

Meeting Minutes of the Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met in regular session on March 3rd, 2025. Members present included acting Mayor Carl Bode and Council Members Magdalena Popek-Hurst, Jim Nielsen, Terry Schuldt, and DeEtte Bohr.

Deputy Finance Officer Cindy Geiman, Electrical Supt. Chance Boyd, and Maintenance Supt. Darin Cranny were among the city employees present.

The visitors were Howard Weischedel, Curt Nelson, Gayle Van Genderen, Brad Kehn, Jody Kehn, Jason Schurz, Chris Schleuning, Alan Birmeier, Brad Green, and Amber Green.

Acting Mayor Carl Bode called the meeting to order at 6:30

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

AGENDA APPROVAL

Nielsen would like to add wells to the agenda, which will be put under the Electrical Rate Study. Bode would like to add Handyman when discussing pool applications. Schuldt motioned to approve the agenda as amended, and Nielsen seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

Popek-Hurst made a motion to pay the following bills. Bohr seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

A&B BUSINESS- IT CONTRACT- \$495.96; A&B BUSINESS- EQUIPMENT LEASING- \$254.34; ABM EQUIPMENT- INSPECTIONS- \$3819.06; AFLAC- VOLUNTARY INSURANCE- 181.55; A-OX WELDING-CYLINDERS-\$135.45; AURORA BRULE WATER- WATER PURCHASE- \$7222.50; AVERA HEALTH PLANS- HEALTH INSURANCE-\$5604.10; AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE OCC- DRUG TESTING- \$51.00; BARNES AND NOBLE- BOOKS PURCHASED- \$120.71; BELL BANK- MINI EXCAVATOR- \$919.42; BELL BANK- SKID LOADER- \$867.73; BRIAN REIS- DEPOSIT REFUND- \$228.21; CENTRAL ELECTRIC- WHEELING FEES/RAMP LIGHTING- \$3258.19; COMMERCE STREET GRILLE- EMPLOYEE APPRICATION- \$272.72; COMMERCIAL ASPHALT- OMEGA MIX- \$2040.00; CORE AND MAIN- ELECTRICAL METERS- \$3265.10; DARIN CRANNY- BREAKFAST (SNOW REMOVAL)-\$7.42; DELTA DENTAL- DENTAL INSURANCE- \$390.50; DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY- POWER PURCHASE- \$22318.60; DGR ASSOCIATES- RATE STUDY FEES-\$140.00; DOLLAR GENERAL- OFFICE SUPPLIES- \$150.96; DOUG'S CUSTOM- LAWN MOWER- \$15049.00; EAST RIVER ELECTRIC- \$ 9709.70; FARMERS AND MERCHANTS- BANK FEE #4- \$7.55; GOLDEN WEST- UTILITIES- \$490.78; GUARDIAN- INSURANCE X 2MONTHS- \$757.87; GWORKS- ADDITIONALS USERS- \$336.00; HEARTLAND- POWER PURCHASE- \$ 78677.65; HEARTLAND LOAN#1- \$1241.68; HEARTLAND LOAN #2- \$1241.68; L&L SANITATION- GARBAGE SERVICES- \$60.00; LYLE SUTHERLAND- DEPOSIT REFUND- \$147.90; MARC- LAGOON WEED SPRAY-\$882.50; MITCHELL IRON AND SUPPLY- BOLTS AND HEX NUTS- \$105.15; ON-SIGHT- CAMERAS- \$958.57; OVERWEG AUTO- SUPPLIES- \$81.82; PYE-BARKER- FIRE EXTINGUISHER TESTING- \$1654.00; RAUL NIZ MENDEZ- DEPOSIT REFUND- \$63.99; ROADSIDE- FUEL PURCHASES- \$ 182.67; RON'S MARKET- SUPPLIES- \$100.80; RUNNINGS-SUPPLIES-\$650.89; SCAVENGERS JOURNEY- PROMOTING PLANKINTON- \$250.00; SD DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE- SALES TAX-\$8126.36; SD DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION- FUEL

PURCHASES-\$263.88; SD MAIL- PUBLISHING- \$867.75; SD SECERTARY OF STATE- VOTER LISTING- \$15.00; SDRS SUPPLEMENTAL- SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT- \$ 289.84; SDWWA- WATER SEMINAR- \$20.00; SOUTH DAKOTA 811- MESSAGE FEES-\$3.15; TITAN MACHINERY- FILTERS AND OIL- \$307.40; TOSHIBA FINANCIAL SERVICES- COPIER CONTRACT-\$185.26; TREVOR BOYD- DEPOSIT REFUND- \$9.67; TRUE NORTH STEEL- CULVERTS- \$1824.80; VERIZON WIRELESS- TOWER INT/ SURFACE PRO/HS- \$259.36; VESTIS-RUG CONTRACT-\$35.97; VISA- SUPPLIES-\$1794.54; VISION SERVICE PLAN- VISION INSURANCE-\$167.26; WEALTH MANAGEMENT- WATER METER LOANS- \$ 11928.27; FARMERS AND MERCHANTS STATE BANK- PAYROLL #5 FEES- \$7.65; AURORA BRULE WATER- WATER PURCHASE- \$6564.50; KONECHNE HEATING AND COOLING- FILTER FOR SENIOR CENTER- \$68.00; SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH- WATER TESTING- \$15.00.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the minutes, with Schuldt seconding the motion. All voted aye motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATIONS

Nielsen made a motion to accept Brad Kehn's resignation with regret, and Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion Carried

Popek-Hurst made a motion to accept Kylee Urban's resignation. Bohr seconded the motion. All Voted Aye, and the motion was carried.

OATH OF OFFICE-MAYOR

Nielsen motioned to appoint Carl Bode to Mayor, and Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All vote aye motion carried. The Deputy Finance Officer administered the oath of office to Carl Bode.

PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT

Nielsen made a motion to nominate Popek-Hurst to President, with Schuldt seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT

Popek-Hurst made a motion to nominate Bohr to Vice President. Nielsen seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

SIGNATURE CARDS

Nielsen motioned to authorize Popek-Hurst to sign the city account signature cards at the bank. Bohr seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Popek-Hurst nominated Nielsen as the new building inspector, and Schuldt seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

ELECTRICAL RATE STUDY

Electrical Superintendent Chance Boyd gave an update on the progress of the electrical rate study. Popek-Hurst voiced her concerns on the cash report with Electrical being in the negative. Currently, it is showing the electric -347,000 in 2019. They did the main street project, and they planned on doing some of the electrical work themselves. However, it was Chance's first year here, and then Vern was let go. Chance couldn't do the work alone, so the contractor had to come in and help finish. They borrowed money from the sewer department that year to cover expenses, and then they paid the department back over the next few years, which put the cash on hand in the negative category. We currently have savings/CDs 226,829.32, which leaves us at a negative 120,519.91 cents.

Popek-Hurst also asked why he is over budget in his electrical capital outlay. A bill was paid twice, and we just got the refund today for 20,226.96, which equals 40453.92. We just got the check today to offset that, and it will show in the revenue section.

A spreadsheet showed our rates compared to other towns in the state, including what Central Electric and Northwestern would charge. This spreadsheet allows us to enter a customer's usage, and they can compare that to what these other towns would charge for the exact same usage. The spreadsheet shows residential, outside city limits, small commercial, and large commercial. This also shows that our rates are pretty cheap compared to most cities. We are in the middle to the bottom end of the list.

Mayor Bode stated he was going to ask Rochelle of Regarding Cards if it is something that she can put on the webpage so people can input their own data.

WELLS

A state climatologist study predicted a severe drought for the year 2025. Nielsen had some inquiries about our water supply, including whether rural water would limit our usage. Nielsen would like to discuss our wells to see if they could be used for non-palpable use instead of pulling for our tower. Nielsen would like the council to see what it would take to get two wells working again for a backup water source.

Discussions were had about getting big enough pumps to fill the fire trucks and the county spray trucks, for example. The one that Darin got an estimate on would take about 25 minutes to fill a 1500-gallon water tank.

It was estimated that with the 10-horsepower pump that Darin looked at, with all the piping and city labor, they were still looking at around \$70,000. If you want a decent-sized pump and piping with the city labor, you're probably looking at about \$140,000.

Superintendent Darin Cranny hasn't heard from AB Rural Water about a shortage.

Darin was instructed to contact AB Rural water to see if they have a drought plan.

NUSANCE PROPERTIES- CONTRACT

Our lawyer, Mr. Taylor, drew up a contract between the city and Overweg Auto out of Plankinton to tow vehicles not complying with our ordinances. Deputy Finance Officer Cindy Geiman was instructed to deliver the contract to Overweg's, have them look it over, set their base rate and storage fee, and return it to City Hall at their convenience. It was also discussed who would be responsible for contacting Overweg regarding nuisance vehicles. It was decided to include in the contract that the order of contact for Overweg's would be the mayor, followed by city workers, and then ward personnel.

CLEAN-UP DAY

Popek-Hurst stated that the original date for the Clean-up Day was April 5th. But that is prom for the students. Popek-Hurst visited Mrs. Victor at the school, and she proposed that it be April 12th. She would provide a couple of students to help on Friday, April 11th, 2025, from 8 AM to 12 PM for people who cannot get the items to the curb. Who would pick the items up from the curb and get them to the containers provided by L&L Sanitation that will possibly be set up on Main Street by the H&R container? Nielsen mentioned that some of the members from the VFW have offered to help. Most of them have trucks and trailers that they are willing to bring.

We will keep a list of people needing help until April 4th. This way, we can plan the students' route. To be added to the list, they can contact Popek-Hurst. The Deputy Finance Officer was instructed to post the pickup information on Facebook. Chance was directed to contact the elevator for the location approval.

LEGAL COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION _____ 2025-03 _____

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Plankinton, South Dakota:

1. That the Property described in Paragraph 2 is hereby declared a public nuisance.
2. That James D. Taylor, P.C. is authorized and directed, on the behalf of the City of Plankinton, to file a lawsuit in Aurora County Circuit Court to abate the nuisance and assess the costs thereof to the real estate located at 602 East 1st Street, Plankinton, South Dakota, legally described as:
Lot 7, Block 6, Walling's First Addition, City of Plankinton, Aurora County, South Dakota.
3. That legal action shall be commenced against all legal interest title holders in the above-described Property.
 - a. That the Property constitutes a public nuisance as defined within Chapter 92 of the *Ordinances of the City of Plankinton* for the following reasons: The Property has been allowed to deteriorate; imperfect, leaking, unclean or filth plumbing fixtures remain on the property; several windows remain boarded-up on the residence; garbage and debris has been allowed to be deposited, maintained or accumulated on the Property; and
 - b. Four (4) or more junk vehicles are present on the Property; and
 - c. The Property has become a refuse and breeding ground for mosquitos, flies, rodents, and varmints; and
 - d. There are no viable water and sewer connections in use at the Property residence.

4. The City has given notice and order to abate or otherwise cure the nuisance conditions present on the Property to the record owner of the Property; however, the record owner of the Property has failed to abate or otherwise cure the nuisance conditions, necessitating the City to pass this resolution so that it may move forward with legal action.

Dated this 3 day of March, 2025.

CITY OF PLANKINTON

BY: _____
_____, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CINDY GEIMAN, DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER

(SEAL)

Nielsen made a motion to carry out this resolution, with Popek-Hurst seconding. All voted aye, and the motion passed.

PAST DUE BILLS

A list of past-due bills was discussed. The ordinance needs to be revised to include the following business day in case the 7th falls on a Friday or the weekend. We prefer not to turn it off on Friday and then have no one available to turn it back on the next day.

2024 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ORDINANCE 2ND READING

**CITY OF PLANKINTON ORDINANCE #2024-12
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
TO THE 2024 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 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Plankinton that the Finance Officer be authorized to make the following budget adjustments to the 2024 Budget:

General Fund:

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

101-42200-43900: Capital Outlay-(Applied to Over-expenses) ----- \$35,009.67

Money derived from Cash on hand

PARKS & CEMETERY:

101-43700-42900: Other Current Expenses- (Applied to Over-expenses) ----- \$31,167.64

Money derived from Cash on hand

HWY/STREETS:

101-43100-43400: Machinery/Equipment- (Applied to over-expenses) ----- \$11,293.04

Money derived from Misc. Revenue (101-10100-36000) - \$5732.14; Cash on hand- \$5,560.90

GENERAL FUND TOTAL:

\$77,470.35

WATER FUND:

602-43300-43900: Capital Outlay – (Applied to over-expenses -water main fixes) ----- \$22,610.79

Money derived from cash on hand

602-43300-41100: Salaries/Wages – (Applied to over-expenses) ----- \$3,345.09

Money derived from Other Water Revenue (602-43300-38190)

WATER FUND TOTAL:

\$25,955.88

SEWER:

604-43250-42200: Professional Services-(Applied to over-expenses-sewer project) --\$2,038,784.01

Money derived from Federal Grants (604-43250-33100)- \$1,880,541.12; Cash on hand-\$158,242.89

SEWER TOTAL:

\$2,038,784.01

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS----- \$2,142,210.24

First Reading: 02-03-2025
Second Reading & Adoption: 03-03-2025
Published: 03-13-2025

Signed: Carl Bode, Mayor_____

Attest: Cindy Geiman, Deputy Finance Officer_____

After the second reading of the supplemental budget and some explanations on a few points, Nielson moved to adopt the supplemental budget, and Magdalena seconded the motion. Everyone voted in favor, and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE BALLOT- VOTING PLACE.

A drawing was held on the order of the ballot. The following are the results.

Mayor- Jason Schurz (1st)

Carl Bode (2nd)

Ward 1- Terry Schuldt (1st)

Brad Green (2nd)

Ward 3- Jim Nielsen (1st)

Howard Weischedel (2nd)

Chris Schluening (3rd)

Nathan DeGeest (4th)

Mayor Bode stated that he has been in contact with Susan. With Ward 3, the top two with the highest number of votes will win the two seats.

Popek—Hurst motioned to use the Ag Building since it has easier access regardless of the rent amount. Schuldt seconded the motion. All vote aye, motion passed.

CROPLAND BIDS

Mayor Bode wanted to draw the council's attention to the fact that during the cemetery mowing bid, there had been a minimum number of mowings in previous years. If Brouwer had known about the lack of a minimum, they would have adjusted their bid. Mayor Bode

indicated that we have likely burned our bridges with them. And asked that next year's ad specify that no minimum number of mowings are specified as part of the bid.

The first crop land bid opened was from Justin Krell, for 111 per acre, amounting to a yearly total of 2608.50 based on 23.5 base acres for 3 years.

The second bid opened was from Noah Munsen for 145 per acre, amounting to a yearly total of 3407.50 for 3 years.

Nielsen moved to accept the higher bid of \$3,407.50 per year, which Bohr seconded. Everyone voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Nielsen made a request for a 15-minute break. Mayor Bode gave a 10-minute break. The time was 8:29; please resume at 8:39.

EQUALIZATION MEETING- MARCH 17TH

Nielsen appointed Rodney Faulhaber from the Plankinton School Board. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion, all voted aye and motion carried.

POOL APPLICATIONS/DISCUSSION- HANDYMAN

Around 5 applications have been taken out and 2 have been returned. Popek-Hurst has been asking around the school and would like the SD mail to re-run the ad for lifeguards and ticket takers. Popek-Hurst is looking for 6-7 lifeguards and 2 ticket takers.

Ticket takers start at \$13.00. Lifeguards begin at \$14.00, with a \$1.00 hourly increase for each year you return. Head lifeguards start at \$17.00, also receiving a \$1.00 increase for returns. There is an extra wage incentive to do swim lessons, too.

Popek-Hurst wanted the council's opinion on whether the rates should go up. Right now, the rates are as follows: \$80 for a family pass, \$55 for a single pass, and \$2.00 per day without a pass.

Nielsen made a motion to keep the rates the same, seconded by Bohr. All voted aye motion carried.

There are no applications for the handyman position. Chance mentioned that Chris Hill and Travis Olsen mowed the ball fields, which helped the city tremendously. Chance is wondering if the city will consider doing that again this year. Chance is supposed to contact Chris to see if he would be interested in doing it again this year. The hourly wage for the handy person is \$15.00. They are supposed to be 16 years of age to drive the lawnmower and 18 years to drive a vehicle and the new lawnmower.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- PERSONNEL SDCL 1-25-2 (1)

Bohr made a motion to enter executive session for personnel. Seconded by Popek-Hurst. The city council went into executive session at 8:59. Mayor Bode and the council came out of executive session at 9:24 without any action taken.

FINANCE OFFICER HIRING

Bohr motioned to hire Cindy Geiman as Interim Finance Officer at 23.56 per hour. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the motion was carried.

Nielsen proposed an advertisement for the Finance Officer position, setting the starting wage at \$25.00 or based on experience. Schuldt seconded the proposal, which was unanimously approved.

MAINTANCE SUPERINTENEDENTS REPORT

The first thing I want to discuss is the pool. The pool committee ordered the new swings and canopy/shade last year. I remember Melissa saying that was the last thing they were getting, then eliminating the committee, and giving us the rest of the money that was left over. As near as I can tell from last year's budget, they spent \$24,181 on swings and canopy/shade and gave us \$35,326. That would mean we have \$11,145 left in savings for the pool. I need to spend all of this. The plastic border with an ADA ramp for the swing area will cost anywhere from \$1500-\$2000. It will take about 2/3 of a truck load of wood chips just for that area. I would also like to get a 2nd truck load of chips to split between the 2 playgrounds: poolside park and west park, both of those are quite low. Last year when I checked each truckload was around \$6,000. I know there was a mention in the past for using rubber mats around the swing area. We would be looking at over double the cost of wood chips, and much more labor for me to do that. It would be nice, and we wouldn't have to worry about any filling up with wood chips anymore, but we're not budgeted for this. I have \$5,000 budgeted for capital outlay in parks I could contribute to the total cost. So, we would have around \$14,000 in materials and \$16,000 in money. We will also need some money for the canopy/shade area. Mainly concrete and fence costs, and it should be right around the extra I have left over. If rubber mats were used, we'd be approximately \$6,000 over this amount. I guess what I'm looking for is as long as I can clarify that my numbers are right above, I'd like permission to order the plastic border and wood chips and spend the money they gave us for the pool on the pool. The extra they gave us is not budgeted, but if it was put in our savings account and is for the pool we need to spend it as it was raised for that. We are looking at getting started over there as soon as we can.

I ordered and picked up our new mower after the last meeting. It is a very well-built machine. I spent some time looking over the manual for this and had Dan do the same so we can take care of it as good as we can.

The sewer crew fixed that line on 9th street that was bad this month. Barry and I spent the whole time helping haul frozen dirt away and doing the backfilling after they were done. They are also back in town now, starting on getting the last area done they need to do, which is over by the Lutheran Church. They were in town last week repairing a manhole casting that had a flaw and didn't hold a vacuum test.

We had a little snow removal finally. We'll see if we have any more after tomorrow.

We got the tree pile burned, and Chance started refilling it already with all the trees he's been cutting.

I had quite a bit of office work to get done this month, including doing what I could to be able to explain the supplemental budget to you, and helping Chance some with his electrical rate study.

I did miss some time this month, I have been sick way too much.

A motion for Darin to use \$5000 out of capital outlay once it is verified that we do have the 11,145 in savings. was made by Nielsen and seconded by Popek-Hurst. All vote aye, motion carried.

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

No outages this month

We have been trimming quite a few trees. There have been some alleyways that had trees growing up in the middle of them in some places and we cut them all out. At some point we will get locates called in and get the stumps removed. We hauled around 10-12 truckloads of trees out from various places. Anything that has been in the lines and alley ways have been removed so we can get a truck in and out. We have a few more areas that will need to be done this year, then we have a few spots that don't need to be done this year but will likely get while the weather is decent. We have a few blocks along fifth street we need to get as well, but the ditches were still soft from the little bit of snow so we will wait to do those until it's dry enough.

The jumper I ordered has arrived, and we will get the bad spots in the lines fixed this month.

We have a few poles we need to replace this year, so I will get some new poles lined up from Central and we will be able to do it without shutting anyone off.

Since the fence got moved in on the West field last year, the outfield lights should be moved closer to the fence this year. Darin and I went out one morning to see if we even needed them anymore since the field is smaller. The outfield has quite a few dark spots without them, so we plan to move them into the back side of the fence. There is only two of them, and we will get two new forty-five-foot poles to replace them with. We will then have to re-trench the lines feeding them to the new locations. We will be able to reuse everything else off the poles to make it work.

I sent one set of rubber gloves and sleeves in to get tested to make sure they are still good. Once that set comes back, I will send the other set in. This should be done about every 6 months.

During the colder days, I worked in the office on the rate study info. I also put together the spreadsheet for what other cities are charging for electricity. I also included Central Electric since they are the surrounding COOP, and I also included NorthWestern Energy as they serve many of the cities on this side of the state. I included every Municipal electric that had a city website where I could get the info. There were a handful of smaller ones that didn't even have a website. It's hard to compare every city as not all have the same power suppliers, but they all do receive power from WAPA. I will go over this in the meeting. Carl helped fine tune the spreadsheet and to get it to work the way it's set up currently.

I made another spreadsheet for the customers that will be moved to being billed based on demand. Before we officially transfer them over, I will go and meet with each one to explain it and to show the difference. I just want to get more info put together before I meet with them. This gets updated monthly during billing.

Barry ordered and started to build the panel stands for West Side Park and for the Jail Pond. We will get permits sent in on them once we have them ready to install. I ordered panels for them today.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

I have made deposits and reconciled bank and loan accounts. I have also gathered information for Darin and Chance to help with their projects. The council members have assigned me tasks, and I have replied to them promptly.

I spent the last few weeks learning a few things from Kylee before she left. I also spent part of last week going through old minutes, learning as much as possible from them. I spent some time on the phone with IT, both for GWorks and A & B business. The work order situation is still in progress. I have contacted Tina, who was assisting Kylee, but we still don't have it working yet. I paid bills twice this month. One set was utility bills that needed to be paid before the first, and the rest were handled on Friday.

I did bills on the 26th just in case I needed Kylee's help, which I did at one point, but now I know what to do.

I would like to ask the council if I could take off at 2:00 on March 10th for a doctor's appointment in Sioux Falls and at 1:00 for a tax appointment on the 13th. I will also need permission to take April 21st off in the morning for an appointment in town at 7:30. I should be back by 8:00-8:30. That is all I have for time off in the next two months. If it is okay, I will post on Facebook and leave a note on the door.

MAYORS REPORT

I'll start out by saying, "Wow!" This job requires a lot of time and attention to do it right. I have more appreciation for the work that Brad, Joe and other predecessors put forward to serve our community.

One of my main focus points has been to communicate, communicate, communicate. Every Monday at 7:30 we have a quick meeting with all the city employees to help coordinate and plan out our activities for the week. Every week I try to post some pertinent information in the City's Facebook page. When other users have comments, I'll try to reply as best I can. I also worked with Rochelle to get the City Hall web site updated and also get the previous agendas and minutes caught up to date. We had a great conversation and ideas shared with several guests during the Meet and Greet at the Senior Center on Feb 15. Starting today, I'm setting aside time at the Roadside every Monday from 8:00 to 8:30 (or 9:00 depending on interest) to visit with folks who stop by and share the issues important to them or just have a visit.

With regret, Kylee has resigned from the Finance Officer position. We wish her well with her babysitting business and having more time at home with family. The city council has several

decisions to make regarding filling the Finance Officer position, and possibly also the Deputy Finance Officer.

Chance has been putting in a lot of work with the electrical rate study. He has gathered excellent information comparing the electrical rates with several communities around us. I love spreadsheets, so have been helping him clean it up a bit and fix some of the formulas for computing the billing based upon usage. DGR has given us some preliminary feedback on the electrical rate study. We're in a considerable hole right now and need to carefully consider how we climb out of that hole and fill it in. When we get a little bit better idea on proposed rates for the upcoming years, we'll put a link to the spreadsheet on the City Hall web page so folks can play around with their usage and see the effect on their bill and how we compare with other communities.

It has been a busy month with petitions filed for many great candidates willing to serve on the city council or as mayor. It is nice to see this level of interest in the community when we have had many challenges in the past to fill all of the city council positions. Preparations are started so we will be ready to conduct the municipal election on April 8.

We are lacking applications for lifeguards and ticket takers if we want to open the swimming pool for the summer. The city council needs to assess if the rates we are offering are competitive, more advertising is needed, or make personal contacts to find youth who are willing and able to work at the pool this summer.

Looking ahead, things the city council and mayor need to focus on include Equalization meeting, election, Clean Up Day, and evaluating our wells as an alternate source of water for emergency purposes as our drought situation looks ominous. Spring is coming, and we are looking forward to finishing the sewer project and getting the torn-up streets back in order soon.

Mayor Bode went around the table to see if the council had anything to add.

Bohr wants to table the recording devices until further down the road.

Popek-Hurst was to let everyone know that our tree grant has been paused. At the meet and greet, there was good feedback as to what the community would like to see, and one of them mentioned a dog park.

Nielsen wanted to thank Chance and Dan for fixing the situation at the senior center. He also mentioned that the municipal league has a meeting in Platte that will talk about the development of communities. He didn't know the dates, but it's in March.

Schuldt wanted to remind people to spring forward next weekend due to the time change.

Mayor Bode adjourned the meeting at 9:53 PM