

CITY COUNCIL
PROCEEDINGS

The Plankinton city council met in special session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30th, 2024.

Members present were Mayor Brad Kehn, Council Members Jack Marette, Terry Schuldt, Jim Nielsen, Magdalena Popek-Hurst joined at 6:08 p.m. Jason Schurz joined at 6:27 pm. Absent was Carl Bode.

City employees were Maintenance Supt. Darin Cranny, Deputy Finance Officer Cindy Geiman and Finance Officer Kylee Urban. Visitors included Pat Knigge, Camden Hofer of SPN, Paul Coon, Leah & Chris Schleuning, Gayle Van Genderen Studeny, Nick Zonowsky of SPN, Steve Bucher, Maxine Schroeder and Rory Nagel with H & W contracting.

Mayor Kehn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

APPROVAL

Mayor Kehn entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Mayor's report. Marette made a motion to approve the agenda with addition. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

Nielsen made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HEARTLAND-POWER LOAN-\$2483.36; BORDER STATES-ELEC SUPPLIES-\$658.03; GOLDEN WEST-UTILITIES-\$503.67; A & B BUSINESS-IT CONTRACT-\$495.96; CARRIE BRINK-SUPPLY REIMB-\$122.27; L & L SANITATION-GARBAGE SERVICES-\$100.00; VESERIS-MOSQUITO CHEMICAL-\$2885.18; DARRINGTON-OFFICE WATER-\$8.00; NORTHWESTERN PIPE FITTINGS-STOCK SUPPLY-\$621.75; PLANKINTON LUMBER-SUPPLIES-\$793.69; PLANKINTON LUMBER-BALLFIELD TREATED POSTS-\$1939.80; HAWKINS-POOL CHEM SUPPLY-\$3100.52; WESCO-ELEC SUPPLIES-\$3248.80; DOLLAR GENERAL-SUPPLIES-\$24.96; VESTIS-RUG CONTRACT-\$35.97; DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY-POWER PURCHASE-\$12536.29; HEARTLAND-POWER PURCHASE-\$22952.53; EAST RIVER ELECTRIC-WHEELING FEES-\$3826.64; IRBY-ELEC SUPPLIES-\$17.00; SD 811-MESSAGE FEES-\$24.15; AVERA OCC HEALTH-DRUG TESTING-\$71.00; VERIZON WIRELESS-TOWER INT/SURFACE PRO/HS-\$132.18; AVERA HEALTH PLANS-EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS-\$5435.00; GUARDIAN-EMPLOYEE STD, LTD & LIFE-\$398.30; AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING-ORDINANCE UPDATES-\$518.31; KASE BROUWER-JULY MOWINGS-\$5600.00; DELTA DENTAL-EMPLOYEE DENTAL INS-\$378.20; VISION SERVICE PLAN-EMPLOYEE VISION INS-\$167.26; SD DEPT OF HEALTH-WATER TESTING-\$82.00; A & B BUSINESS SOLUTIONS-EQUIPMENT LEASING-\$269.19; TOSHIBA FINANCIAL-COPIER CONTRACT-\$178.79; SD DOT-FUEL/PAINT PURCHASE-\$950.96; KYLEE URBAN-TRAVEL REIMB-\$128.38; CINDY GEIMAN-TRAVEL REIMB-\$128.38; BARNES & NOBLE-BOOK PURCHASE-\$18.99; ROADSIDE-FUEL PURCHASES-\$970.50; KROHMER AGENCY-FIRE DEPT. INSURANCE RENEWAL-\$4060.00; RONS MARKER-SUPPLIES-\$343.26; DARIN CRANNY-MEAL REIMBS-\$24.51; VISA-SUPPLIES/TRAVEL-\$3130.12; JACK MARETTE-MURAL SUPPLY REIMB-\$57.22; F & M BANK-PAYROLL FEES-\$7.85; BELL BANK-MINI EXCAV LEASE-\$919.42; SD DOR-SALES TAX-\$3668.75; WEALTH MNGMNT-SEWER LOAN-\$11190.58; WEALTH MNGMT-WATER LOAN-\$7818.59; F & M BANK-BANK FEES-\$7.85; BELL BANK-SKID STEER LEASE-\$867.73; FP MAILING SOLUTIONS-POSTAGE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schuldt made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Seconded by Nielsen. All voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-NONE

SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Camden Hofer of SPN informed the council and public that the workers are just about finished with Commerce street and will be moving over to First street next. The contractors doing the roads should be in town this week, hopefully, to do the couple streets that have already been done on the sewer side. The yards and reseeding will all be put back to normal when the project is finished, weather permitting. Nick Zonowsky informed everybody that the set completion date of the project is December 1st but usually gets 30 days after that date to complete. The reclamation will be done by a different contractor/landscaping company and will likely be done in two different phases. Chris Schleuning told the council it would have been nice to get more notice that things were going to be dug up before they were. Mayor Kehn said he understands but there were meetings and ads put out, but we will try to get more information out. Marette asked if there are questions who we should contact? Supt. Darin asked anybody please call city hall and the office will relay and messages to Darin to get them in contact with him to answer these questions. Marette also voiced his concern on the loader going way too fast. Rory of H & W contracting informed Marette that the loader cannot go over 20 mph and we can't have him going 10 mph or

things will never get done, as the person at the site has to wait for him to continue the work when he is hauling rock or material to the site. Camden Hofer said he will relay the message to the project manager John Rennich. Mayor Kehn informed the contractor that he knows he heard a lot of negative things lately, but he has also heard a lot of positive things and that the contractors are doing a great job and we appreciate all they are doing.

REMOVAL OF COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor Kehn entertained a motion to remove Jason Schurz as Ward II council member due to attendance issues. The issue is attendance and lack of representation of Ward II. Schurz mentioned that it was hard for him to get to meetings with his past job. Marette asked for an explanation of not attending meetings and what he can do to prevent it happening again. Schurz said he was not getting off work in time. Mayor Kehn said it's not right for you to just not show up to meetings, it's not right. Schurz said he doesn't want to talk to Mayor Kehn anymore anyways and that's why he had refused a meeting with Brad and council members on this matter before this. Mayor Kehn informed Schurz this is a ruling by himself, as he appointed Schurz. Schurz said he is fine with whatever decision is made. Nielsen made a motion to remove Schurz from the council from a financial standpoint. Marette said it sounded like Schurz wanted to stay on. Schurz said he stayed on because nobody else took out a petition. Nielsen asked if Schurz would forfeit pay if he missed a meeting. Marette said he has hesitation with what assurance that Schurz will take this seriously in the future. Schurz said he has a lot going on in life and he's not going to make it to every meeting and his life requires attention. Nielsen asked if in the future you would call somebody to let them know you were not able to attend? Mayor Kehn said that this has already been asked and he didn't communicate. Marette asked if he did not know the meeting today was at 6:00 p.m.? Schurz said he got home from work, changed his shirt and came to the meeting and assumed the meeting was at 6:30 p.m. like usual. Marette went back to check his email and informed him that in very bold print it said "please note the meeting is at 6 p.m. not 6:30 p.m. Schurz said he must have missed that, that was his fault. Nielsen rescinded his motion, as there was not a second. Mayor Kehn said he is still going to exercise his right to remove Schurz from the council, as Schurz was appointed by him, due to his attendance. Schurz was removed from council and left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Kehn entertained a motion to enter executive session. Nielsen made a motion to enter executive session. Seconded by Marette. Mayor Kehn declared the council in executive session at 6:50 p.m.

Mayor Kehn declared the council out of executive session at 7:20 p.m. No action taken.

Mayor Kehn read out loud a letter on the removal of Council member Schurz and signed the letter.

REVISING BYLAWS

OF COUNCIL PAY

Mayor Kehn asked that the council look into a new council pay ordinance. He would like to remove salary, so we no longer have the issue of somebody getting paid for not attending meetings. Would like the council to get some ideas.

CITY STREETS

Mayor Kehn informed the council that there have been a lot of street complaints on how bad they all are. He did some math and there are around 145 blocks in town. Each block would cost \$40,000 to redo. That total would come to around \$5.8 million to redo all city streets. That's just not possible for the city to do. If people want to complain tell them to come to the meeting.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING

CONTRACT

The city attorney put together a contract for the city to do mosquito spraying out at Aurora Plains Academy. Nielsen made a motion to approve the contract. Seconded by Marette. All voted aye. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

SPECIALIST

Mayor Kehn informed the council he spoke with Joel Johnson of Code Enforcement Specialists and would like to look into their services and contract. This would bring somebody completely unbiased into look at properties and deal with any code enforcement that needs to be done. They would take care of all the letters, phone calls, etc. This way everything can be firm, fair and equal and there will be no biased opinions. Mayor Kehn would like the council to look at the contract given and see if they would be interested. There are over 80 communities they do these services for.

HEALTH INSURANCE

STIPEND

Finance officer, Kylee Urban, asked the council to consider doing a health insurance stipend for employees. She explained that the cost to do a family plan is not affordable with the current plan, this way if any employees need to do a family plan out of work, they would get some type of stipend to help pay for that instead of taking the individual plan. City currently pays \$1,087.00/employee for insurance.

TREE PLAQUE

The council agreed to do the in-memory plaque with name, dates of life, dates of service for the memorial tree at the park for former mayor, Joe Staller.

POOL PARTY

Finance officer went through the list of things that are set up for the season end pool party on August 10th. This all includes: hot dogs, ketchup, mustard (donated by Commerce), 50 hamburger patties (donated by Plank Inn and Roadhouse), 50 hamburger buns (donated by Ron's Market), 100 drinks (donated by Coca-Cola of Mitchell), Cooking and grills (Curt Nelson and crew) from 12pm-3pm; Fire Dept will provide tables and chairs, Ambulance Truck for kids to see from 12-3pm, bouncy house (provided by city); music "The green string" (set up by Kathy Guindon), Hometown Hero (by Kathy Guindon), Cotton candy & lemonade (Kathy Guindon); tree plaque for Staller tree (city to get), popsicles and Queen of Hearts kick off (VFW), BBQ pork/chips (donated by Melissa Davis), Giant Jenga/movie projector and screen (provided by Celina Trisco), museum paintings (Kathy Guindon), Possible petting zoo and games for kids (Kellie Gillen) The party will kick off at noon until dark August 10th at the Pool park with free swimming. \$100 donation from Kehn's Carpet Cleaning, \$100 donation from Aurora Plains Academy, \$100 donation from F & M State Bank, \$100 donation from Service Club and \$100 donation from Helena.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Kehn informed the council that finance officer, Kylee Urban, spoke with Aurora County Emergency Manager and he suggested we change our noxious weed ordinance and adopt the states list of noxious weeds. He would like the council to do this at the next council meeting.

Mayor Kehn asked Deputy Finance Officer, Cindy Geiman, to make a list of current city workers projects with some information on it so anybody can come in and look at this at any time.

IM-28

Mayor Kehn asked the council to look over the new Initiated Measure-28, that could get passed, which would prohibit a state sales tax on anything sold for human consumption, except alcoholic beverages or prepared food. According to our SDML representative this could take away 8% of the city's budget if passed. Marette and Neilsen both said they feel it would come back to the city somehow and that money would be spent in town most likely. Mayor Kehn asked the council to please review it and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

Mayor Kehn passed around thank you's from the VFW and from JP Studeny and Gayle Van Genderen Studeny.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Brad Kehn, Mayor

ATTEST: Kylee Urban, Finance Officer