approve the lowest bid from H & W Contracting, as they were the lowest bid. Schurz made a motion to accept H & W Contracting's bid for \$4,011,136.45. Seconded by Nielsen. All voted aye. Motion carried.

## RAISING WATER RATES

Mayor Kehn wanted to discuss with the council that Darin, Kylee, and himself have been discussing possible stairstep increases for our water rates. As of right now the water department is losing money. Our current water purchases and equipment are costing more than what we are making and we need to start making some increases. Since we don't want a huge increase we want to do this in small stairstep increments. Darin's best suggestion is to do 5% per year for the next three years. Mayor Kehn suggested we table this until our next meeting and get a few options in place to make a choice for the next meeting.

## LOAN REIMBURSEMENT FORM

The Finance officer asked the council to give Mayor Kehn permission to sign the loan reimbursement form so we can get back some of the money we have spent so far on the sewer project. This form was for \$99,000.00. Schurz made a motion to allow Mayor Kehn to sign the reimbursement form. Seconded by Popek-Hurst.

## MAINTENANCE SUPT. REPORT

Darion reported: We got the tree pile burned. We tried to light it for a long time the day of the last council meeting and couldn't get it to go because of all the snow. However, it smoldered for a long time, then took off late that day and burned all night. It needs some cleaning up around there now, that will happen soon. There were quite a lot of days of moving/pushing and hauling snow again this month. Started servicing our equipment this last month. I spent a decent amount of time looking over our plans for the sewer project and preparing for the bid opening. The bid opening went better than expected with two of the three bids coming in under budget. That is good news because when a camera gets run down the lines that are set to be just lined instead of replaced, if they are too bad, we have some extra money that we can use to replace them. I was able to spend some more time in the office this month and get some needed things done with the colder weather around. We have Anna signed up for pool school in the beginning of April. I'm signed up for the beginning of May. We are all 4 signed up for MSHA classes this month. I investigated the cemetery building some. What we have now is 16x20, bigger than I thought. A replacement building would be costly. It would also have to be built strong.

That building has absolutely no wind protection from the northwest. My suggestion would be to just put a good roof and soffit system over what is there, and maybe fix up the block a little and paint it. That building is strong being block, and the block isn't in too bad of shape.

#### ELECT. SUPT REPORT

Chance reported: We had 0 outages this month and 0 issues other than putting in some new streetlights. Barry and I went over to the fire station this month and added new lights to the bathrooms. We also replaced the outside lights on the front as one of them quit working awhile back. Barry also fixed the soft spot on the top step. We may also swap the inside lights with LEDs but would probably wait until spring when we can open the doors to let light in and move equipment in and out. I am currently working on getting quotes for bucket truck inspections. This is something that is done annually. They inspect the booms and will do an electric test on them as well. I have been working on getting quotes for material for this year. Everything has gone up significantly along with everything else of course. Some common items have 6–7-month lead times. I spent all last week in the office taking my book 4 tests. I took the final over all 4 books on Friday and passed that along with all the others. I am done with the books now and would like to finish this year out doing the schooling and the onsite hands-on portion of it. I also will be attending Meter school which starts tomorrow and goes until Friday. The next school will be underground in May. I have been working on figuring out where we need to get conduits across the roads for when the sewer project takes off. This will save us a ton of time/money vs having to hiring someone to come in and bore it in. I think I have most of it figured out and ready. We will have to order pipe whenever they decide to start. I have also been getting any underground we have done mapped out on Google earth. I have it saved to an account and have been updating with anything we do.

#### FINANCE OFFICER REPORT

Finance Officer reported that we have went live with the new program and it is going very well.

#### MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Kehn reported: Pam Vissia had offered some help with taking pictures of the cemetery lots for the site if we need it. He also reported that somebody was told they needed to remove their vehicle for snow route, when they weren't in the emergency snow route, so we just need to make sure we are careful with this and have our facts right. Mayor Kehn also informed the council that he wanted everybody to try to be involved when going over the budget for next year, so all council members have an idea of what's going on.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

---

Brad Kehn, Acting Mayor

---

Kylee Urban, Finance Officer