

Regular Meeting Minutes of the Plankinton City Council
January 5th, 2026, Meeting Minutes of the Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met on January 5th, 2026, for a regular meeting. Members present included Mayor Carl Bode, Council members Jim Nielsen, DeEtte Bohr, Magdalena Popek-Hurst, Terry Schuldt, and Nathan DeGeest.

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman, Electrical Superintendent Chance Boyd, and Maintenance Superintendent Darin Cranny were among the city employees present. Also were J.P. Studeny, representing the South Dakota Mail; Rita Brandt, Jacob Brandt, Skyler Kehn, and Linda Heath.

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

Council Member Green showed up at 6:33.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Council member Bohr made a motion to substitute sewer project forms for Past Due Bills, add bank depository to Designate Paper and City Attorney, and add List of Firemen of Plankinton Fire Department. Nielsen seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

A discussion was held regarding Scott Construction, and it was requested that he include the correct dates on the invoice reflecting when the work was actually done before he receives the check. After discussion, Popek-Hurst moved to approve Scott Construction's bill with the correct invoice dates, subject to payment. Bohr seconded the motion. Next on the agenda is the Big Timber bill for an assessment of Linda Heath's house. Popek-Hurst moved to approve the \$65.00 bill to Big Timber, seconded by Green. All voted aye. Motion passed. Nielsen moved to approve the regular bills for payment as follows, with Schuldt seconding. All voted aye. Motion carried.

District III- 2026 dues- \$1328.00; Farmers and Merchants- Payroll Fees #1-7.50; L&L Sanitation- January Garbage-\$65.00; Minnesota Municipal- ¼ of annual dues-\$285.00; Plankinton Lumber- Shop Supplies- \$7.99; South Dakota Mail- Dec 2025 publishing- \$881.96; Visa- I pads-Office Equipment- Electrical Supplies- \$3076.37; and Regroup- Mass communication dues- \$2500.00.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Without any additions or corrections. The minutes were approved as published.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Skyler Kehn was present to voice his opinion on the street signs and the new proposed truck route signage, especially on 1st Street behind the lumber yard. He said it would be a mistake and a hazard on that street because of the blind spots, just so semis can save 30 seconds. Maintenance Superintendent Darin Cranny addressed his concerns, saying there isn't enough visibility to change the street sign on 1ST Street.

After more discussion, Skyler thanked the council for their time and consideration in this matter.

Ms. Linda Heath addressed the council, due to the City's Attorney that was not at the meeting. She asked whether the council would address her property. Mayor Bode did tell Linda that Junk Vehicle and Property were on the agenda for later in the meeting. Ms. Heath stated that she thinks there is a lack of communication on the City's part. She would like to be informed if anything dealing with her is on the agenda to please call her and let her know. The council agreed to those terms.

Rita and Jacob Brandt asked if they could talk to the council. Mayor Bode questioned the council to see if there were any objections to moving Cemetery Donation up for the 1st thing under Old Business. Members of the council agreed.

OLD BUSINESS CEMETERY DONATION

Jacob Brandt came in requesting funding for his Cemetery Directory. The council stated at its December 1st meeting that it would not be able to fund the entire project. Suggestions were given to Jacob about a few available grants, such as Central Electric and Modern Woodman. And talking to some community members, there are a lot of people out there who would be happy to support you with this project. Council member DeGeest made a motion to pay Jacob Brandt \$500.00 out of the rest of the Government Capital Outlay Fund. Schuldt seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried. Jacob requested a small letter stating that the City will donate \$500.00. Skyler Kehn also suggested that John Clem, with District III, would possibly be a resource to investigate.

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

One outage on Christmas Day. Bird got into a fuse. Darin was able to replace that. Later that night, a meter sent a power-fail alarm, but nothing was wrong with it. I watched it for a few days, and it hasn't sent another alarm.

We energized one service that got completed.

Barry and I swapped out the lights in the fire station shop area. I have some new drop cords to install for all the equipment there. Currently, they are just extension cords running to the closest outlet.

Barry and I added ceiling fans in the shop to help move some of the heat around. It has already made a big difference. Heaters are running a lot less as well.

I moved snow on a Saturday and had a burial the same day.

Cindy and I went through and got the City Electric meters sorted out and billed to the correct department.

Cindy and I started working on switching over our demand accounts as well. There are 15 of these, but we ran into some questions for Gworks. She submitted a ticket to get it sorted out.

Dan did some work at the Senior Citizens to repair and fix up some walls. There were a few spots where the walls were broken out. We added another dehumidifier to try to eliminate some of the moisture upstairs.

I have been working on the rate study and working on getting our underground mapping up to date.

We had quite a few streetlights that have needed to be worked on and some that needed to be replaced.

I would like to attend a Joint Utility Training School in Sioux Falls. It runs from January 20th to the 22nd. I would like to attend the Tuesday portion and Wednesday. My electrical license is due for renewal at the end of June, and I need 16 hours of classes. This would give me 8 hours of Code hours that I need. The cost of the classes is \$275.43, and a motel is \$115 for the night I would stay. The motel is in a block reserved for the school.

We have a safety training planned for January 16th in Wessington Springs. These are done quarterly. Darin ordered filters so we can get the bucket truck serviced and ready for this year. I will be setting up bucket truck inspections in the near future. This needs to be done every year.

Heartland is doing the FR clothing again this year. They work with a company to provide \$400 worth of FR gear. That will start again sometime this month, I believe.

Barry and I need to renew our spray license, too. This will be done this month, as it needs to be completed before the end of February.

Nielsen made a motion to approve Chance to go to the Joint Utility Training School in Sioux Falls. With Green seconding the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

AID IN CONSTRUCTION

Both Electrical Superintendent Chance Boyd and Council member Bohr asked the council what they would like for the options in Aid of construction as presented at the December 1st Meeting. Chance suggested they do 50% upfront cost for any 3-Phase commercial projects. Right now, the minimum amount for the 3-phase transformer is about \$20,000. Chance will send an email to Blair with DGR once the rate study is done and get him working on an ordinance for the Aid in Construction.

RATE STUDY

The current rate study we have is Resolution No. 4-7-25. This is our current rate schedule for our electric utilities. With a 5% increase under that resolution, Blair from DGR said, "We stopped the bleeding where we were at." Blair is suggesting we implement a 6% rate increase this year to help recover the costs associated with WAPA and East River rate increases. If this resolution passes, it has to be printed in the minutes, and then we have to wait 20 days, which takes us to February 4th. So, the citizens wouldn't notice the increase until their February bill due in March.

DeGeest made a motion to accept the 6% increase in the Resolution. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All vote aye. Roll Call vote was taken: Popek-Hurst- aye; DeGeest- aye; Green- aye; Bohr- aye; Schuldt- aye; and Nielsen- aye. The new Resolution is as follows.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-4-2026

A RESOLUTION REVISING THE ELECTRIC UTILITY RATE SCHEDULE IN THE CITY OF PLANKINTON,
SOUTH DAKOTA.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Plankinton, South Dakota that the following rates, charges and regulations for municipal electrical service are hereby adopted and will be in effect until changed by further resolution of the City Council.

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Definitions & General Rules Applicable to All Classes of Service

1. FACILITY CHARGE: The monthly fee to partially cover the cost of bringing electricity to the customer's location. It is based on expenses the City incurs regardless of how much electricity is used and is a fee for accessing the City electric grid whether any energy is used or not. The facility charge continues so long as a meter is installed at any location.
2. ENERGY CHARGE: The energy is what the City charges a customer for electricity usage based on the energy consumed in terms of kilowatt-hours (kWh) in a given billing cycle and the rate for that energy. The charge is calculated by multiplying the number of kWh consumed during a billing cycle by the rate for energy in terms of cents per kWh.
3. ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT: The City may, at its discretion, implement an energy cost adjustment to compensate the City for variations in the cost of purchased power. At the time the adjustment is implemented, the calculation used to arrive at the adjustment will be developed, and the adjustment will be applied to all kWh billed by the City to its electric customers.
4. PROMPT PAYMENT PROVISIONS: All charges are net. If the bill is not paid or mailed and postmarked by the 20th day of the month following the billing date, a late payment charge of 10 percent of the balance due will apply. If the 20th of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Holiday, the due date will be the next working day.
5. SALES TAX: Sales tax to be added to all electric bills so as to be in compliance with the provisions of the laws of the state of South Dakota.
6. CONNECTION FEE: A deposit made to the City to be held and retained by the City so long as the customer has a meter installed, whether energy is used or not. Upon either removal of the meter

or transfer of the service at the customer's specific location to another customer, and payment by the transferor customer of all outstanding energy charges and payment by the transferee customer of an appropriate connection fee, the original customer's connection fee will be refunded to the original customer, without interest.

NOTE: Additional rate and charge definitions are applicable to Large Commercial Service and are set forth separately in the section relating to such customers.

1. Residential Service

APPLICABLE TO:

Residential customers for all domestic uses in single-family dwellings and individually metered apartments within the service territory of the City of Plankinton Electric Utility, including use of motors of not more than 5 horsepower individual capacity.

SERVICE AVAILABLE:

Single-phase, 60 hertz, 120/240 volt, 400 amp max., 3-wire, single meter.

CONNECTION FEE:

\$250.00 for all services.

MONTHLY RATE:

Facility Charge (No kWh) \$22.26 per meter

Plus

Energy Charge

First 600 kWh @	13.9125¢
Next 600 kWh @	10.5735¢
Over 1200 kWh @	8.7927¢

2. Small Commercial Service

APPLICABLE TO:

Any commercial, industrial, city, or farm load within the service territory of the City of Plankinton Electric Utility, for all purposes, where the average monthly energy usage in a consecutive twelve-month period does not exceed 5,000 kWh.

CONNECTION FEE:

\$250.00 for all services.

SERVICE AVAILABLE:

Single-phase, 60 hertz, 120/240 volt, 400 amp max., 3-wire, single meter; or three-phase, 60 hertz, 240/120V, 208Y/120V, or 480Y/277V, 4-wire, single meter.

MONTHLY RATE:

Facility Charge (No kWh) \$30.6128 per meter

Plus

Energy Charge

First 500 kWh @	15.0255¢
Next 3500 kWh @	11.0187¢
Over 4000 kWh @	10.4622¢

3. Large Commercial Service

APPLICABLE TO:

Any commercial, industrial, city, or farm load within the City of Plankinton Electric Utility service territory, for all purposes, where the average monthly energy usage in a consecutive twelve-month period exceeds 5,000 kWh.

CONNECTION FEE:

\$250.00 for all services.

SERVICE AVAILABLE:

60 hertz, three-phase, 240/120 V, 208 Y/120 V, or 480 Y/277 V, 4-wire, or standard primary voltage available at point of delivery. Special voltages may be provided at the discretion of the utility. Utility furnishes only one transformer bank and/or one meter.

MONTHLY RATE:

Facility Charge \$55.65 per meter

Plus

Energy Charge

All kWh @	5.0085¢
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Plus

Demand Charge

All kW @	\$15.582
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METERED DEMAND:

The metered demand for any month shall be the maximum kilowatt demand established by the consumer for any thirty-minute interval during the month as indicated or recorded by a demand meter.

POWER FACTOR ADJUSTMENT:

If the customer's average monthly power factor falls below 90%, leading or lagging, the utility may adjust the metered demand by the ratio of 90% to the measured average monthly power factor in percent. Example:

Metered Demand = 739 kW

Ave. Mo. Power Factor = 73.0%

Ratio = $90/73 = 1.2329$

Adjusted Demand = $(739) \times (1.2329) = 911 \text{ kW}$

ADJUSTED DEMAND:

The adjusted demand consists of the metered demand adjusted for power factor, if applicable.

BILLING DEMAND:

The billing demand shall be the maximum measured thirty-minute integrated demand in the billing month, but not less than fifty percent (50%) of the maximum thirty-minute demand established in any of the twelve preceding months.

PRIMARY METERING:

The utility will furnish and install primary metering when service is taken by the consumer and metered at primary voltage. The consumer owns and installs all necessary primary and transformers beyond point of service. A 2% discount will apply to demand and energy charges to allow for losses and investment return.

If service is taken at primary voltage (that is, customer owns primary and transformers) and metered at secondary voltage, a 1% discount will apply to demand and energy charges to allow for investment return.

MEASUREMENT OF DEMAND AND ENERGY:

When there are two or more demand and energy metering installations on the customer's premises, the metered quantities shall be determined by adding together the separate meter readings before application of the rate, unless special provisions are agreed to by the utility. At the customer's request, and at the customer's expense, and at the Utility's discretion, the Utility may install special metering that will allow coincident demand billing.

4. Outside City Limits Service

APPLICABLE TO:

Residential, commercial, or farm customers within the service territory of the City of Plankinton Electric Utility and outside of the City limits of Plankinton, including use of motors

of not more than 5 horsepower individual capacity, where the average monthly energy usage in any twelve-month period is less than 5000 kWh.

CONNECTION FEE: \$250.00 for all services.

SERVICE AVAILABLE:

Single-phase, 60 hertz, 120/240 volt, 400 amp max., 3-wire, single meter.

MONTHLY RATE:

Facility Charge (No kWh) \$27.825 per meter

Plus

Energy Charge

First 600 kWh @ 17.2515¢

Next 600 kWh @ 12.5769¢

Over 1200 kWh @ 10.3509

5. Property Owner's [Landlord's or Lessor's] Responsibility for Renter's [Lessee's or Tenant's] Unpaid Electrical Charges

The owner of any real estate connected to the City electrical system is responsible for payment of all electrical service rates, charges, and energy cost adjustments upon read out and final billing to a tenant who is vacating such property. The owner will remain responsible for such electrical service rates, charges, and energy cost adjustments until such time as a new tenant applies for service at such property and pays the required deposit in full. Upon read out and final billing on rental property which is actually known to the Municipal Finance Officer to be rental property, the Finance Officer will, within a reasonable time not to exceed ten (10) business days, notify the owner of such property that read out and final billing to the tenant has occurred and that the owner is responsible for payment for continued electrical service to the property. Such notice may be by telephone, email, or by first class mail as determined by the Finance Officer. It is the duty and obligation of the owner of such property to properly notify the City and authorize a complete disconnection if the owner does not wish to remain responsible for continued electrical service rates, charges, and energy cost adjustments to the property.

Adopted this 4th day of February, 2026.

Mayor

Attest:

Cindy Geiman

Finance Officer

UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC MAPPING

Electrical Superintendent Chance Boyd showed a map he prepared for the council that shows all of the underground work that has been completed.

JUNK VEHICLES/PROPERTY

Popek Hurst started with a list of junk vehicles first. Noting the following properties:

304 Lawler Street: The cars have been removed.

201 E 1st Street - Nielsen spoke with the resident and said the sale fell through. Nielsen told the citizen to keep in touch, and the license expired. To give him until next month to license.

609 E 1st Street- DeGeest will get a hold of the owner and see if she has an estimated time of removal. Then she will be removed from the list.

501 E Commerce Street- Popek-City Finance Officer Cindy told Popek-Hurst that he does drive the vehicle and it is licensed. Revisit in March.

701 E 1st - Blue car has been removed; revisit in February. Nielsen said the red van has no plates. And the Oldsmobile is parked on the east/north side of the garage with the license plate on. The Dodge has been sitting for 3 years now.

802 E 2nd - No red or Burgundy vehicle; just the BMW is left. Will revisit next month. They are all currently on licensing. They are updating, doing repairs, and money permits.

209 E 2nd- They have moved the vehicles from the street to the trees, and the cars are now licensed. Revisit in March. If he is driving the vehicles, there is no case.

305 E 5th Street- The owner and the son are learning to part out two cars. However, the other vehicles in the lot are licensed and have been driven. Nielsen thinks that there should be a recheck in February.

602 E 1st. On Monday, a letter was sent, and a notice was posted at 2:15 pm on the vehicle that the owner has 15 days to move it, or it will be towed.

PAST DUE BILLS

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman reported on some past-due bills. She noted that the list is longer and suspects it is due to the holidays. The finance office has already had three people come in and pay off the list, and she expects more before the 7th. Cindy has a question about one account that is 90 days past due and has failed to make payments. Cindy was wondering if she could start the small-claims process for that account. The council agreed to move ahead with the small claims process.

STREETS

Earlier, a discussion was held about changing the truck route signs. Popek-Hurst asked about the Business Sign coming to town, and who oversees that. Darin replied that it was the service clubs' sign. DeGeest asked Superintendent Darin Cranny if all the street signs are up. Darin responded Yes, all the signs are up. Mayor Bode said the Welcome sign coming into town looked rough on the back side and asked whether we own it. If we do, could we work on it this spring? The City, in fact, does own it, and if we get summer help, we could have that person work on it.

NEW BUSINESS

DUTIES OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Bode addressed the council, noting that he has been in the mayor's position for about 11 months and that there is still much to learn. We have many new council members, and we are learning and growing together. There have been concerns about how he conducts himself. Mayor Bode wants to get it out there, be corrected, and be shown where he is wrong. He is willing to make those changes. He feels he is trying to follow the South Dakota Codified Laws. Mayor Bode welcomes any input from the council about what they feel is going on and is willing to change. Popek-Hurst stated that he is taking the council to a whole new level and that everyone is learning and growing together. Popek-Hurst hopes that everyone comes together to work as a team rather than as individuals to better the community. Bohr personally hopes that if people have concerns, they feel comfortable coming to each other and voicing them, getting it out in the open, whether it be the mayor or one of the other council members. She stated she hopes there's no one going behind other people's backs and that she doesn't know if that is going on or not. She hopes that everyone feels comfortable having an open working relationship. Popek-Hurst saw that this year the committees are working together and that each of them is taking that committee very seriously, something she hasn't seen in years past. Mayor Bode stated that he made mistakes this year and plans to fix them, particularly by giving the council more input when doing the budget.

DESIGNATE PAPER, CITY ATTORNEY, AND BANK DEPOSITORY

Nielsen made a motion of continuing using South Dakota Mail as the official paper, Mr. James Taylor as our City Attorney, and Farmers and Merchants Bank as our main depository. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion all voted aye. Motion Passed.

2026 Wages

2026 employee wages with a 3.5% COLA. The wages are as follows: Chance Boyd-\$40.84; Darin Cranny-\$31.34; Barry Geiman-\$26.63; Cindy Geiman-\$26.39; Dan Geiman-\$17.22; Morgen Mahrt-\$21.22; Vikki Eilts-\$13.46; Carrie Brink-\$17.39. The council wages will remain the same, with the Mayor at \$3500/year and Council Members at \$1750/year. They also receive \$50 per regular meeting and \$75 per special meeting.

LIST OF FIRE PERSONNEL ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

At this time of year, we also have to list the roster for the Fire Department. The roster is as follows: Jeff Briggs; Colin Spinar; Terry Bush; Clint Bultsma; Rodney Weber; Travis Fink; Steven Nussbaum; Brian Ries; Skyler Kehn; Derek Koch; Jordan HighElk; Austin Taylor; Kyle Lewis; Connor Spinar; Josh Cullen; Zach Johnson; Jesse Thuringer; Gabe Syhre; Nicole Conrad; Carter Briggs; Chris Zantotto; and Dylan Radke.

ELECTION DATE

Due to the South Dakota Legislature, we are no longer able to have an April Election. It will either have to be in the Primary in June or in the General Election in November. Due to the timeline, we have already passed the June election deadline, so our election will be held in November. Green, Bohr, DeGeest, and Nielsen are up for election this year.

CHIP SEAL BIDS

Superintendent Darin Cranny is seeking council permission to begin soliciting bids for chip sealing this coming year. The council gave Darin permission to get bids for the chip sealing. Last year, he requested the same and opened the bids at the February meeting, and he would like to do the same this year. 9th Street will be turned into gravel this year, and Darin would really like to fix 1st street because it's a well-traveled road all the way to the ballfields. Darin will be spending a lot of time this spring preparing the roads on the chip seal list so they can get as smooth as possible. The complete list is in his report below.

BUILDING PERMITS

Zach Scott Construction applied for a building permit for 401 S. Kimball, which comprises lots 1-6, block 10 of the West Addition. They plan to build an attached garage. They didn't present a

diagram, but Building Inspector Nielsen spoke with them to understand Zach's needs. Zach's crew will handle the majority of the work, with Electrical handled by Morris Electric.

Two other houses are being identified as potential homes that might need further investigation. The building inspector needs to look at one at 1st and Duff and the other at 6th and Duff. He would like the council's permission to investigate the properties and conduct his own title search before Mr. Taylor proceeds with his own, at a cost of \$120-\$125 per search. Jim received the go-ahead to investigate before turning to the lawyer for the title search.

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

We burned the pile of trees the day after the last council meeting. I've been at the site cleaning up some. Barry and Dan have been out there for the last few days trying to finish.

There was more snow removal this last month. Mostly on the weekends, of course.

I've had some on-and-off work with the sewer contractors and SPN on getting the punch list items done.

I've been working on the plans for chip sealing this month. I'm planning on doing every road between Commerce and 3rd that wasn't just dug up and has new asphalt, east of the school road. Also doing 1st street all the way from the school road west to our alley, 2nd street from Main west to Lawler, Kimball from 1st to 3rd, and from Pennington to HWY 16, 9th from Union to Duff (this will be turned to gravel first), 6th from Union to Duff, and Duff from 1st to 2nd, and 3rd to 4th. This should get me close to our budgeted amount, leaving some for patch mix. There's a bunch of work to do on most of these roads to make them as good as we can before chip sealing.

I had more time this month working on equipment. We have a front wheel seal leaking on the 570 loader. I went to Sioux Falls and got seals along with the proper fluid. We will keep an eye on it, and if it doesn't leak too badly, I plan on waiting until spring to fix it. I don't want to have that loader down if we get snow, it's one of our main pieces of snow removal equipment. If it starts leaking too badly, I won't have a choice. It's a big project to fix as I must take the whole axle apart. I also have ordered filters for the fire trucks so we can get them serviced.

I was on call on Christmas Day, and there were 2 outages I had to attend to. The first one was a bird that blew a fuse at around 2:30 pm. The second one was around 9pm. That one showed just one meter. I got to the shop, grabbed a different meter in case that was all that was needed, and was at home 8 minutes after my phone alarm went off (which was 16 minutes after the alert, as my phone didn't alert me for 8 minutes). Once I got there, the power was on. I looked around and didn't do anything since it was working, and figured I'd deal with it later if something else happened. Nothing else did.

I've also spent a lot of time looking into what is needed to spray the algae on the jail pond. I studied, took, and passed the aquatic spray exam at the courthouse. Once it warms up and I can see what I'm dealing with for algae or plants, I will apply to the Game Fish and Parks for chemical vegetation control permit. I have also taken the classes online to update all my other spray license categories.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

I spent a lot of time this last month getting ready for the end of the month, quarterly reports, and year-end, such as watching videos on the correct way to do month, year, and year-end rolling of the numbers. Some of the reports I have done is making sure all of the 941 quarterly reports match what we paid into the IRS. Match the 941s to the W-3 to make sure they all match. I printed a 451-page report for the auditors to look over. I had to wait until we did the last payroll to do all these reports. But before the New Year started. We checked the mail daily, and I put in daily bills to make sure they got paid on time. We had the end-of-December meeting, and I had to take minutes for it on top of everything else.

I changed the water rates to prepare for the end of this month. I worked with Chance to change the electrical rate for businesses to large commercial rates. Due to questions I had on how to change them, it got postponed until GWorks gets back to me.

We ended up shutting two of the four people off on the shut-off list this month. They came in shortly after and paid.

During the last week of December, Morgen was out most of the week due to illness. So, my time was spent helping customers, handling reports, and billing for January.

The end of the month came and went smoothly due to the preparations I made during December. For my first year-end, it went as I hoped.

This next month, I will be having surgery on the 30th, with the 29th reserved in case of bad weather. I will be gone on February 2nd for recovery and will be back on the 3rd because Morgen is going on vacation.

MAYORS REPORT

I tore out the closet in the city council room, which really cleared out a lot of space. The long table in the room was moved to the SW corner of city hall and replaced with two 8-ft and one 6-ft table. This results in a much better arrangement for the city council to engage with the public attending the meetings. Some finishing repairs on the wall need to be made, and the suspended ceiling filled in where the closet stood. By the Feb 9 city council meeting, I plan to have child care available for young families who wish to attend.

I reviewed the electrical rate resolution proposals from Chance; reviewed where Chance and Cindy allocated the various electrical meters billed to which city accounts; and reviewed Cindy's year-end financial reports.

I worked with Cindy to set up a city employees' Google calendar. This is really helpful to inform the city council, mayor, and other employees about who is out on vacation or sick.

Magdalena is stepping down from the pool committee. Nathan has graciously agreed to chair the pool committee and brings valuable experience to this role. Magdalena will take Nathan's place as chair of the streets/alleys committee.

Here are some things I anticipate looking forward to in this new year:

- There will be a meet and greet planned in February, and hopefully two or three of our newer city council members will be available to join me in visiting with the public.
- I would like to work with Curt Nelson as we try to arrange an adult Spanish language class for interested members of the public so we can better communicate with our Hispanic neighbors.
- Our nation will celebrate its Semi quinentennial (250-year) anniversary, and the City of Plankinton will also celebrate its 145th anniversary. I look forward to seeing what activities and celebrations our various community organizations can arrange.
- There will be some sort of celebration in October as Aurora County First Responders Appreciation Month.
- The city is looking into a Plant-It tree project with community members sponsoring a tree.
- I will seek public input on providing a dog park, then evaluate the location and ways we can fund this project.

There was a discussion about the VFW's fundraising event at the jail pond. It was a consensus of the council to leave the event as is, but invite the VFW to our next meeting to open communications between the VFW and the City Council.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Carl Bode,
Mayor

ATTEST

Cindy Geiman
Finance Officer