

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Plankinton City Council met in regular session on November 4th, 2024. Members present included Mayor Brad Kehn and Council members Magdalena Popek Hurst, Jim Nielsen, Terry Schuldt and Carl Bode. City employees were Kylee Urban, Chance Boyd and Darin Cranny.

Visitors were Howard Weischedel, Scott Black, Vikki VanGenderen Eilts, Alexis Hauge, Alyssa Johnson, Ellen Hohbach and JP Studeny. Mayor Kehn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Nielsen made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of DGR rate studies. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

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

SPN&HELMS-ENGINEERING COSTS-\$48,959.35; STEVES WELDING-SUPPLIES-\$35.01; AURORA BRULE WATER-WATER PURCHASE-\$8575.60; DAKOTA LANDSCAPING-WINTERIZING IRRIGATION SYSTEM-\$116.82; SD FEDERAL PROPERTY AGENCY-CABLE REEL TRAILER-\$3500.00; PLANKINTON LUMBER-SUPPLIES-\$41.38; SD MAIL-PUBLISHING-\$1086.17; H&W CONTRACTING-SEWER PROJECT-\$604301.35; RONS MARKET-SUPPLIES-\$74.17

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bode made a motion to approve the agenda with change of adjournment time. Seconded by Nielsen. All voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-NONE

FCCLA

Alexis Hauge and Alyssa Johnson from FCCLA came to present their proposed project of putting crosswalks on 1st & Campbell and 3rd & Campbell intersections. The council and city workers agreed they would help with this project and are for it. They will need to contact the county and get their approval as well for 3rd Street, as that is a county road.

CITY HALL RENTAL

Scott Black came in with a letter of intent to rent the city hall building for a medical marijuana dispensary. There will be a lease and contract made up. Black plans to do the remodeling of the building and the city will take the cost of the remodel to cover rent until the full amount is paid. The council agreed to look into what the costs of other work in that space would be to see if it is worth renting out. Nielsen made a motion to accept Blacks letter of intent to rent based on legality. Seconded by Popek-Hurst. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NUISANCE PROPERTY

Popek-Hurst informed the council that her and council members have been working together to visit individuals with nuisance properties. Mayor Kehn and Finance Officer Kylee Urban had spoken with an individual who was confronted by Popek-Hurst and Bode about their property and felt they were approached the incorrect way. This council agreed to send letters from city hall before contacting residents in person or on the phone.

TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE

Mayor Kehn asked the council to look over the proposed truck route ordinance and, if there are any changes or issues they see, to contact the finance officer with changes. Darin Cranny, Maint. Supt., informed the council that the county asked to add a small section around their shop so they can get around more easily. They said they will help maintain this area if there is any damage from their machinery. Mayor Kehn asked this to be sent to the attorney to add to the truck route.

CHANGING COUNCIL PAY ORDINANCE

Mayor Kehn asked the council to look over the proposed ordinance and if there are any changes to let the finance officer know.

BUDGET -FIRST READING

Nielsen made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2025 budget. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBER RESIGNATION & FUTURE OBJECTIVES

Jack Marette asked the council to approve his resignation and had a list of future objectives.

CELL PHONE STIPEND

Finance officer, Kylee Urban, asked the council to consider a phone stipend for Cindy Geiman, deputy finance officer, and Dan Geiman, maintenance worker. Geiman's stipend would be \$150 quarterly. Dan's stipend would be dependent on hours worked that quarter. Nielsen made a motion to approve the stipends. Seconded by Bode. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Kehn asked that after his term they consider a stipend for the mayor as well, because the mayor uses their phone often. He did not want this stipend to start until his term ended, but the finance officer suggested starting the stipend right away as it would make the policy easier to prepare. Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve Mayors \$150 quarterly stipend. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

BUILDING PERMITS-NONE

MAINT. SUPT REPORT

We've spent a lot of time with water lines for the sewer project. We've relocated quite a few more curb stops, installed some that didn't have any, replaced main valve connections, etc. It's taken a lot of our time.

We have another problem to deal with. There is an alley between 6th and 7th on Duff Street going east. We thought we were going to get away with not having to do that line, thus saving us money. At the last meeting our engineer had it removed from the plans, leaving us \$12,000 over budget (approximately). Then we talked about adding that line between 5th and 6th on Sanborn Street if the 4-plex was going to be built. Now we also need to do that alley I mentioned above. It was done in pvc already, so that is why we thought we could get away by not doing it. However, after further investigation, it was not done properly. They went to set a manhole in the corner where it turns to go north and we found water flows backwards in the line so there must be a big belly in the line, or even more issues we can't see. So now we need to dig this line for 200+ feet going east of Duff Street and turn and go north another 300+ feet. Moreover, when they put the line in originally, they just laid a 1 ½ inch pvc line in right beside it for water. These sewer and water lines serve 2 homes that are on the west side of Union Street. Since that water line is right beside the sewer, we need to relocate the water lines before they can proceed with the sewer. We do not have the time or equipment to get this done before they need it. It would take a long time to dig that in with our mini. Our trencher doesn't go deep enough for water. I have an estimate from Zach Scott Construction for \$15,949.42. This is well below the threshold for needing bids, and he said he'd do his best to do it next week. We don't have a lot of options here; I'd like permission to have Zach get it done. (COUNCIL APPROVED THIS WATER FIX).

I got the dirt finished at the ballfield around the new shelters. I put gravel in the "picnic shelter". Someday concrete in there would be nice, but it's good for now. Barry and I winterized the ballfields and pool last week.

ELEC SUPT REPORT

We had 3 outages along with a loose connection on a transformer on 9th street. Sewer crew hit an overhead line at 5th and duff, this blinked the whole system. They hit a marked underground primary near 7th and Duff, this took out everything along 7th Street, part of Kimball Street, and some on Duff. We were able to isolate it to affect about 5 houses. We had to splice the cable on each side of the road in which we had about a 3-hour outage there as we had to dig it back to expose the cable and splice. Last night the substation went down along with multiple other subs. This is a WAPA issue, and they are addressing it.

I picked up the wire trailer on my way home from Volga. We got it in the shop, adjusted a few things, greased it up and have used it a few times already. Works pretty good and is a lot nicer using that than our A-frames.

I have signed up to attend the Heartland Winter Conference in Flandreau for this Thursday. Last year was my first year attending and they had some really good speakers at it. This is a free event.

As I sent you all earlier in the month, East River is also increasing rates along with WAPA. This is based off our Demand usage, and can vary depending on the year, but estimated \$6000-\$13000. Along with the already est. \$14000 this year and est. \$27000 next year WAPA increase.

I have been trying to get wrapped up on the underground on Duff Street and 9th street, I haven't been able to put any full days into at all and have been trying to work on it for about 3 weeks now. I am hoping to get wrapped up with it this week and get the rest of the terminations done so we can get people cut over before snow.

I have been fairly busy with the sewer project, trying to help Darin as much as possible. I have 2 new services to do after Duff Street is done and I have some conduits to get put in on 5th Street where the sewer crew just finished up today.

The inspector came and did a rough in inspection at the fire station, passed and it has been sheetrocked and painted since. Will be using that as fill work or bad weather work.

I was driving the digger truck to hold up a pole in an alley way where the sewer crew were going to be working, as I was driving it down Duff Street, I hit a bump and the auger on the truck came loose, broke the strap and fell on the cab of the truck. It caved the roof in which in turn hit me in the head. I am fine, and just gave me a little headache and gave me a little hitch in my back, which I will be going to tomorrow to get adjusted. After Darin and I got looking at, the pin that holds it into place, wasn't pushed out far enough, and looks like the bracket it sits in is also bent which gave it enough room to work out. We were able to get it back into place to get by for now, but will need to take a further look into it once we get it back to the shop.

FINANCE OFFICER REPORT

I returned to work on October 15th. Cindy did a fantastic job while I was away, and everything was taken care of. I only came in to help one time while on my leave and so everything went great. It has been a busy month since I've been back. There has been quite a bit of move in and move outs.

Schoenfish called me last week and our audit is set for December 18th. Other than that I've been doing monthly bills out to city residents, paying bills, monthly reports, quarterly reports, payroll and our daily tasks.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Kehn let the council know he wants them to start using Gworks work orders so the guys don't get a million calls and don't get accused of not taking peoples' calls or doing what they asked. All calls will go through city hall and then sent to the guys as a work order.

Mayor Kehn also mentioned that the donations every year for senior meals need to stay local. This will go to the Commerce for Senior meals or If those seniors need help with something else we can help them using that fund.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-LEGAL AS PER SDCL 1-25-2(3)

Nielsen made a motion to enter executive session. Seconded by Popek-Hurst. Council entered executive session at 8:13 p.m. with Kylee Urban, finance officer, present.

Mayor Kehn declared the council out of executive session at 8:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Brad Kehn,
Mayor
Attest:

Kylee Urban,
Finance Officer