

May 5th, 2025, Meeting Minutes of the Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met on May 5th, 2025, for a regular meeting.

Members Present included Mayor Carl Bode and council members Magdalena Popek-Hurst, Jim Nielsen, Terry Schuldt, and DeEtte Bohr.

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

Gayle Van Genderen, representing the South Dakota Mail, council members elect Amber Green and Nathan DeGeest, City Atty. James Taylor, Curt Nelson and Brad Green.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Bode informed the council that the Fire/Ambulance Lease will be tabled until the June 2nd, 2025, meeting. Popek-Hurst motioned to approve the agenda by deleting the Fire/Ambulance Lease, with Nielsen seconding. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

Nielsen moved to approve the bills to pay, and Magdalena seconded it. All voted aye, and the motion passed.

A&B BUSINESS- IT CONTRACT-\$495.96; A&B SOLUTIONS- COMPUTER/IPAD- \$254.34; AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING-NEW ORDINANCES PUBLISHING-\$243.89; AURORA BRULE WATER- WATER PURCHASING-\$7513.00; AVERA HEALTH PLANS- INSURANCE-\$4481.12; BELL BANK- MINI EXCAVATOR- \$919.42; BELL BANK- SKID LOADER- \$867.73; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP- 24 HOUR TIMER- \$132.37; DELTA DENTAL- DENTAL INSURANCE- \$268.30; DGR ASSOCIATES- ENGINEERS FEES- \$1260.00; FARMERS AND MERCHANTS- PAYROLL FEES-\$7.50; GOLDEN WEST- UTILITIES- \$498.67; HEARTLAND LOANS- APRIL LOANS-\$2483.36; HOMETOWN FAMILY HEALTH- DRUG TESTING- \$40.00; J&D CONTRACTION- 1ST MOWING- \$1500.00; JD CONCRETE- CONCRETE AT POOL- \$1205.50; L&L SANITATION- CLEANUP DAY AND GARBAGE-\$3272.50; MAIROSE & STEELE- 1099 AND W2'S-\$1441.46; MC&R POOL- POOL PAINT-\$3673.92; MENARDS- CABINET-\$97.00; OVERWEGS- SUPPLIES/MAINTENANCE-\$319.31; PLANKINTON LUMBER YARD- SUPPLIES AND REPAIRS-\$906.61; ROADSIDE-FUEL PURCHASES- 323.08; SD DEPT OF HEALTH- WATER TESTING- \$15.00; SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION- FUEL PURCHASE- \$284.66; SD MAIL-PUBLISHING- \$2075.13; SD MUNICIPAL LEAGUE- FINANCE OFFICER SCHOOL-\$75.00; SPN ENGINEERS- PROFESSIONAL FEES- \$9486.32; VESTIS- RUGS- \$37.41; VISA- SUPPLIES-\$3437.25, VISION SERVICE PLAN- VISION INSURANCE- \$175.43, WEALTH MANAGEMENT- DRINKING WATER LOAN- \$7818.59; WEALTH MANAGEMENT- \$11,190.58; WESCO- SUPPLIES- \$51.79.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nielsen moved to approve the minutes from April 11th, 2025. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Magdalena Popek-Hurst addressed the council to request that \$500.00 be set aside in next year's budget for Community Safety Day, held in October 2026. This event will provide valuable safety training for residents, offer opportunities for local businesses, and recognize and support our first responders.

Curt Nelsen, representing National Foods, came to inform the council that they had been affected by avian influenza and had completely depopulated the layer barns as of last night. To stop the virus, they had to eliminate the chickens. The health department monitors the employees most exposed to chickens by checking in daily to see if they are feeling well or beginning to run a fever. Eliminating 650,000 birds due to avian influenza and starting to rebuild is a process that doesn't happen overnight. The pullet farm, which is two miles to the east, has 200,000 birds, 100,000 of which are 2 weeks old, and the other 100,000 are 12 weeks old. They are following USDA and state guidelines to get back up and running.

OATH OF OFFICE

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman administered the oath of office to Mayor Bode. After which, Mayor Bode administered the Oath to councilmembers Terry Schuldt and Amber Green, Ward I; Magdalena Popek-Hurst and DeEtte Bohr, Ward II and Jim Nielsen and Nathan DeGeest, Ward III.

REORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Nielsen motioned to nominate Popek-Hurst as President, and Schuldt seconded it. All voted aye, and the motion passed.

DeGeest made a motion to nominate to keep Bohr as Vice President, and Nielsen seconded it. All voted aye, motion carried.

Mayor Bode appointed the following members to each committee:

Committee Appointments

Building Inspector: Jim Nielsen

Health Officer: Darin Cranny

Electrical: DeEtte Bohr (chair), Nathan DeGeest

Water/Sewer: Terry Schuldt (chair), Jim Nielsen

Pool/Parks/Rec: Magdalena Popek-Hurst (chair), Amber Green

Streets/Alleys: Nathan DeGeest (chair), Terry Schuldt

Cemetery: Amber Green (chair), DeEtte Bohr

Nuisance Properties: Jim Nielsen (chair), Magdalena Popek-Hurst.

OLD BUSINESS

JUNK VEHICLE ORDINANCE

Reads as follows:

1st Reading: April 7th, 2025

2nd Reading: May 5th, 2025

Date Adopted: May 5th, 2025

Date Published: May 15th, 2025

Effective Date: June 4th, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 05-05-1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §92.35 OF THE CITY CODE OF PLANKINTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, REGARDING

JUNK MOTOR VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton previously adopted §92.35 of the City Code of the City of Plankinton defining junk motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton now finds it necessary and expedient to amend the aforesaid §92.35 so as to include campers, trailers, motor homes, and recreational vehicles within the definition of junk motor vehicles;

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

For purposes of defining the term “motor vehicle” under §92.35 of the City Code of the City of Plankinton

- a. Subsection (1) thereof is amended by inserting “or towable” at the end thereof;
- a. Subsection (2) thereof is amended by inserting “or towable” following the word “driveable”; and

- a. the section thereof entitled **MOTOR VEHICLES** is amended by striking the period at the end of such subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“and any camper or camper trailer or travel trailer designed for camping and travel and offering facilities used, or intended, for sleeping, cooking, shelter, or other dwelling use and designed or modified to be towed behind, or carried upon, a vehicle designed to be propelled by power other than muscle power.”

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 effective twenty (20) days following publication.

Adopted this day, May 5th, 2025

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Finance Officer

Nielsen made a motion to approve ordinance 2025-05-05-1 Popek-Hurst seconded it. All voted aye, motion carried.

DELINQUENT UTILITY BILL ORDINANCE

The council read over the ordinance and made no changes. Popek-Hurst motioned to approve the ordinance 2025-05-05-2, with DeGeest seconding the motion. All voted aye, and the first reading passed.

TOWING CONTRACT

The council members reviewed the towing contract for junked vehicles with Overweg Auto, Glass and Fuel, LLC of Plankinton. Some date changes need to be addressed, so the council agreed to the contract pending the changes. DeGeest motioned to accept the contract with date changes, and Nielsen seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

WELLS/RESOLUTION GRANT No. 5-5-2025

With Atty. Taylor's help, Nielsen put this resolution together so he could finish applying for a grant through the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks. This grant is a 50/50 grant, meaning that SDGFP would give us 50% of the cost while the community would have to come up with the other 50%. If approved, we would have 18 months to complete the project. The estimated cost is \$25,414, so our

share would be roughly \$12,700.00. Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the resolution, and Schuldt seconded it. All voted aye, motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-5-2025

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR A

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton, Aurora County, South Dakota, hereafter “City,” desires to apply for a grant from the South Dakota Department of Game Fish & Parks, hereafter “SDGFP,” Land and Water Conservation Fund, hereafter “LWCF”; and

WHEREAS, the SDGFP *Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application Manual 2015* states that the LWCF was established to provide financial assistance to, among other things, develop outdoor recreation resources; and

WHEREAS, City desires to participate in this grant program to the greatest extent possible as a means of enhancing the City’s Jail House Pond and West Side Park by providing a stable source of non-potable water for the pond and park for fishing and other outdoor recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified the need for a stable source of non-potable water for the Jail House Pond and West Side Park as a high priority City need; and

WHEREAS, City currently has an old well located in a dilapidated wellhouse located in or adjacent to Lot 19, Block 11, Miracle & Clarks 1st Addition to the City of Plankinton, Aurora County, South Dakota, the same being adjacent to West Side Park and the Jail House Pond, the latter being located in Block 12, of the said Miracle & Clarks 1st Addition; and

WHEREAS, both the well and wellhouse are in significant need of improvement, reconstruction, and renovation, if not, in the case of the wellhouse, complete removal and building of a new wellhouse and associated structures; and

WHEREAS, City has available local matching funds to fulfill its share of obligations related to a SDGFP LWCF grant application should the grant funds be awarded; and

WHEREAS, City will provide adequate funding for on-going operation and maintenance of the renovated, reconstructed well and wellhouse serving Jail House Pond and West Side Park should the grant funds be awarded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLANKINTON, AURORA COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council demonstrates its support for, and authorizes the submittal of, a grant application to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks for funds equaling no less than one-half (1/2) of the costs of rehabilitation, renovation, and reconstruction of the well and well house, and associated pipes, drains, valves, controls, and overflow and control structures so as to safely and consistently deliver non-potable water to the Jail House Pond and West Side Park.

Adopted this 5th day of May, 2025.

Mayor

Attest:

Cindy Geiman

Finance Officer

LIFEGUARD/TICKET TAKERS

Magdalena presented four applications for lifeguards and one ticket taker to the council. Nielsen made a motion to hire returning lifeguards Astrea Black and Celina Trisco, both at \$15.00/hour, new lifeguards Addisyn Everson and Madalynn Lorang, both at \$14.00/hour, and ticket taker Paula Silva at \$13.00 per hour. Seconded by Bohr, all voted aye, and the motion carried. So, the pool is now staffed with nine lifeguards and two ticket takers.

PAST DUE BILLS

The list is getting shorter; four people have yet to pay. They have until the 7th to pay, or their service will be shut off.

NEW BUSINESS

STUDENT VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Popek-Hurst contacted the seven students and Mrs. Victor to invite them to our council meeting. However, things came up, and they were unable to attend. Popek-Hurst wanted to give them their certificate of accomplishment for helping plant trees and during cleanup days. It was suggested to Popek-Hurst that perhaps Mrs. Victor could present them at the upcoming achievement program held on Thursday, May 8th. Popek-Hurst planned to reach out to Mrs. Victor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nielsen moved to enter the executive session at 7:35 for legal reasons, and Schuldt seconded. All voted aye, and the motion passed. Mayor Bode asked Mr. Taylor, Cindy Geiman, and Darin Cranny to stay.

They came out of the executive session at 8:49 p.m., stating that the council has found numerous irregularities with the billing for sewer and water during the transition to GWorks, dating back to January 2023. Some customers were underbilled, and some customers were overbilled. The council is going to take action to correct the billing. For the customers that the city owes, the city will pay the difference back to them, and for the people who were underbilled, we will contact them to inform them of the balance. We will encourage them to try to settle to be fair to the city, and they will see increases in future bills. The council will be reviewing some of our current ordinances concerning shared services. There are 11 accounts in total; there are three accounts that the city owes money to, and the remaining accounts owe the city. The account holders will be contacted individually and correct billing as soon as we can.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Lucinda Overweg submitted her resignation to Head Librarian Carrie Brink. Lucinda's last day will be May 17th. Nielsen made a motion to accept Lucinda's resignation, which Green seconded. Everyone voted aye; the motion carried. We are looking to advertise for a library assistant. Should we consider increasing the salary before placing an ad in the paper? The library board was at \$12.00/ hour. After some discussion, Popek-Hurst motioned to raise the salary to \$13.00 per hour. Nielsen seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the motion passed.

DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman requested that the council consider a full-time deputy to assist me and work on the cemetery during the spring, summer, and fall. I just don't have time to manage everything. I plan on taking a few days off in the upcoming months, and it would be beneficial to have someone here. DeGeest stated it would be a good check and balance system, and if they have always had a full-time deputy, why change it now? DeGeest motioned to advertise for a full-time deputy at \$20.00/hour with benefits and a 90-day probation period. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

FINANCE OFFICER SCHOOL

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman asked the council if she could attend finance officer school June 11-13. Leave on the night of the 10th. I will forward phones to me and put an ad in the SD Mail that the office will be closed from the 11th to the 13th. I will have access to my computer from Pierre, so I can still work from there if anyone needs to pay a bill online or check incoming emails. Popek-Hurst

motioned to allow Cindy to attend F.O. school June 11-13 in Pierre. Nielsen seconded the motion; all voted aye. The motion passed.

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER

Three applications have been submitted for the seasonal maintenance worker position. The council decided to give the board hiring authority since it is such a short season, so they don't have to wait until the June Meeting to get someone hired. Popek-Hurst doesn't mind doing the interviews; she just won't be around for the June 2nd Meeting to recap them. Nielsen made a motion to give the authority to the hiring committee to go ahead and hire then vote at our June 2nd meeting. Magdalena seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

PLANT- IT TREE PROJECT

This is a tree project where community members purchase a tree for a loved one or a good cause. They will receive a certificate to display in the hallway at City Hall, indicating that they donated a tree to either the parks or the cemetery. If available, they will complete an application that includes their preferred season, tree type, and location. The cost for a tree, water bag, and maintenance is \$200.00. It was suggested that they consider implementing a tier system, such as offering a tree for \$ 100.00 if the owner agrees to take care of it. Additionally, it was proposed that Popek-Hurst include a disclaimer stating they are not responsible for trees that do not survive. Bohr mentioned that she would like to see a different general fund account created for this tree project.

ROC DINING SERVICE

ROC requests \$ 1890.00 for the ROC Dining Service from October 2025 to September 2026. Discussion was held regarding the number of meals, costs, last year's donation, and whether the location will be open during the requested period. It was decided to table the vote until closer to October and to see if Commerce Steet is still open for senior meals.

ANNUAL REPORT

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman had the Annual Report available to examine. However, she didn't have time to review it because it was presented so late in the day. Mayor Bode agreed to let council members have time to review and discuss this at our next meeting.

BUILDING PERMITS

There were two building permits, one for Scott Black and the other for Jim Nielsen himself. Scott Black turned in a building permit for an 8' x 1'2 cement pad at Lot 1, Block 1 Addition, East Addition and Nielsen turned one in for an ADA ramp for his house at Lot 10 and W 15' of Lot 11, Block 3, Miracle and Clarks 2nd Addition. Both permits were approved.

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

We spent a couple of days fixing some roads. We've got a lot more to do and plan on doing more of that next week. I got a call on our chip seal, and they are coming at the end of this month or possibly the beginning of next month, so we need to get all the roads I plan on sealing fixed up as well as possible before they come.

I worked quite a few days in the office this month. For two of those days, I worked on the lead service line inventory for DANR. Once I had that done and approved, they added seven more columns to fill out.

I've had some time tied up in the sewer project again this month. I talked to the road guy this morning; they are moving equipment here starting tomorrow. It will probably be a couple of weeks before any asphalt is laid. A guy in town has already been dressing up the ditches and areas where they had piled dirt during the project. Seeding should be done this month. The crew lining the existing clay we did not replace should also be here later this month.

We got a new skid loader. We had so many steel hydraulic lines break on the other one. One line was 6-7 times. 2 Two other had a couple of times each. I kept complaining/bitching to the salesman. Towards the end, they came out here to fix it instead of sending me a line to do. I did it before as we didn't have to pay mileage to have them come, even though it was under warranty. It lasted 2 hours after they came out. Then they came and hauled it back to fix it and returned it 2 days later. It lasted a few more hours, then broke again. I had already been after the salesman for a couple of months about getting us a new one to replace this one. After it broke the last time, they had our new one in stock and out here the next morning. I need to get with him when I slow down a little bit to discuss if we are on a new 5-year lease or just finishing out our original lease from before with the new one.

We've been up to the pool park a lot this month. We got the new wood chips in the original playground, built a new surround for the swings, installed the new little kids swings that the pool committee bought, and filled the surround with wood chips. We also put up the canopy that the pool committee purchased on the north end of the pool. Besides all of that, we cleaned the pool. Barry and Chance painted it while I was finishing up the canopy. Dirt work is done around everything, and I am watering as much as possible to get the grass up before the pool opens. We also ripped out all of the dead bushes remaining around the park, put down more black dirt, and seeded it. It looks much better and will look even better once we get grass. I started filling the pool this afternoon.

Darin is aware of the letter that the entire council received and examined the spots on the map included with Schuldts. Darin stated, "If we don't have a good road to start with, how do we punish H&W for leaving the marks? If we start complaining about every little thing we will never have a contractor work for us again." On the good roads that we do have, there isn't a mark on the road. Nielsen stated that it is nice to have letters of concern, but if they don't have the nerve to sign it, we shouldn't even acknowledge it.

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

We didn't have any outages this month.

Barry and I installed and buried cable to our panel stand for West Side Park. We haven't energized it yet, as I have some other work to do before then. Once this is done, we will add outlets and some lights in the picnic shelter. We buried a spare conduit over for some bathrooms that we had planned for a while. A few years ago, I buried a 3" conduit to the East of the soccer field as well for some future lights.

This month, most of the work I've done has been at the pool and ballfields. I helped with the new swing area and canopy on the North side of the pool and painted the pool and baby pool.

I had Cindy order some supplies for the pool and ballfields. She ordered TP, paper towels, garbage bags, hand soap, and some smelly stuff for the toilets.

Barry and I started working on the sprinkler system at the ballfields last Thursday. We ended up replacing 25 sprinkler heads and will have 4 more to replace when our others show up tomorrow. Most of the sprinkler heads we replaced are the originals, and the plastic gears inside get stripped out over time. We also tried to get the spray pattern so it doesn't spray on the baselines, as they get flooded with too much water.

We received \$5000 from Heartland Energy for our rate study. We have a couple of plaques they would like us to hang up somewhere in the office.

Planning to start spraying out at the ballfields tomorrow.

I will have Blair with DGR come in either June or July to go over everything that we discussed during the first part of the rate study. He will be able to answer any questions and hopefully explain everything better than I can for you.

We will probably plan to finish this month helping Darin get things ready for the summer before we start working on underground projects. We can do a few things to fill in some gaps if needed.

My son was born on the 18th, so I took the following week off to stay home with my family. Everyone is doing well.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

After the election, I wrote the minutes from the meeting, cleaned up after the election, and organized all the election materials.

Did all the quarter reports around the first week of April, had the special meeting, and did minutes that next week. Worked on the end-of-the-month reports for Chance and Darin.

In addition to my regular daily duties, I spent about two weeks preparing reports for Carl and Darin.

I assisted Magdalena with additional interviews for lifeguard and ticket-taker positions. I organized all the binders that lifeguards and ticket takers require. I reviewed the Pool Policy Handbooks and made a few changes, after which I printed them. I also printed the sheets they will sign after reading the policy handbooks. This year, we are creating name badges for individuals with a pool pass. This will help ticket takers identify who has pool passes and who claims to have one. Consequently, I prepared those to start selling. I have contacted the lifeguards and informed them of the training we will have on May 19th, along with a scheduling meeting that afternoon.

I've been working off and on with Ross at A & B to fix our computer issues that DSU found. They provide this service for free.

With Carl's approval, I will take off on Friday at 3:00. I will just forward phones early and shut the office down, as no one else is bonded to take money right now.

MAYOR REPORT

Worked with Darin and Cindy regarding issues with water and sewer billing.

I helped with the city-wide cleanup on April 12, unloading vehicles and pitching in the dumpsters. This cleanup effort was a great success, considering how much junk we collected and hauled away. Many thanks to Alan for all his hard work and for having the dumpsters available.

We celebrated Arbor Day on April 25, and our youth generously donated time to plant trees around West Park and the jail pond.

Helped the VFW with the Day of Service on May 3, scrubbing down the memorial statues in front of the courthouse in preparation for painting.

I'm working with Lori Jones to get the Pickleball court open for the season. I spent Sunday afternoon power washing the court for paint preparation. I plan on spending Monday painting the court and Wednesday evening, May 7, setting up the posts and net.

The city council members and I received an anonymous letter from a concerned citizen regarding the damage to the roads from the excavator during the sewer construction project. Most of the highlighted map pointed to areas that were part of the sewer project. I drove around the other highlighted map areas that were not part of the sewer project (notably parts of west Pennington and east Commerce). Marks from the excavator were pretty minor. Campbell/Union street was also highlighted, but I did not notice any excavator tracks. We'll have to see how the streets look after H&W finishes resurfacing the streets.

Looking ahead, I am going to the Energize! Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday (May 6-7) in Platte and will bring back a report after the conference on what I've learned.

I will regretfully miss the Memorial Day service this year, travelling to Plano, TX for my brother's wedding.

ROUND TABLE

Popek-Hurst will not be at the June Meeting so if you need anything to contact her before she leaves or wait until she comes back.

DeGeest will be gone this month and will be back on the 24th, and it should be good for the June and July meetings.

Nielsen and three state officials will walk through a business on May 8th to determine whether building codes are still being violated.

Schuldt will be absent for the July meeting. However, he is happy to see a full council table.

Adjourn at 9:53 pm

Carl Bode

Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Geiman,

Finance Officer