

**Regular Meeting Minutes of the
Plankinton City Council**

August 3rd, 2026, Meeting Minutes of the

Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met on August 3rd, 2026, for a regular meeting.

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

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman and Maintenance Supt. Darin Cranny and Deputy Finance Officer Kyanna Huff were the City Employees present.

Among the visitors present were Lezlie Larsen, Larry Gerlach, Chris Hill, Clint Bultsma, and City Attorney James Taylor.

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, "Council members Bohr, Nielsen, Schuldt, DeGeest, Green and Mayor Bode are present. Council member Popek-Hurst has an excused absence. We have a quorum."

AGENDA:

Mayor Bode would like to add Spirit Fest with Lezlie Larsen, and Nielsen would like to move the executive session after Regroup 2027 Rate. Nielsen made a motion to approve the amended agenda with Schuldt seconding the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

JUNK VEHICLE AND PROPERTY HEARING

Since the last time that Schuldt and Popek-Hurst went around the yard on South Kimball, it has been mowed. Nielsen brought up the fact that between 1st and 2nd in the alley there is a flatbed parked and it should be told to move. The house on 1st street is collecting garbage again, and the house foundation has sunk at least 3 inches since October.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nielsen moved to approve the consent agenda of Bills to Pay, Past Due Bills, Minutes and Building Permits; Bohr seconded the motion; all voted aye; motion passed.

BILLS TO PAY:

MONTHLY PAYROLL-\$44887.99; A & B BUSINESS -CONTRACT -\$780.84; A&B BUSINESS SOFTWARE RENEWAL-\$815.02; AURORA BRULE WATER- WATER PURCHASE-\$9396.00; AUTO VALUE MITCHELL-

FILTERS-\$40.50; AVERA HEALTH PLANS- AUGUST-\$4705.16; BELL BANK- MINI EXCAVATOR-\$919.42; CENTRAL ELECTRIC- WHEELING FEES-\$1372.62; CHANCE BOYD-CDL UPGRADE-\$45.00; CNH CAPITAL- SKID LOADER-\$959.11; DELTA DENTAL- AUGUST DENTAL-\$277.60; F&M BANK- ACH FEES-\$14.55; F&M BANK- PAYROLL FEES-\$23.65; GOLDENWEST- UTILITIES-\$495.35; GUARDIAN-LIFE STD LTD VOLUNTARY-\$381.81; HAWKINS- POOL SUPPLIES-\$2143.21; HEARTLAND LOANS-\$2483.39, IRS TAXES- PAYROLL TAXES-\$12932.21; J HARLEN COMPANY- PPE GLOVES-\$191.64; J&D CONTRACTING- MOWING 6 AND 7- \$3000.00; L&L SANITATION- JULY GARBAGE- \$110.00; MENARDS- SUPPLIES-736.06; MITCHELL QUARRY- ROCK-\$965.93; NATIONWIDE- SUPPLEMENT RETIREMENT-\$511.83; NORTHWESTERN PIPE FITTINGS- FITTINGS-\$373.23; PLANKINTON LUMBER- CONCESSION DOOR-\$2504.76; RESCO-ELEVATOR SUPPLIES-\$33716.00; RUNNINGS- SUPPLIES-\$732.70; SCHOENFELDER PORTABLES-TOLIET RENTAL-\$175.00; SD 811- MESSGAE FEES-\$8.40; SD DEPARTEMNT OF HEALTH-WATER TESTING-\$80.00

SD DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE- JUNE SALES TAX-\$4422.96; SD DOT- FUEL-\$996.14- SDRS- RETIREMENT-\$4669.96; SOUTH DAKOTA MAIL-JUNE JULY PUBLISHING-\$2120.38; SPN ENGINEERS- SEWER PROJEC-\$4494.20- NATIONWIDE-SUPPLEMENT RETIREMENT-\$517.40; TOSHIBA- COPIER CONTRACT-\$192.38; VERIZON WIRELESS- SURFACE- HS-\$131.80; VISA- SUPPLIES-\$4103.18; WEALTH MANAGEMENT-WATER SEWER LOANS-\$19009.17.

OLD BUSINESS:

BERNICE KOLLMAN (LARRY GERLACH) SEWER LINE

Larry asked that Bernice be reimbursed since she was not getting sewer service. The council explained that the city will not reimburse Bernice since the connection was illegal in the first place without a proper fitting and just dropping waste into an opening in the sewer line. The city is only responsible for providing the sewer line up to the curb. Discussion was held, and it was explained to Mr. Gerlach that since it was illegally connected to the sewer in the first place, the city won't be reimbursing them for the sewer, because it was improperly connected in the first place. City Attorney Mr. Taylor explained that if she wants to reimburse the city the \$4603.00 and \$200.00 for the sewer cap for fixing it after it was located, then the city would consider paying her back the \$55.00/month (\$440).

DAKOTA GROWERS LAND DEED

City Attorney James Taylor discussed with the council, after some research, a little strip of land that the city owns over by the elevators and the new bin they are putting up. DeGeest stated that when he talked to Vern Hill, the reason it was deeded to the city is that there were some old diesel tanks that sat there. There is no evidence of a well being there. The pipe that was found appears to have been part of an abandoned water line. Superintendent Darin Cranny said that there is no way there would be a well there when there is one 100 feet to the south. If there is a well there, then the city is responsible for capping it. There are two different options the city can take: the city would have to declare the property excess, then offer it either at a public auction or at a private sale for the appraised value. But Mr. Taylor explained that another alternative is that the city could give it to the Economic Development Board, and the Economic Development Board could give it to Dakota Growers. Then you wouldn't have to go through the hassle of the private sale/ surplus. This could be done by a simple resolution and deed transfer, which Mr. Taylor would do for the city.

CD'S RATES AT FARMERS AND MERCHANTS STATE BANK

A discussion was held regarding the 7 CDs we currently have at the Farmers and Merchants Bank. A couple of suggestions were discussed, as well as the cash we have in checking. The council would like to see a couple

of options, including doing ½ of the CDs at a 6-month rate and keeping the rest at the 12-month term. It was also suggested that we investigate Plains Commerce and SD FIT.

Councilperson Jim Nielsen made a motion to re-invest the CD's in the FMSB for a one year term and research other options for other investments after the first of the year, but later rescinded his motion.

A motion on the table was made by Green to put 50% of our CDs into a 6-month term and the other 50% in a 1-year term at the Farmers & Merchants State Bank. Seconded by Bohr. All voted Aye. Motion carried. And tabled the checking account money until another meeting.

SPIRIT FEST

Lezlie Larsen gave an update on Spirit Fest. They have about 15 vendors for the craft fair and are still looking for car/tractor show participants. They are asking to shut down Main Street from Commerce to the north by the senior center. Lezlie is looking for something easy to do so they can open Main Street when the time comes. It was discussed that they would use a combination of cones and road closed signs. The Spirit Committee also discussed moving any garbage cans around town to the west side park where the community dinner is going to be. The Spirit Fest Committee is going to encourage people to park around downtown and walk the little ways so it's not so cluttered with parking and the fireworks show. Discussion was held about the fireworks show and how to set them up on a level surface such as a road. Lezlie also asked if there are sawhorses that she could attach signs to, looking at 2-4 sawhorses. Clint Bultsma explained to the council that we do have an event policy, but it doesn't include fireworks. The underwriter got hold of Clint on Monday afternoon. The underwriter came back that it would cost \$1132.00 for the fireworks display. DeGeest made a motion to approve the additional liability insurance for fireworks for \$1132.00. Nielsen seconded DeGeest's motion. All voted aye; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

DAVISON/HANSON COUNTY WATER- JAKE JONES-(SMALL ANTENNA ON OUR WATER TOWER)

Finance officer Cindy Geiman called Jake Jones. He identified himself as the General Manager of Davison Water and Wastewater. He is also the Manager of Hanson County Water. Davison/ Hanson County has begun the implementation of an automatic meter-ready system for water. He is requesting to put a little repeater on the city's waterpower. The repeater is roughly 8 inches wide and about 15 to 20 inches tall. He has installed around 7 of them. The repeater fits right to the rail of the water tower and has an antenna attached. With Supt. Darin's permission, Jake climbed the water tower on Friday of last week. Once it is installed there, Davison Water will not need access to it without permission. They wouldn't need after-hours access. Jake will be willing to sign a contractual agreement and investigate the cost of electricity on a yearly basis. The time frame Jake is looking into would be the end of August or the first part of September.

SUMMER REC- INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Chris Hill came to the council meeting to give an end-of-the-season wrap-up and to ask the council for permission to do some much-needed work on the big field at the ballpark. They hosted two tournaments this year, the 8U boys' and 8U girls' tournaments. The teenager boys placed 3rd at the varsity level, and the younger boys placed 4th; however, they did win the sportsmanship award. Chris explained that he was proud of them for that.

Chris said he has spoken with the VFW director about future tournaments, and it appears summer rec could host any tournaments they choose. They also plan to host the amateur district tournament next year. The

summer recreation committee has been discussing field improvements, including turfing the mound and home plate, removing the infield surface, adding black dirt to level it, and installing sod to replace the grass. Since the field has not had major work done since 2013, Chris requested permission to proceed. He is not asking for funding at this time but noted that all three fields will eventually need field aggregate. He believes the city, school, and recreation committee could work together to improve all three fields and make them more inviting for players and spectators. He also noted that hosting tournaments brings significant revenue to local businesses. Nielsen made a motion to approve the updates that the rec committee is requesting, with DeGeest seconding the motion. All voted aye; motion carried.

CONTINENTAL WESTERN GROUP- INSURANCE RENEWAL

Finance officer Cindy Geiman invited Clint from Bultsma Agency to explain why the insurance went from \$40671.00 up to \$45492.00 for the 2026-2027 premium. Clint explained that there is a built-in inflation factor that increases with the building. A lot of our buildings are insured as replacement cost, and the inflation rate is 4% this year. The council does have the option to take the inflation factor off, but then you are taking the risk of something happening and not having enough insurance to cover replacing the structures. The city has replacement costs for most of the buildings we own. Clint did inform the council of some of the other changes that did occur; the vehicles did change a little, about \$600.00 worth. General Liability changed a little by \$100.00, but for the most part it was all buildings. Bohr asked what we should budget for next year, and Mayor Bode suggested probably 4% more than this year if we keep the inflation factor in place. DeGeest made a motion to pay the Continental Western Group bill of \$45492.00 and re-evaluate the buildings coming next year. Seconded by Green. All voted aye; motion passed.

REGROUP 2027 RATE

Regroup is our mass communication program; we tried it for a year just to see how we liked it. A lot more information is given to the public, and we turned off the weather alerts to keep from getting spammed. The city hears positive comments about improved communications. To renew the program is \$2070.00. And we budgeted it for \$2000.00. DeGeest made a motion to keep Regroup for \$2070.00. Nielsen seconded the motion; all voted aye; motion carried.

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

Nielsen made a motion to go into executive session for personnel; Schuldt seconded the motion. All voted aye. The council went into executive session at 8:35 pm. The city council came out of executive session at 8:47 with no action taken.

Mayor Bode shared a letter from Ward 2 Magdalena Popek-Hurst; as of August 3rd, she is resigning as Ward 2 representative and City Council President. Mayor Bode expressed his gratitude for the time she served on City Council, appreciated all she has done for the city, and wished her the best. Green made a motion to accept Magdalena Popek-Hurst's resignation, with Bohr seconding the motion. All voted aye; motion carried. Since Magdalena was on the budget committee, DeGeest stepped up to volunteer his time to help Bohr out on the budget committee. Since Magdalena was President, Mayor Bode promoted DeEtte Bohr from Vice President to President.

Also, there was confusion as far as terms went for Nielsen and DeGeest. When they took out their petitions, they both stated 1-year terms on their petitions, but the ballot said 2- year terms. It was suggested that we contact Mr. Taylor about what the next steps should be.

DRAWING FOR BALLOT ORDER MEETING AUGUST 19TH?

The new laws regarding the upcoming elections are a huge mess. The petitions must be processed by the 18th, but they can also be postmarked by the 18th as well. And we all know how the mail system has been lately. So Green was going to ask our postmaster if she could override it going to Huron and put it directly into the City Hall's PO BOX for drawing ballot only. Gayle mentions there wouldn't need to be a meeting; as Finance Officer, Cindy has a right to draw for ballot order if we need to have an election. All she would have to do is pick a time and invite the candidates to City Hall to watch Cindy draw for order, or they can have a representative there to watch as well.

SEPTEMBER MEETING (7TH IS LABOR DATE)

Mayor Bode suggested that we have the meeting on August 31st. Superintendent Cranny said that is the ordinance: if a meeting arises on the holiday, it is to be held the next business day. So, September 8th will be the next council meeting.

CINDY'S 4TH ANNIVERSARY RAISE-AUGUST 14TH

Finance Officer Cindy is coming up on her 4th Anniversary Raise of .50 cents per hour. A motion was made by Green to approve a .50 cent per hour anniversary raise; Bohr seconded the motion. All voted aye; motion carried.

PERSONNEL POLICY HANDBOOK

Finance Officer Cindy learned a lot from Finance Officer School when she went to Oacoma in June. Kyanna and Cindy have been working on that for a while now and came out with a rough draft late last week. Mayor Bode suggested that they hold off until September's meeting to discuss this in more detail. Nielsen also wanted to know if the council is willing to rewrite the nuisance animal ordinances. It would be a major undertaking. But for now, just any complaints that come in, we still have an ordinance with a fine attached to it that the deputies could give out. Mayor Bode said he would talk to Sheriff Roman Briggs about enforcing the dog ordinance a little more.

REPORTS

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

I had my normal time at the pool every day this month.

Mason and I did some tree trimming in a few areas, including the pool park.

I've sprayed the jail pond shores twice again this month.

We have finished up road work for now and are ready for the chip seal company when they come.

I serviced the newer pickup this month along with some other equipment work. Thursday it rained, so I greased everything, did some cleaning on equipment, and did some other miscellaneous things.

I extended our hole at the west RU site as it was getting close to full. It should hopefully be big enough to last the rest of this year.

I fogged mosquitoes a couple of times this month again, and plan on doing it again the day or two before Spirit Fest.

Mason and I got the signs changed on Sanborn Street/1st Street, and Commerce/Sanborn Street. We also got the truck crossing signs installed and trimmed some trees at the 1st and Sanborn intersection for better visibility.

H&W has been around quite a bit finishing up things in town. All that is left is to work the ground and seed north of 3rd between Duff and Sanborn (the last line that was done late in the season), clean up and seed the staging site, and plant the trees and bushes in the alley off Kimball Street. I think that is finally it.

The sewer line has been replaced west of the lumberyard. Barry and I helped with that, and Mason and I finished it up (gravel placing, cleaning, etc.).

I had a power outage on Saturday at 4:15 am.

I spent a day blading roads.

I had a bunch (like normal) of miscellaneous things come up to do this month again.

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

We had 3 outages this month. One was a broken fuse link, one was some birds on a transformer, and the other never found anything. Central was called for one during the day as I was gone.

Barry and I spent about 2 weeks trimming trees away from the lines. We got through everything that needed done, then took a hedge trimmer through some bushes and opened the alleyway back up.

Barry and I spent a week or so working at the 4H grounds. We trenched a new service in for the 4H grounds, and we trenched a new service in for the Tree shed as well. I talked to the 4H crew, and we went and pulled all the old light poles all the way around there, as none of them were hooked up anymore. I think it cleaned it up quite a bit and got rid of some ugliness.

I have locates called in to start on some underground on the North Circuit; I will start that on Monday.

I have had little time to figure some things out for the Elevator now that the bin is poured.

We worked on some underground terminations on some things we started earlier.

The 3-phase transformers for the elevator were delivered last week, and the single-phase transformers I ordered showed up this week.

We had a bad splice on a couple of lights on Main Street.

We had a lighting contactor that was going bad for the streetlights on the East side of town. I eliminated it and went and replaced the photo eyes on the lights that didn't have them already.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

The first week of July was a shortened week due to the 4th of July. Kyanna and I did the billing together; she is still learning the ropes. It is hard to do when it is only once a month, and there is always something different to teach.

Kyanna attended her first council meeting on July 6th. I may have her attend a few more meetings to get comfortable taking notes and writing minutes.

Kyanna has been doing a great job. I have had to take a few trips to Sioux Falls for doctor visits, and she is handling the office very well. In her spare time, she worked on the Personnel Policy Handbook. She did very well on it. I sent copies to everyone and to email for the council iPads.

I have been training her on payroll as well. She is ready to go by herself next payroll. Still working on the SDRS and Supplement Retirement, but that will come.

This month went fast. The last week of July, we spent getting reports ready for the council meeting and putting packets together, as well as doing billing on the 30th.

We have been doing misc. things for the Spirit Fest, such as digging through old minutes and helping Magdalena out when needed.

MAYORS REPORT

Congratulations to the City of Plankinton as we celebrate 145 years! A great big thank you to the many people who have spent countless hours planning and organizing the Spirit Fest events to be held on August 8. Also, a huge thank you to the individuals and businesses that have made monetary and material contributions toward the day's events. I encourage the people in our community, along with our visitors, to come and check out what the city has to offer!

ADJOURNMENT

Green made a motion to adjourn, with Bohr seconding. All voted aye. Council adjourned at 9:12.

CITY OF PLANKINTON

Mayor, Carl Bode

ATTEST:

Cindy Geiman