

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Plankinton city council met in regular session Tuesday, September 5th. Members present included Mayor Brad Kehn, councilmembers Jason Schurz and Magdalena Popek-Hurst. Not present was Carl Bode. City employees were Darin Cranny, Chance Boyd and Kylee Urban. Visitors were Jack Marette, Terry Schuldt, Chris Hill, Todd Karst, Dave Saville, Cory Tobin, Kasey Johnson, Denise Jones, Melissa Davis, April Spinar, Jennalee Olson and J.P. Studeny. Mayor Kehn called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Kehn asked the council to add Executive Session-Personnel to the agenda. Schurz made a motion to approve the agenda with an executive session added. Seconded by Popek-Hurst. All voted aye. Motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

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

GUARDIAN-EMPLOYEE LTD, STD & LIFE-\$424.98; SCHOENFISH-ANNUAL REPORT-\$1500.00; DELTA DENTAL-EMPLOYEE DENTAL-\$366.10; SDARWS-LEAK DETECTION-\$100.00; SD DEPT OF HEALTH-WATER TESTING-\$15.00; DARRINGTON-DRINKING WATER-\$6.45; DEPT OF ENERGY-PURCHASE HISTORY-\$14208.05; HEARTLAND- \$23594.57; CORE & MAIN-METERS-\$494.41; CENTRAL ELECTRIC-RAMP LIGHTING/WHEELING-\$1549.83; CHS FARMERS ALLIANCE-TANK LEASE-\$60.00; SD 811-MESSAGE FEES-\$13.65; RUNNINGS-SUPPLIES-\$36.56; EAST RIVER ELEC-WHEELING FEES-\$3943.66; AFLAC-EMPLOYEE VOL. INS.-\$181.55; VERIZON WIRELESS-TOWER INT/SURFACE PRO-\$79.12; TOSHIBA FINANCIAL SERVICES-COPIER CONTRACT-\$172.90; AVERA HEALTH PLANS-EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS.-\$5376.36; RINKER-QUIKRETE-\$502.12; ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES-RUG CONTRACT-\$33.30; RAMAKER & ASSOC.-CIMS CONTRACT-\$800.00; KASE BROUWER-CEM. MOWING-\$2800.00; BORDER STATES ELEC-ELEC. SUPPLY-\$1587.82; MAVIS HAINES-METER DEP REIMB.-\$88.40; USA BLUE BOOK-SUPPLIES-\$220.02; MAGUIRE IRON-WATER TOWER REMOVAL-\$20752.00; AURORA BRULE WATER-WATER PURCHASE-\$10991.20; MITCHELL QUARRY-ROCK/GRAVEL-\$493.31; KENNY KINYON-ELECTRICAL WORK-\$275.51; AURORA CO REG OF DEEDS-DEED FILING-\$300.00; GREAT PLAINS LUMBER-QUIKRETE-\$82.84; SDDOT-FUEL PURCHASE-\$949.17; VISA-SUPPLIES-\$4464.98

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the past meeting minutes. Seconded by Schurz. All voted aye. Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CHRIS HILL

Chris Hill came in representing the Summer Rec. He informed the council that they had a great season and everybody had a good time. He also mentioned they are working on improvements for the complex. There are a lot of things that need to be done that they are going to be raising funds for but want to know what the city can do for funds. The also talked about using the city tree program to get some trees planted out by the fields to provide more shade. Chris also mentioned the possibility of hiring a complex

coordinator. The city saw no issue with this. The big thing they would like to see happen would be water to the complex. Darin has been looking into this already and has estimated around \$42,000.00 for this project. He is looking at ways to see how we can make this happen. Schurz asked the Summer Rec committee to get them numbers for everything else they would like to happen. The council agreed they would love to help as much as possible and would love to see tournaments hosted here. Cory Tobin mentioned that it would be very good business for the town with all the people that get brought in for it.

MELISSA DAVIS

Melissa Davis came to discuss some of the pool improvements that have been in progress. She informed the council that the new covered bench is in, and the guys will be installing that soon. She also let them know that the slide for the baby pool is in progress and went over some numbers. The city will get a bill ready to receive funds from the Pool committee.

APRIL SPINAR

April Spinar came in to discuss the possibility of putting an all-inclusive swing and a mommy and me swing in the pool side park. They plan to do a fundraiser at the October 17th volleyball game to raise funds and Modern Woodman will match up to \$2,500.00 for the fundraiser. They said they will purchase these if they can make the funds. She would like to see the park more family friendly and get more families out there to use it.

JENNALEE OLSON

Jennalee Olson came in to discuss a grant she had been in touch with the finance officer Kylee on. The grant is for outdoor exercise equipment they would like to place at the pool side park. She spoke with Darin to make sure it would work there as well. They were approved for the grant of \$23,000.00 last week and would like to get this ordered, as there is a 10–12-week turnaround and the project must be complete by May 1st. The council agreed this will be great for our city. Jennalee also brought many concerning health statistics to the council's attention on why this will benefit our town. The council was very happy with her work on this grant and will be looking forward to the new equipment coming. Mayor Kehn asked for a motion to sign the papers to get the equipment ordered. Popek Hurst made a motion to sign the contract. Seconded by Schurz. All voted aye. Motion carried.

DENISE JONES

Denise Jones came in to discuss the possibility of her getting horses on her land, 302 E 9th St. She informed the council that her properties were annexed into city limits awhile back and she doesn't understand why. Mayor Kehn informed her that her best option would be to go to the county and see what she could do to no longer be in city limits.

WATER SEWER RATES

Dave Saville and Todd Karst were asked to come in to discuss more on the sewer rates. Todd Karst said it just started this year and he doesn't understand why things changed. The finance officer Kylee Urban explained to them that when we switched to the new program everything was inputted the way the ordinances stated and there is nothing in the ordinance book about averaging summer months sewer rates. Kylee also mentioned that if they would like something more accurate then the city could look

into metering Sewer separately, but this would result in a large surcharge to pay off those meters. Schurz said he does not like the idea of averaging summer months because this isn't accurate or fair. Mayor Kehn said a lot could happen if you start averaging sewer usage. Dave Saville said the city would have to lower rates then. Schurz said if we are going to do that then we need to meter it separately, so it is accurate. Popek-Hurst asked to table this to the next meeting, as she wants to understand this fully and speak with people on the matter. Tabled until next meeting.

CONTRACT OF LAW

Carl Bode, council member, phoned into the meeting. Carl informed the council he has been in touch with other sheriff's depts. and towns including Hanson County and Davison County. He explained to the council that these towns were spending much less on their contracts than we are. He also discussed the number of hours that are spent in each town and some other county depts don't charge beyond their 20 hours spent in one town. Bode also informed the council that as far as municipal code, the sheriff's office is required to uphold the law and maintain peace. Bode said he just wasn't understanding why we are faced with an \$84,000 bill so he is just trying to understand the contract better. Melissa Davis wanted to bring up some points to the council in her personal observations. She mentioned that these other towns that this is being discussed with don't have everything we have here. Mt. Vernon doesn't have a pool and they also don't have two clinics and Aurora Plains Academy. She also mentioned being part of Hometown Family Health she has had to make more than a dozen calls since they've been open to the sheriff's office after hours for multiple things involving patients. Rachel Mairose, Aurora County States Attorney, said when you compare these other towns, do we know if they are satisfied with their service? Schurz said this isn't about the level of service at all, this is just us understanding our contract better and knowing what we are paying for. Bode said the city is getting good service but we are just trying to make a good decision for our people and our sheriffs if there is stuff, we can do ourselves.

CEMETERY FENCE

Darin informed the council that he has spoken with Sherry Staller about the cemetery fence, due to her involvement in raising funds to replace this. The best thing to do right now would be to tear out the old fence and maybe look at planting some trees as a barrier instead of a fence. He said anytime you have a fence you are always going to have weeds on the backside of it and it's not going to look good. Darin said Joe Staller, former mayor, just wanted it to look nice and he thinks this would be a good idea. Schurz said he's like to tear out the fence and plant trees. Mayor Kehn asked Darin to get pricing on trees.

BALLFIELD FEMA REIMBURSEMENT MONEY

Darin said he's spoken with Cory Tobin and it was suggested instead of getting the ADA bleachers to make a cement pad under the shaded area for wheelchair accessibility. Darin liked this idea and said if we do that then we can purchase the normal set of bleachers that cost about \$7,000-\$8,000 and then use the rest of the money for the dugout and water line. Schurz said he would like some real numbers on concrete work and bleachers so we have an idea of how much we are spending on everything to compare.

ARPA FUNDS

Mayor Kehn told the council he would like them to have their minds made up on what to do with this money for the next meeting on September 18th.

COMMERCE STREET

Mayor Kehn informed the council that the Commerce Street dust control agreement was never signed by Jim Page and they have just been doing the calcium chloride out of the goodness of their hearts. He also let everybody know that we are looking for a sprayer to start spraying calcium chloride on roads ourselves and this will benefit many roads in town that are not paved.

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Kehn appointed Terry Schuldt to Ward I and Jack Murette to Ward III. Both members recited the oath of office.

SEPARATE SAVINGS ACCT

Chance Boyd, Elec. Supt., suggested that the city starts doing separate savings accounts for each department, so they are not all just combined into one big savings accounts. This money is what would be saved at the end of the year each year and what is reserved for certain projects. Mayor Kehn said he would like to get the auditors opinion on this first.

BUDGET

Mayor Kehn let the council know we will go over the Budget September 18th meeting if there is time and then continue it to a meeting the next night on September 19th. Finance Officer, Kylee Urban let the council members know the proposed budget that Darin Cranny, Maint. Supt, Chance Boyd, Elect. Supt. and herself went through and suggested for expenses and revenues.

POOL

Popek-Hurst said she did not have time to get things prepared for this meeting but Bode and herself are working on a plan of attack for next year to ensure things go smoothly.

FALL CLEAN UP DAYS

Fall Clean up days were set for October 2nd and 3rd.

MAIN ST. IMPROVEMENTS

Jack Murette came to the council with a presentation of a kiosk in front of the grain elevator to beautify the spot. This would include a corn crib with information about the city and more inside. The council liked the idea. Schurz asked the Murette gets information on as far as pricing for everything and if Jim Page would deed the land to the city for this project.

MAINT. SUPT REPORT

Barry and I replaced the storm drain drop west of Main St. on 1st St. a half of a block I talked about last meeting. We also got a start on culvert replacements by changing one at the intersection of 1st and Kimball streets. The pool is drained as far as we drain it. There's a little more work to do there before winter. We do have the bench that was ordered for the baby pool, I'd like to get that installed before

winter too. One less thing to worry about in the spring. We have the maintainer back up and running. Our plan of flipping the mount upside down worked. I turned the water off and pulled the meters at 2 places this month. One on North Kimball St., and one on North Lawler St. I spent a lot of time working on the budget for next year during the extremely hot week we had a couple of weeks ago. I need to do a spreadsheet for the state on water service lines to everybody's house in town. Part of this is due by the end of this month. I have gotten a start on this. Most of it isn't due until next year. This is for the state to know how many lead service lines are in town. Every water service must do this. The state has a survey to get out to the public and see if most people can identify their own lines and get back to us with answers. I plan on filling out the spreadsheet with the ones I know what type of service line they have, then mailing the survey to the rest of our customers if I don't know. There will be more of this to come in future reports. We've had a new pickup set up to buy in our 5-year plan for a few years now. I have talked to the DOT about this and have everything I need to get one ordered at their discounted price. They told me I need to order it soon as the opportunity to do this under their bid closes within a month or so. It would probably be spring before it came. The price difference between a ¾ ton short box 4 door pickup and a 1-ton long box 4 door pickup is only \$1,000 dollars. The long box is better for us as the water valve wrenches are 8 feet long, and the more room the better. The 1 ton is nice as the equipment we haul is heavy. The price is about \$54,000 for a 2024 F350. We have it figured in our budget for next year. We had a mower in the 5-year plan for next year also, but ours are running pretty well and I decided to put that off for at least another year to save money for other uses. Our newest pickup now is the one I am driving which is now also the plow truck. It's a 2014 with 125,000 miles. The other 2 are a 2004 and 1997. We of course won't sell the 2014 as it is the plow truck. The other 2 aren't worth selling either as we won't get much at all for either of them. We're better off keeping them and using them, at least we know what we have. I guess I'm looking for permission to order one. We spent a couple of days exercising water main valves before the fire department exercised the fire hydrants. I need to get some work done on a few hydrants, and possibly replace a couple of them. Did some more mosquito fogging this month. I also spent a lot of Friday trying to clean up the moss in the jail pond. I got a lot out but ran out of time. I'm going to try and get more out when I get time.

ELEC SUPT. REPORT

We have had 0 outages this month. We finished up our underground around the block of 2nd and Pearl. We have 1 pole that is left that we need to get out sometime before winter. We will have a little trench work left before winter also but am hoping we can get some rain on it to help pack it in beforehand. We have gotten everyone switched over a long 7th street from the Briggs development West. We have also gotten everyone switched over in the 600 block on the West side as well. as we were cutting people over one of the poles had started to lean pretty bad. We ended up getting it tied back to a tree for a few days while we finished cutting everyone over. The power lines were the only thing keeping the pole up. We did go through last week and eliminated that pole all together. I did have some work to do on that lift station on Vine Street. We converted that from 3 phase to 1 phase to save quite a bit of cost there down the road. We set a new pad mount next to it and tied it in to the existing overhead for the time being. The old 3 phase bank was de-energized but still needs to be taken down. I had a few days/afternoons in the office working on budget items. I also did some catching up on some of my mapping I have been trying to do for when we do underground. I did print off a couple of pictures to show you what we have been working on this summer and what has been done. I will try to do an end of their year one with everything that has been done since I have started. I did sit on a presentation put on

through Heartland about some possible funding for electrical side of things. The “Inflation Reduction Act” has quite a bit of electrical infrastructure tied into it. We can possibly get rebates for transformers, and it sounded like we could possibly get rebates for the transformers that we did with the main street project and anything we have done prior to this. They didn’t exactly know how much we could get but thought it could be a couple of dollars per KVA on each transformer. I had Kylee create an account with the DOE so we can try and get some funding. There were some funds for projects as well. I will spend a little bit more time looking into this. I am going to be putting in an order for some more electric meters this week. I ordered some 3 phase meters in January, and I still haven’t seen them yet. I will be getting some more CT meters for single phase, and some more disconnect meters. I have been trying to build up our stock on these as they do go bad once in a while. I have the majority of the older services upgraded to all new CT cabinets, meter sockets, Cts, etc. The last one I have left is the grocery store which I plan to finish this year. We have everything mounted on the building. We need to cut out some concrete and use the Vac to clean out a trench from the existing pole to the building. I will probably have Valentine re-pour the concrete when it’s said and done and is something he could do when they have another pour in town.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Kehn informed the council we will be doing employee reviews on September 18th. He also informed the council he was not impressed with the camera coverage that was sent to us a few meetings ago and had higher hopes for it.

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

Mayor Kehn asked for a motion to enter executive session. Schurz made a motion to enter executive session at 9:04pm.

Mayor Kehn declared the council out of executive session at 9:32pm. No action taken

Meeting adjourned at 9:37PM