

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Plankinton city council met in regular session on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Members present were Mayor Kehn, councilmembers Carl Bode, Terry Schuldt, Magdalena Popek-Hurst, and Jack Marette (via zoom). Absent was Jason Schurz. City employees were Darin Cranny, Chance Boyd, and Kylee Urban. Visitors were Melissa Davis, Curt Nelson, and Gayle Van Genderen Studeny. Mayor Kehn called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

### AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Kehn entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Exercise Equipment, Visa Card and Pickleball Court. Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

### BILLS TO PAY

Bode made a motion to pay bills. Seconded by Popek-Hurst. All voted aye. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Special meeting minutes. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Davis wanted to volunteer herself to run for Ward III. Melissa also wanted to discuss some updates on the pool committee and the new swings they had raised money for. She let the council know that they have been ordered but the council needs to decide what the plan is for turf around and under those swings. Mayor Kehn suggested looking at rubber options. Darin will look into this. Melissa also asked the council if there were any objections to the shade for the bench at the baby pool. The council did not have any issues with it. Darin suggested the company installs the shade if it's not too much.

### EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Mayor Kehn asked Melissa and city workers if there is some type of maintenance that needs to be done on the exercise equipment. Darin was not sure but would look. Mayor Kehn asked if the city is responsible for any repairs on the equipment, Melissa said yes, but wasn't sure what the warranty was on it.

### PICKLEBALL COURT BENCHES

Bode informed the council that the benches for the pickleball court were here and was thinking about putting them up easter weekend but was wondering if he should do it sooner. Darin said there might still be bad weather. Mayor Kehn asked if the benches can be bolted down, and he was worried about vandalism. Bode said they can be but might need to be moved around.

### WATER SHUT OFF

Finance Officer, Kylee Urban, let the council know that she spoke with their attorney on this matter and Mr. Taylor believes our current ordinances are in good shape and we just need to add that city employees will no longer be touching any curb stops because it is the homeowner's responsibility. Murette mentioned that we would need to change the snowbird forms as well, as they say a city employee has to shut the water off. The finance officer will have the changes put in place.

#### GAME, FISH & PARKS

Mayor Kehn has not received the contract form GF&P yet.

#### CEMETERY MOWING BID

Mayor Kehn wanted to elaborate how the council came to the decision it did on the cemetery mowing bid. He let the people know that this decision was made due to multiple things. First the one bidder was underage and would cause issues going into a contract with a minor. Also the other bidder that we went with has worked for us for many years and has always done good work. If the other bidder were to not work out or no longer want the job, we would lose what we have with our current company that does the cemetery. Mayor Kehn asked the lower bidding party if they would like a chance to come to a meeting and we could veto the last voted and revote for the bid. They said no. So the acceptance of the bid will stay as it was passed last meeting. Due to the lack information and accuracy provided by the newspaper many people were questioning the council's actions.

#### CONTRACT OF LAW

Mayor Kehn informed the council that Carl Bode and himself were going to be contacts for the contract of law meetings that will include 2 people from each city, 2 county commissioners and Sheriff Briggs. Mayor Kehn said he felt as if they don't understand fully what we want, due to comments made by the sheriff during the last meeting. Mayor Kehn informed the council there was a new contract for the second quarter of contract of law. Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the second quarter contract and sign it. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### SUMMER HELP WAGES

Bode made a motion to hire up to two summer help employees starting at \$14.50/hr. Seconded by Popek-Hurst. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### VISA CREDIT CARD

Mayor Kehn asked the council if we can explore different credit card options and find one that comes with benefits, such as cash back. We will still keep all of our normal banking at F&M. City council agrees.

#### GOOD FRIDAY/EASTER MONDAY

The council granted city employees a half day for Good Friday and the whole day for Easter Monday off.

#### LIFEGUARD APPS/DISCUSSION

Popek-Hurst mentioned there were ticket taker and lifeguard applications and let the council know she will be setting up interviews and Bode will join.

#### SUMMER HELP ADVERTISING

Mayor Kehn asked SD Mail to advertise the ad.

#### AVERAGING SEWER RATES

Finance Officer, Kylee Urban informed the council she did not have this ready yet, as she was having computer issues the majority of the day. Will have it ready next meeting.

#### EQUALIZATION MEETING

Mayor Kehn let the council know the equalization meeting will be March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30PM.

Schuldt made a motion to appoint Rodney Fualhaber, of the school board, for the equalization meeting. Seconded by Popek-Hurst. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### MAINT. SUPT REPORT

I've gotten quite a bit of office work done this month. I believe I have our lead service line inventory done. That was a big job. I have it sent to the state, I'll see if there is anything I missed. I do not believe there are any homes with lead service lines to them anymore. It's possible there are still some older taps in the main line that are no longer used that are lead, along with the possibility of some older homes having some lead pipes in the walls. We do always pass any lead tests we are given by the state. I did some planning for the chip seal project. I will probably take away most of the single layer chip seal I had planned to cut the cost down some. We can do some more of this next year. They are hoping to be here in July. Chance and I spent most of a day working on the gravel roads in town. He filled in some bad spots with the skid loader, I bladed everything. I spent a day servicing the 570 loader. The other guys got the fire equipment serviced that we do. We all attended MSHA this month. They had it at the Ag building in town. We had inspections at our RU sites this month. They went well. I also have new bigger signs ordered for the entry to both sites and have smaller signs here for the east site. I have 2 that are stating cameras are in use for soon after entering the site, one for the tree pile area, one for the grass pile area. Barry also spent a day working on the road at the west site. I also am preparing to discharge water from the lagoons. I haven't had to do this for a couple of years, and the rules have changed some since I did it last. I called the state and have everything understood. If my pre-discharge sample I sent in on Friday comes back ok (which it should) I will start discharging either the end of the week or beginning of next week.

#### ELEC SUPT. REPORT

No outages this month, we did have a bird get in the line that feeds the middle part of town that caused a blink on the whole system. We went over to Mt. Vernon and moved that pole for them. We started to take down some of the old line and pole top transformers along 7<sup>th</sup> street that we buried last year. we only did what we could reach from the road. We have gone and pulled a couple of the poles that we could get to. When it dries up a little more we will go back and get the rest of it. The poles we took out we have taken out to the east dump site. We will start getting them put in

probably tomorrow for signs and for cameras. I have some other ones we will use when we start doing the fence as well. if the weather stays decent this will be done sooner then later. Dan and Barry serviced the fire trucks last week, while they did that I went and made new service record sheets for them so everything is legible with the filter numbers on them. We have 1 pump to service but am waiting on filters to show up. I did give a copy of everything to the FD for their own records. Konechne Heating and Cooling came up to the firestation on Thursday last week and looked at what needs to be done. I haven't gotten a quote back for it yet, but told them it wouldn't happen until at least the up coming winter. I emailed the storm siren guy to see when they would be able to come reprogram the siren to receive fire calls, he forgot to order the part so is on order and will do it sometime soon still at no cost. Bucket trucks will be inspected on Thursday of this week. Electrical inspector will be here tomorrow morning to inspect panel and outlets for the picnic shelter at poolside. Some of the transformers started to show up that I ordered in 2022. I imagine they will slowly trickle in the next few months. Barry and I did start to clean up around the outside of the shop some. We had a bunch of old pallets and stuff sitting around. Drug it some to help dry it out. I did go around some with the skidloader and put gravel in some of the crossings we have done and some areas where sewer taps were dug in around town. Took some up to North Kimball street as that has gotten rough over the winter. We all attended MSHA this last month which was held at the Ag building. I have safety training on Wednesday March 6 in Arlington.

#### FINANCE OFFICER REPORT

This month has included doing a lot of end of year reporting for different entities, including information to the state for our loans and surcharges and electrical data to our power suppliers. We have also done our normal every month reports, bills, checks, payroll and more. Cindy has been working to update all of the water and electrical meter books that hold our paper copies of meters installed. I am expecting in September so I will need to take 6-week maternity leave at that time, but will still be available to come to the office if there are questions or something is needed that Cindy is not able to answer or do. If Cindy needs a day off for something, and I can find a babysitter I can surely come in during those 6 weeks. I will still attend the annual conference in October as I have already set up arrangements for the baby, but will need to know if you would like just me to attend or also Cindy, as it has been discussed in the past to just keep going every other year or to both go. Also, you will all notice I have started asking for read receipts on council emails, this is so I know that you are getting the information I am sending out. If you feel like you aren't getting something you should be please let me know, I do try to remember to send everything out but sometimes I, like everybody does, gets busy or distracted with other duties.

#### MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Kehn informed the council that he has a couple people interested in joining the council. He will meet with them and go from there.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

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Brad Kehn,

Mayor

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Attest:

Kylee Urban,

Finance Officer