Regular Meeting Minutes of the

Plankinton City Council

October 5th, 2026, Meeting Minutes of the

Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met on October 5th, 2026, for a regular meeting.

Members present included Mayor Carl Bode, Council members Jim Nielsen, DeEtte Bohr, Amber Green, Terry Schuldt, and Nathan DeGeest

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman and Maintenance Superintendent Darin Cranny were among city employees present.

Suzette Black, Cameron Boyd, Kenny Payne, Pam Vissia, Paul Krell, Magdalena Popek-Hurst, Kent Melcher, Jack Marette, Clint Bultsma, Curt Nelson, Roberto Sanchez, and Gayle Van Genderen, representing the South Dakota Mail, were also present.

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 that "All council members and the mayor are present. We have a quorum. "

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Bode suggested moving Corn Crib and VFW Trunk and Treat after Safety Days. Schuldt moved to approve the agenda as modified, with Nielsen seconding. All voted aye; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

JUNK VEHICLES /PROPERTY HEARINGS

(ACTION ITEM)

Nielsen brought to the council 3 vehicles and 1 property that are recommended for the council to send letters to. The first vehicle is at 306 E 5th Ave; they have 3 vehicles with no license plates. The second is at 308 E 4th Ave, and the third is at 200 W Lawler Street, which has 4 vehicles, 1 boat, and a camper. The property is located at 301 E 6th Street, with cracks in the foundation and siding falling off. It was suggested that we send a letter to ask about the current plans for the house. Bohr moved to send the letters for the vehicles, and DeGeest seconded; all voted aye, and the motion carried. Bohr moved to send a letter to 301 E 6th Street concerning the house; DeGeest seconded; all voted aye, and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

BILLS TO PAY

- FARMERS AND MERCHANTS- 9-11 PAYROLL-$9207.47; FARMERS AND MERCHANTS, PAYROLL ACH FEE-$7.50; FARMERS AND MERCHANTS- 9-25 PAYROLL- $9780.15; FARMERS AND MERCHANTS- ACH PAYROLL FEE-$7.50; FARMER AND MERCHANTS- ACH UB PROCESSING FEES-$14.45; A&B BUSINESS- IT CONTRACT-$780.84; AFLAC-INSURANCE-$283.39; AVER PATIENT FIN SERVICES- 2 DRUG TESTING-$185.00; AVERA

PATIENT FIN SERVICES- HEALTH INSURANCE-$4705.16; BARRY GEIMAN-3RD QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPEND-$150.00; BELL BANK- MINI EXCAVATOR- $919.42; BORDER STATES- ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES-$121.50; CARL BODE- 3RD QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPEND-$150.00; CENTRAL ELECTRIC- WHEELING FEES-$1570.94; CHANCE BOYD- 3RD QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPEND-$150.00; CINDY GEIMAN- 3RD QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPEND-$150.00; CNH CAPITAL-SKIDLOADER-$959.11; CONTINENTAL WESTERN GROUP- FIREMANS INSURANCE-$574.00; CORE AND MAIN- FIRE HYDRANTS-$21538.55'; DAN GEIMAN-3RD QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPEND-$112.50; DARIN CRANNY- 3RD QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPEND-$150.00; DELTA DENTAL- DENTAL INSURANCE- $ 277.60; DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE- AUGUST SALES TAX-$4754.01; DOUGS CUSTOM- LAWNMOWER PARTS-$103.04- EAST RIVER- ELECTRICITY-$4654.24; GUARDIAN-OCTOBER LIFE,LTD,STD, TERM LIFE-$381.81;H&W CONTRACTING- FINAL SEWER PAYMENT-$201970.32; HEARTLAND- POWER PURCHASE-$19376.95; HEARTLAND- METER LOAN-$2483.36; IRS-PAYROLL TAX PAYMENTS-$6776.49; J&D CONTRACTING- MOWINGS 9 & 10- $3000.00; JAMES NIELSON-3RD QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPENED-$75.00; KROHMER- SPECIALITY FIRE INSURANCE-$763.00; KYANNA HUFF- 3RD QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPEND- $112.50; MACKAYLA GERLACH-LIFEGUARD COURSE-$128.75; NATIONWIDE-$1000.82; OVERWEG AUTO- FLUID-$22.29; RON'S MARKET-AUGUST BILL-$423.00; RUNNINGS-PARTS/SUPPLIES-$261.24; SD DEPT OF HEALTH-WATER TESTING-$20.00; SD DEP OF TRANSPORTATION-FUEL- $582.17; SDRS- RETIREMENT-3036.70; SOUTH DAKOTA 811- MESSAGE FEES-$6.30; THE ROAD GUY CONSTRUCTION-CHIPSEAL-$71302.58; TOSHIBA- COPIER CONTRACT-$232.61; VERIZON WIRELESS- HS/SURFACE PRO-$131.80; VISA- AUGUST SUPPLIES-$1905.70; VSP- VISION PLAN-$114.23; WAPA- POWER PURCHASE-$16856.20.

- PAST DUE BILLS
- MINUTES 9-8-2026
- BUILDING PERMITS

1. Patrick and Robin McCune- Lots 3-6 Block 13 East Addition. Resident Housing
2. John Saville- Lots 1-4 and 11-18 Block 3 2nd City of Plankinton 2nd Addition- 30*40 Garage

Nielsen moved to approve the consent agenda, with Green seconding. All voted aye; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

SAFETY DAYS

Magdalena Popek-Hurst presented the council with the itinerary for Safety Days coming up on October 9-10, 2026. Friday starts with a self-defense class for anyone who would like to join. PTSD 911, a documentary about PTSD in first responders, will also be shown. The movie's director will be the special guest and is flying in from Maryland. Five special speakers are: Sheriff Roman Briggs, Marty Link, Jonathan Busch, Rep. Jim Halverson, and Roswitha Konz.

The day continues Saturday with lots of fun events, including vendors at the Ag Building from 11 to 5, chances to meet the crews and their rigs, skills that save lives, fun for kids, and a silent auction. A helicopter will also land on the big baseball field.

At 1:30 p.m., there will be a ceremony and First Responders Awards.

This yearly event will take place next year in White Lake, and the year after that in Stickney. This is a huge event because it's only the 3rd in the country to do this sort of event.

Mayor Bode reminded the council that we set aside $500.00 in last year's budget to help fund the event.

CORN CRIB

Jack Marette came to the council to request a few smaller items to finish around the flagpole at the Main Street Corn Crib site owned by the City. He handed out a picture showing what he wanted to do. He mentioned that it would be at no cost to the city, as it would be all volunteer time and a donation of products. Nielsen moved to give Jack Marette the go-ahead to put the final touches on the Corn Crib Site, with Green seconding the motion, all voted aye motion passed.

Paul Krell also addressed the council and would like to volunteer his time to help with the corn crib; he also asked if the council would mind putting a threshing machine in with the antiques, they already have there? The council authorized Jack Marette to meet Paul Krell and see whether it would be a good fit with the other antiques we have there.

VFW TRUNK OR TREAT

Pam Vissia came to the council to ask for permission to block Main Street from Silo Market to the Post Office on October 31st, 2026, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for Trunk or Treat. The VFW Auxiliary asked the organizers at the Methodist Church if they mind the VFW Auxiliary taking over Trunk or Treat? They want to make it bigger, do more for the community, and they saw this opportunity to do so. They have talked to businesses on Main Street, and the businesses are understanding and don't see a problem with shutting down Main Street for those 2 hours. The Methodist church will also serve

hot dogs. Coffee and cider will also be available. The Senior Center will host a cupcake walk; there will also be best costume and best trunk-or-treat awards.

Mayor Bode offered his vehicle and Nielsen, DeGeest, and Bohr all said they would help with donating some candy for the trunk and treat.

PUBLIC RECORDS RESOLUTION (10-5-2026)

After revising the ordinance to require payment before documents are provided. Bohr made a motion, and Schuldt seconded. All voted aye; motion carried. Motion is as follows:

RESOLUTION NO 10-5-2026

WHEREAS the city maintains all public records and some private records.

WHEREAS, in some circumstances that have arisen, such records are used as public records and are requested from the city.

WHEREAS the city desires to establish a standardized rate to ensure recovery of costs associated with such records. And payment shall be made before any material is released.

WHEREAS, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the following information and rates are hereby established.

1. $.25 per page for letter or legal-size documents:
2. $.50 per page for 11”x17” size documents
3. $3.00 per page larger than 11” x 17”, or the actual cost of reproduction, whichever is larger;
4. For the reproduction of records not stored in either an electronic or paper format, such as microfilm, the custodian may charge an additional fee not greater than the actual cost of retrieval from that format.
5. Labor Rates are $30.00/hour with a 1-hour minimum.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption

Adopted this 5th day of October 2026

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Mayor , Carl Bode

ATTEST:

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City Finance Officer,

Cindy Geiman

CHICKENS

Suzette Black addressed the council and presented a petition with 56 names in support of allowing the raising of chickens within the City, along with an example of a permit application and ordinance. That was handed to each council member to review.

Councilperson Green said she contacted Wessington Springs, and they didn't have an ordinance in place, so they couldn't tell the community yes or no. Suzette Black and Councilmember Green said they looked at Kimball and have contacted them, and Kimball said they don't have any complications with keeping chickens in town.

A couple of council members and the mayor heard many concerns about keeping chickens in the community. Cameron Boyd addressed the council next. He wrote a three-page report against having chickens in the community. He raised a few concerns: what if avian flu comes through and kills all the chickens, then spreads to National Foods and wipes out a whole flock of chickens?

Curt Nelson of National Food NW, was in the crowd and said they don't want the risk of another avian flu outbreak killing their flock. Curt Nelson also mentioned that if that happened again, they risk closing the business outside of town and losing a lot of workers, and that they would leave the community to find work elsewhere, which could potentially hurt the population of the City of Plankinton.

Another concern is who would oversee policing and checking on the chicken coop and whether the applicant is abiding by all the rules. Cameron Boyd continued and highlighted some key features of his report, such as noise, odors, rodents, public health, property damage, and predators.

Councilmember Bohr voiced her concerns about inspections; we don't have the right to go on someone's property and inspect it. Green said the application would need to require 24 hours' notice before coming onto the property. Cameron Boyd continued, saying the council already has enough trouble controlling dogs, cats, and junk vehicles. Why bring another nuisance into the town that we can't control?

Councilmember Bohr asked Curt Nelson if he wanted to comment. He sees the pros and cons of having backyard chickens. The major risk is the transmission of disease by people. Kids could take it to school, bring it home, transmit it to family that works at National Foods, and then you have a problem. Forty families live in town, and some have kids. It's a huge risk. Another bout of avian flu could shut them down. It took about 1 1/2 years to recover from the last outbreak.

Kent Melcher said it would be hard to determine how the chickens died; they would have to consider whether they simply died or were infected. Determining whether they died because of a virus would cost the city more because they would have to ship the chickens somewhere for testing.

Pam Vissia was concerned that neighbors wouldn't take care of them and would then have them on her property all the time. She was also concerned about the waste and about them getting on vehicles and such.

Jack Marette said that this same subject came up 2 years ago, and that the council was instructed to go around and see what people in their ward said. Each council member came back with a lot of opposition to the subject.

Mayor Bode went around the room to poll each council member.

Green wanted a survey done; DeGeest is a no; Bohr is a no; Schuldt is a no; and Nielsen is a no.

Bohr moved to make no changes to the existing 90.05 ordinance and leave it as is. Nielsen seconded that motion. All in favor vote aye- 4 voted aye and 1 voted nay. Roll call was taken Nielsen- aye; Schuldt- aye; Bohr- aye; DeGeest- aye; Green- nay. The Ayes have it 4 to 1.

POLICY HANDBOOK (ASSIGN COMMITTEE)

Mayor Bode informed the council that Deputy Finance Officer Kyanna Huff and Finance Officer Cindy Geiman made extensive changes to the handbook. He is looking to form a committee with himself, Kyanna, and Cindy. Bohr and DeGeest offered to be on the committee. To review the Personnel Policy Handbook changes with Cindy and Kyanna and bring their recommendations back to the city council hopefully by December

NEW BUSINESS

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Clint Bultsma presented the Health Insurance Renewal to the council, effective from 12-1-2026 to 11-30-2027. Clint explained that this plan is grandfathered in and that once we leave it, we can never go back. This is the exact same plan with a low deductible and a low co-pay. If we leave the plan the same, it is a 10.84% increase since last year. Finance Officer Cindy Geiman noted that we only budgeted an 8% increase for this year. Clint also noted that even though the plan runs from December through November, it still resets on January 1st. DeGeest noted that we will need to review the budget to see whether we have the money to cover the additional 2.84% beyond what we budgeted .

Mayor Bode instructed Finance Officer Cindy Geiman to review the budget to see whether there is enough money to cover the additional 2.84% in each department. The group discussed the HSA and how it would affect the deductible and the insurance plan itself. The current plan the city has is not HSA-compliant, so we would have to move away from it and go with a different plan. Cindy brought up her computer and showed the difference if the city planned for a $1500.00 deductible and a $1000.00 copay, so the total out-of-pocket would of $ 2,500.00 instead of $2000.00. That would take the total change to the policy down to 4.53%.

The Finance Officer was instructed to check the budget to see if we can go with 10.84%. We will address this at the November meeting. Councilmember Bohr asked whether it would be good practice to use a 10% increase each year, and Clint responded that yes, that would be a good idea.

VFW AWARD

Councilmember Nielsen was proud to inform the council that the local VFW post received the 2025-2026 National Community Service Award. Ken Payne presented the sign the VFW received at the National Convention. While presenting the sign, Ken said it wouldn't be possible without our community's involvement.

Ken suggested placing it under the Cardiac Ready Sign by the Interstate entrance into town. Superintendent Cranny said that would take some adjusting, but if the council is okay with putting the sign up, he will make it work.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

Mayor Bode directed the council's attention to the annual law enforcement contract with the Aurora County Sheriff's Department, stating that the only change is the price: $81,255.00 for 2027. Nielsen moved to allow the mayor to sign the contract, with Green seconding the motion. All voted aye; motion carried.

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

I spent a day removing dead trees on the north side of the east RU site. The whole outside row was dead; you could see them from the old highway.

I spent over a week cleaning and rearranging the shop when it was raining. I also serviced the skid loader and the '04 Ford pickup since we had filters on hand. I also did more equipment work this month.

I finally got a response from Game Fish and Parks for the request to spray the algae in the jail pond. We decided to hold off on spraying until spring/summer. They will hold my application until then and just update the dates. I had a day to spare, so I started raking and cleaning the algae out by hand; then it started raining, and I haven't gotten back. It's unlikely I will now.

I spent a few days cleaning up at the west RU site. I have it ready when the concrete crusher shows up. I needed to move some things to make a good area for them.

I called in the locations for the fire hydrants we are going to replace this fall. We'll get started on them as soon as we are done with the elevator electrical, which I have been helping Chance with for the last few days.

I hauled a big pile of dirt from the ballfield out earlier this week, so it's out of the way.

I was called out 3 times this week. Monday for a water issue, Wednesday for an issue at the lagoon, and Thursday we had a power outage.

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

1 outage on the North Side of 3rd Street; we couldn't find a cause.

The recent rain has pushed us out of doing yard services for now. Will continue when we can. We still have 3 left to do this.

Started at the elevator a couple of weeks ago. We had to perform an outage at the West bin site to prepare for the new site. Worked with them to shut down trucks for a day to complete this. We started burying conduits for the new bin site on Thursday. Trying to get as much done as we can before harvest starts. We also ran a conduit to Joe Hoffmans shop and another for a streetlight that will be installed at the intersection of Commerce and Kimball. We also stubbed future conduits heading east for when we complete the underground from Main Street.

We added a VT pack to the existing West bin site service to step down the voltage in the meter socket. It's a 480/277v service. With the VT pack, it steps the voltage down to 120v in the meter socket, making it safer to work in if needed. We installed one at the East site when we put that in, and the new site will have one as well.

I swept Main Street a couple of times last month, one being for homecoming.

I reached out to Blair regarding Rates again. He finished up with them this week. I will have this on the Agenda for November. I have a few things to get ready before that. Looking to get them implemented January 1st.

October 4th-10th is Public Power Week. Heartland gave us some signs to put in for the week to promote it.

We had to move a couple of sprinkler heads at the ballfields before they laid turf.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

I was gone most of the first week for Barry's surgery, so Kyanna held down the office, and she did a great job keeping busy during the downtime and making sure everything balanced.

After Labor Day, we had the council meeting, and then I had to prepare the minutes. I also had a couple of doctor's appointments that week.

After that, it's been a whirlwind of events. I was gone a lot, but Kyanna did a great job keeping me in the loop. The next couple of weeks will be here and there, but I will be here for as many hours as possible.

MAYORS REPORT

Looking into domestic animal ordinances in other SD communities regarding chickens. The city council and I are listening to input from our citizens, as feelings run pretty strong either way.

Reviewing the extensive changes Cindy and Kyanna are proposing to our personnel handbook. Many of the changes reflect what Cindy has learned at the finance officer classes.

It's that time of year again, and I need to start working on the employee performance appraisals. I will seek input from the council members to include in the employee reviews. I also welcome feedback on my own performance, as there is always room for improvement.

The first annual First Responders Appreciation Month is coming up Oct 9-10. I look forward to seeing the activities and programs Magdalena has been organizing, and I hope many people in our county take advantage of this opportunity to come out and see. I understand a med evac helicopter will land near the Ag Building, so the kids will certainly want to see that.

ADJOURN

Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Schuldt. All vote aye motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

CITY OF PLANKINTON

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Mayor, Carl Bode

ATTEST:

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Cindy Geiman