

Regular Meeting Minutes of the

Plankinton City Council

March 9th, 2026 Meeting Minutes of the

Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met on March 9th, 2026, for a regular meeting.

Members present included Mayor Carl Bode, Council members Jim Nielsen, DeEtte Bohr, Magdalena Popek-Hurst, Terry Schuldt, Amber Green, and Nathan DeGeest.

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

Among the visitors present were Brad Green, Curt Nelsen, and Travis Weich.

Also present was Gayle Van Genderen, representing the South Dakota Mail.

Mayor Bode called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Bode asked Finance Officer Cindy Geiman to summarize the roll call. Cindy stated, "That all members and the mayor are present, we have a quorum."

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Bode suggested adding Supplemental Ordinance 2025-12 after Water Rates. Councilperson Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Nielsen seconded the motion. All Voted Aye, motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

A motion made by Nielsen, seconded by Amber to approve the bills to pay. All voted aye motion carried. Bills are as stated.

A&B BUSINESS-IT-\$774.54; A&B BUSINESS SOLUTIONS-IPADS/LAPTOPS-\$254.34; AEDUSA- BATTERIES AND PADS FOR AEDS- \$899.00- AFLAC-VOL INSURANCE- \$363.10; AMAZON- BOOKS/SUPPLIES-\$191.90; AURORA BRULE WATER-WATER PURCHASE-\$6466.50; AVERA HEALTH- HEALTH INSURANCE-\$5881.45- BELL BANK- MINI EXCAVATOR LOAN-\$919.42, BORDER STATES- ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES-\$1168.81; CINDY GEIMAN- GRAMMERLY PROGRAM-\$76.46; CENTRAL ELECTRIC- WHEELING FEES-\$3059.82; CNH CAPITAL- SKID LOADER LOAN-\$959.11; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP-SUPPLIES-\$246.44; DELTA DENTAL-DENTAL INSURANCE-\$328.00; DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY- POWER

PURCHASE-\$20567.25; DEPARTMENT OF LABOR- JANUARY SALES TAX-\$7929.49; DGR- ENGINEERING FEES- %1008.00; DOLLAR GENERAL- SUPPLIES-\$32.12; EAST RIVER POWER- POWER PURCHASE-\$9679.36; GOLDEN WEST- TELEPHONE AND INTERNET- \$502.52; GUARDIAN- LIFT, STD,LTD INSURANCE- \$365.54; HEARTLAND-POWER PURCHASE-\$72153.27; HEARTLAND LOANS-METER LOANS-\$2483.36; L&L SANITATION- GARBAGE-\$65.00; MAXIMUM PROMOTIONS- 250TH FLAG-\$73.75; OVERWEG AUTO- TIRE REPAIR- \$42.40; PLANKINTON LUMBER- SUPPLIES- \$897.57; PYE- BARKER- FIRE EXTINGUISHERS INSPECTIONS- \$1010.00; RESCO- ELECTRICAL BOX PAD-\$1580.00; ROADSIDE-FUEL-\$107.03; RON'S MARKET- SUPPLIES- \$ 84.03; SD 811- MESSAGE FEES- \$4.20; SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH- WATER TESTING-\$20.00; DOT- FUEL- \$600.72; SD FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY- SUPPLIES-\$205.70; SOUTH DAKOTA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE- MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR CODE ENFORMENT-\$85.00; SDRS SUPPLEMENTAL- RETIREMENT-\$501.05; SD MAIL-PUBLISHING-2163.90, TOSHIBA- COPIER CONTRACT- \$192.38; VERIZON BILL- INTERNET BILL-\$131.80; VISA- SUPPLIES-\$2020.51, VSP- VISION INSURANCE- \$134.63.

PAST DUE BILLS

Finance officer Cindy Geiman reported that 4 houses are disconnected: one of which is due to be paid for on Friday, and two others are scheduled to come in and pay tomorrow.

MINUTES

Mayor Bode asked the council members if they had read the minutes and if there were additions or corrections. Mayor Bode declared the minutes approved as published.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Councilmember Nielsen prepared a statement. The statement is as follows: "During the Feb 9th meeting, as we were in discussions on vehicles, I made a statement that was totally unacceptable, for which I would like to apologize first to the city council and all those who were present. Secondly, to the City of Plankinton as a whole, and finally to the individual who was the subject of discussion. I would ask that you find it in your hearts to forgive me for repeating a rumor that, in fact, had no basis and was not necessary during our deliberations."

Numerous members of the council have had citizens' concerns about rising ACH fees in the GWorks program. Mayor Bode acknowledges the concerns, and they will be discussed under new business.

Junk Vehicles/

Properties Hearing

Vehicles at 200 W 1st, a Red Ford and a White Chevy. The owner received the letter on both vehicles. Have not heard of anything else. It was the decision of the council that we need to proceed with the 15-day notice. A roll call vote was taken, with Popek-Hurst and Schuldt abstaining. Nielsen- aye, Bohr- aye, Green- aye, DeGeest- aye. The ayes have it motion is carried.

Vehicle at 209 E 2nd, nothing has happened with the vehicle, and the resident has received the letter by certified mail. A roll-call vote on giving the owner a 15-day notice was taken. Popek-Hurst abstained. DeGeest- aye, Green- aye, Bohr- aye, Schuldt- aye, and Nielsen- aye. The ayes have it; a 15-day notice will be given to the resident.

OLD BUSINESS:

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT

REPORT

We had 1 bird-related outage. This was along State Street on Valentine's Day.

Barry and I went over to the fire station, moved a couple of lights, and added 2 more. We finished with everything I wanted to get done there. At some point, we will need to rent a scissor lift to take down some old heaters and some old conduit.

We started trimming some trees behind the houses on the North Side of 3rd Street last week. We cleared out about a block's worth so far and got it so we can at least drive a truck in there if needed. There is about another block or so to do there. We are working with some of the homeowners for access right now to get in there. Dan and Barry helped work on this.

I have a locates called in to do some 3-phase along the Jail pond behind the shop. We will start this tomorrow. This will be the underground feed for the whole North side of town from 4th Street. Once we complete this section, we will need to go about ½ block north to refeed the Courthouse, as we did last year. We should be able to do all this without taking any outages.

I was looking over a building permit that came in, and I noticed that some of the Electrical codes on there aren't up to date and are incorrect. I went through and corrected the wrong codes throughout the whole thing. Cindy went through and corrected the pricing on it as well. I sent it to Carl last week to give it a look over, and I changed some things he caught. While we went through this, Cindy found a completely different version on the city website. So, we would like to get the OK to start using this one.

I started working on getting material quotes for a project that will start this year. I have been working with their electrician to figure out the loadout and ensure we are sizing everything

correctly. I have sent the info I do have to DGR to help size the transformer. We are working on 2 different options and will let the owner decide which route they would like to take. I will keep the council informed as things happen.

I also started getting quotes for our underground projects this year. I always try to keep a stock of most materials, but I also don't like to use everything from stock, as we need to keep on hand items for emergency situations as well. We always try to rotate stock when new stuff comes in as well.

I tried to apply for another Economic Grant through Heartland again to help cover the costs of the Rate study. I had some issues when I tried to submit it, so I am working with them to make sure it went through, or if I need to redo it. There is also an LED grant I will apply for to help with the costs of the lighting at the fire station. This will cover the lighting, materials, and labor at a 50/50 match.

Dan built another shelf for electrical material. He has also finished up with some work he was asked to do at the Senior Citizens. He has a lot of walls that were falling apart, fixed up, and repainted.

The downspout by the front sidewalk between City Hall and Horizon was broken and just hanging there. I got it down and asked the Lumber Yard to have a gutter crew fix it. I also reached out to them to get us quotes on getting the front door at the Fire Station and the Senior Citizens replaced. They are both rusty, and the senior citizens' door is starting to rust out at the bottom. I haven't received anything back for this. The fire station door was talked about getting repainted a few years ago, but it never got done.

Electrical Superintendent

Chance Boyd

BUILDING PERMIT

APPLICATION

Chance was looking through our building permits and noticing that a lot of the ordinances were not up to date or we didn't have one. So, Chance went through it and updated what he could, and Cindy updated the amounts of the fees. As we were adjusting a few things, Cindy noticed that the building permit on the website is completely different from anything we had. It was the consensus of the council to start using the new one with the new ordinances.

Mayor Bode brought attention to the rates of the building permit and asked if that is necessary to have that on there. Both Darin and Chance told the council that most of the

time during the construction phase, they have to go up there a couple of times, and it just helps cover the cost.

Elevator (Jim Page)

Cindy was in contact with Travis Weich and he won't be available until around 7:15 p.m.. Mayor Bode suggested that we move on until Travis comes and we will go back to it once he arrives.

So next on the agenda is amending the Ordinance § 92.37.

Amending the Ordinance §92.37

1st Reading: 2-9-26

2nd Reading:3-9-26

Date Adopted:3-9-26

Date Published:3-19-26

Effective Date:4-9-26

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03-09

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §92.37 OF THE CITY CODE OF

PLANKINTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, REGARDING THE TIME JUNK MOTOR VEHICLES MAY BE PARKED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton previously adopted §92.37, including §92.37 (B), of the City Code of the City of Plankinton prohibiting the parking of junk motor vehicles on private property for more than 120 days; and

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton now finds it necessary and expedient to amend §92.37 (B) so as to reduce the time a junk motor vehicle may be parked on private property if it is intended by the owner in good faith to be repaired to 90 days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Plankinton, Aurora County, South Dakota, the following

For purposes of modifying and amending the provisions of §92.37 (B) regarding the time a junk motor vehicle may be parked on private property, §92.37 of the City Code of the City of Plankinton is amended to provide the following:

**§ 92.37 PARKING OF JUNK MOTOR VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY PROHIBITED.
REMOVAL PROCEDURE.**

No person shall park any junk motor vehicle or permit any junk motor vehicle owned by him or her to be parked on any private property except:

- A. If it is parked in a closed structure or junk enclosure as specified in §§ 92.50 through 92.53; or

- A. A junk motor vehicle that is intended in good faith by the owner to be repaired may be parked on private property for a period not to exceed 90 consecutive days.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, whether standing alone or codified to the Plankinton City Code, which are in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Subject to the provisions of the referendum, this Ordinance shall be in force and effective twenty-one (21) days following publication.

Adopted this day, March 9th, 2026.

Mayor Carl H. Bode

ATTEST:
Cindy Geiman

City Finance Officer

Roll Call Vote was taken, since this is the second reading. Nielsen-aye, Terry- aye, DeEtte-aye, Amber-aye, DeGeest- aye, Popek-Hurst- aye. The ayes have it motion passed.

Junk Properties

There is one case for vehicles that Popek-Hurst and Green investigated. The address is 201 E 1st Street for a White GMC Yukon. South side of the house along Sanborn Street. The vehicle has not moved in 90 days. Popek-Hurst suggested that we send the first initial letter tomorrow. The owner of the vehicle stated that he was going to sell the car in December, and it still hasn't moved.

Nielsen also wanted to bring to the city's attention a vehicle parked on the city right-of-way again. He would like the sheriff's office to issue a citation and leave it as is.

Nielsen also discussed some properties he has on his list. The house on 1st Street, which is now under Will's name, is being prepared for demolition now that they have the title. The other house, which is at 508 N Duff. Nielsen suggested that we have Mr. Taylor, the City Attorney, write him a letter requesting that he state his intentions regarding the property.

NEW BUSINESS:

Set Date for City-Wide Cleanup

Council person Popek-Hurst asks if the City Council could set a date so she can let Alan Birmeier from L&L know. Some suggestions were discussed, and it was decided that the first weekend in May would work best. Then we don't have to worry so much about the weather, and it corresponds to when we used to have City-Wide Clean-Up. So, the council set a date for May 2nd from 9-1. We will also put an ad in the paper, like we did last year, that if they need help moving stuff, some of the high school kids or VFW would like to do it.

Elevator (Jim Page)

Travis Weich arrived around 7:15 p.m. as a representative for Dakota Growers to discuss any questions the council might have regarding the building permit they submitted. Popek-Hurst asked to break it down while the building permit was passed around. Travis stated that the plan is to go west of their current system on Commerce on the south side of the road. Put in a new leg, dump pit, and one 750,000-bushel bin as of right now. With the possibility of adding another one down the road. Superintendent Chance has been in contact with their electrical contractor and is working on some of the details. As the

building permit was handed around to the council, numerous questions were asked and answered by Travis. In the end, the building permit was approved.

Rodeway Inn

At the owners' request, building inspector Jim Nielsen conducted the annual inspection at the Rodeway Inn in Plankinton. Building Inspector Jim Nielsen did the annual inspection on March 6th, 2026. He was very impressed that when he walked in, they had Carbon Monoxide detectors throughout the hotel. Nielsen went into a couple of rooms and inspected them, and they passed. So, he passed the hotel. The owners of the hotel ask him if they would have prospective buyers; would Nielsen meet with them. Nielsen said he would be available to meet with them.

Tree Project- PLANT-IT

Councilmember Popek-Hurst reported that last year, we planted ten trees. This year, a grant of \$10,000 is available, and we must apply by the end of the month. Popek-Hurst then presented an initiative for the community. An opportunity for our residents to buy and donate a tree to the city. The cost of the tree, planting, and basic care would be \$200.00 per tree. We are also going to give them a certificate of donation for the contribution that we will set up in city hall. There are two planting sessions, spring or fall. Popek-Hurst explained that they would plant 10 to 15 trees per season. The registration form will include a list of trees that thrive in this area. A discussion was held on what if the tree dies? What would we do if someone bought a tree and it dies? Some people might be a little upset that they bought a tree, and it died. Whose responsibility is it? Not all transplanted trees make it said Superintendent Darin Cranny. Some discussion was held on what to do if the tree dies. Some council members suggest adding a disclaimer to the paperwork, stating that the city is not liable if the tree dies. Council member Bohr said that the Central Electric Operation Roundup grant applications will open soon and are due May 1st, 2026. Council member Jim Nielsen also stated that the grant he filed for last year is coming up again this year, and asked Popek-Hurst if he should include trees on that grant. You can always add trees as a backup said Popek-Hurst. Popek-Hurst tabled the PLANT-IT program until she comes back with a better proposal on how to deal with trees that die that people purchase.

GWorks Rates

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman said she contacted someone at GWorks about the ACH raises, and as stated, any amount from 0-500 is \$3.00, and 500.01 to 1000.00 is \$4.00, and so forth. Before Cindy started, or maybe one or two times, we did all ACH's through Farmers and Merchants Bank. Cindy stated that she was told it's a 7.00 flat rate, plus 0.05 cents per transaction after that. Kelsey wasn't in and won't be in until Wednesday, so Cindy

couldn't verify the numbers. This information sat a lot better with the council than the GWorks fees. A lot of council members received earfuls about the new rates. The new rates are easier but not cost-efficient for the members of the community. We would lose a lot of ACH customers, putting more strain on the Finance Office handling checks and risking delinquent accounts and possible late fees with the current mail situation. The finance officer was going to get a hold of Kelsey at the bank on Wednesday and report to the council. The council then asked what about credit card fees? Cindy told them that there has always been a fee attached to them. And when they sign up for credit cards, we always let them know there is a fee associated with them.

Water Rates

Council member Nielsen said some citizens are concerned about our water rates. They are asking why they get charged for 5000 gallons when they use less than that every month? Nielsen wanted to bring it to the council to gather information and input from other council members and city employees. Superintendent Cranny said that first, if you do it for one, you must do it for all. With this year's raise, we are finally above the \$55.00 threshold that is required to have if we want to qualify for loans to do a big project in town. And if you choose to lower the rates by even \$5.00 per customer per month, the city will lose \$25,000 worth of income. And at that cost, we'd be lucky to be able to replace one fire hydrant in town with the money we'd have left over. If a \$10-a-month decrease, you would lose \$50,000. We would have to borrow money every month or every year to keep our budget afloat. This is why we raised rates every year: we are losing money in the water department.

We have quite a few hydrants to replace in the town. At \$4,000-\$ 5,000 per hydrant, we might have enough to do one a year by just losing the approximate \$5 per month average. Besides the ones that need to be replaced, we have many more aging ones that will need to be replaced in the not-too-distant future. We also have some dead-end lines in town that should be eliminated for better water quality. We also have some areas where 2-3 homes share only 1-inch to 1 ¼-inch lines, and most of these are dead ends. These need to be replaced with a larger main line. If we have any development in any area, we need to add a water line; we need money for that. If we have any main water breaks, we need money to repair them.

Added to all of this is the fact that everything is getting more expensive. Also, if you change water rates, I'd think you should change sewer rates as it's based on 5000 gallons usage too. We're already broke in the sewer fund.

Nielsen also brought up how long we have to keep important records? While at city hall he noticed Morgen putting newspapers in a box and putting that box back in the safe. Finance

Officer Cindy said that the SD Municipal League has a standard time frame that you have to keep certain items. She will look it up and report back to the council at the next meeting in her report.

Building Permits

Council member and Building Inspector Nielsen has two other building permits he wants to discuss. One is for TJ Scott at 208 E 2nd Street. Lot 4, 5 and part of 6 block 1 Central Addition. Which includes new basement and new addition. Building Permit approved.

The next building permit is for Brad Kehn at 203 E Pennington Street, Lot 2 through 7, Block 9, East Addition, for the purpose of adding on to the existing garage, revising his previous building permit. Building Permit approved.

Supplemental Ordinance 2025-12

ORDINANCE No. 2025-12

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

Be it ordained by the City of Plankinton that the following sums be appropriated to meet the obligations of the municipality.

101 General General Fund

41210 Mayor \$ 1,262.88

41400 Financial Admin \$ 33,676.89

41900 Govt Bldgs. \$ 621.42

42100 Police \$ 2,000.00

46150 Pool \$ 14,749.57

Total General Appropriations \$ 52310.76

602 Water Water fund

43300-42900 Other Current Expense \$136.84

Total Water Appropriations \$136.84

604 Sewer Sewer Fund

43250-42200 Professional Services and Fees \$1,508,089.63

Total Sewer Appropriations \$1,508,089.63

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS \$ 1,560,537.23

The monies are derived from funds on hand and Federal Grants.

This Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after publication.

First Reading February 9th, 2026

Second Reading March 9nd, 2026

Publication and Adoption March 19th, 2026

Signed: Carl H. Bode, Mayor

Attest: Cindy Geiman, Finance Officer

Roll Call vote: Nielsen - aye, Schuldt - aye, Bohr - aye, Green - aye, DeGeest - aye, and Popek-Hurst - aye. The ayes have it.

Corn Crib Land

Resolution

Nielsen made a motion to approve the corn crib resolution, and a second from Popek-Hurst. All voted aye, motion carried.

Equalization Meeting School Representative.

(Rodney Faulhaber)

Mayor Bode wanted approval to have Rodney Faulhaber represent the school at next week's Equalization meeting. No one disagreed. So Rodney Faulhaber has been nominated to represent the Plankinton School District.

Morgen's Resignation Letter

Finance officer Cindy Geiman read Morgen Mahrt's resignation letter to the council for her last day on March 27th. Motion to accept the resignation letter made by DeGeest, seconded by Green. All voted aye, the motion carried. Mayor Bode would like to wish her well in her future endeavors and appreciates the job she has done.

Executive Session-

Personnel SDCL 1-25-2 (1)

Nielsen made a motion to go into executive session with Popek-Hurst. All Voted aye, Motion Passed. The council, along with Finance Officer Cindy Geiman, went into executive session at 8:24 p.m. They came out of executive session at 8:38 with no action taken.

Magdalena made a motion to hire a part-time, flexible-hours deputy finance officer. 20-30 hours per week at a rate of \$20.00 with a 90-day probational period. Schuldt seconded the motion. All voted aye motion carried.

Superintendent Darin Cranny

Maintenance Report

We all attended the safety training the day after the last council meeting.

The next day was the day rural water shut our water down for the day so they could make their connection of the new line south of Stickney. I came in early to check things and back in late after they got done, but all went well.

One outage on Valentine's Day, I was on call for that. Chance came in and took care of it.

I had one day working at the west RU site, cleaning up some things.

We have a short section of sewer line (40-45 feet) that needs to be replaced. The only place that connects to this is the lumberyard. It's in the alley west of their office, comes out of the manhole in the alley and goes south for the 40 feet or so, then dead-ends. Honestly, I didn't know it ran there until last year; we never had any problems before. Recently, it has been plugged in a couple of times. I'm guessing it has partially collapsed or partially broken

where solids are hanging up. I'm looking at getting local bids to fix this. At this point, we are out of money available for our sewer project anyway, so we are better off just getting it done this way.

The rest of my month was at the jail pond again. I have all the rock work done. I estimate I put around 300 tons of rock around it. I have some dirt work to do on the island and around the outside in some areas, along with putting some more red rock on the bridge. Not too much left though. Once it warms up for good, I will drag the dirt and get it all seeded. I'm hoping to get everything done except the final prep and seeding this week.

Finance Officers Report

The first week of February, Morgen was gone, so that kept me busy. Then we had payroll, shut-offs, and a council meeting. After the meeting, typing the minutes kept me busy the rest of the week.

We celebrated Presidents' Day, and I was gone that Wednesday of that week.

Morgen found more cemetery stuff that she could do, so she worked on that. And worked on junk vehicles quite a bit this month. Making sure I know who is up for the hearings. And worked on getting the new junk vehicles mailed and filed away.

Due to Chance and Darin's children being sick, we had to postpone the Employee Appreciation. No date has been set yet.

Chance and I worked on the demand readings, waited for Sensus and GWorks to get a hold of us to make sure it went smoothly, which didn't. Now we must contact them again to get it right for March's Bill, without having to correct each bill afterward.

I took quite a bit of time off the first week of March. While I was gone, Morgen got the signage done on the front door. I really like how it stands out.

We have had a lot of complaints about the changing of the rates that GWorks surprised us with.

Mayor's Report

The city has ordered a 250th Anniversary flag, which has arrived. It looks very nice!

Amber and I held a Meet & Greet on Saturday, Feb 14, at the Senior Center. Thank you to those who showed up and shared their ideas.

We had a peddler in the neighborhood on Sun, Feb 15, selling meat. They did not have a peddler's permit with the city. Deputy Kyle called me to inquire about whether they had a permit. The peddlers left town before Deputy Kyle caught up with them.

Cindy, Morgen, Magdalena, Jim, and I met on Thursday, Feb 19, to finalize the Junk Vehicles procedures we need to follow to minimize confusion about who performs which tasks and when. Hopefully, this becomes a turnkey operation and reaches the point where we have fewer and fewer vehicles to deal with.

Morgen's last day as our Deputy Finance Officer will be March 27. We wish Morgen the best in her future endeavors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Carl H. Bode

Attest:

Cindy Geiman

Finance Officer