

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Plankinton City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 6, 2020, at the Plankinton city hall. Mayor John Staller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Pam Vissia, Brad Kehn, Jim Hinckley, Terry Schuldts, and Jason Schurz. Susan Steele was absent. Employees present: Eileen Sorsen, Casey Schmidt, Darin Cranny, and Chance Boyd. Visitors were Gayle VanGenderen Studeny from SD Mail, Buddy Douglas, Melissa Davis, Chris Hill, Lindsey Weich, Brian Reis, and Kim Lessman.

Jim Hinckley recited the Oath of Office to Mayor Staller for an appointed 1-yr. Council seat - Ward III. Council person, Susan Steele, sent in a letter of resignation for Council member in Ward III. Mayor Staller read the letter to the Council, and accepted her resignation with deep regret. He said "it will be a hard seat to fill, and we wish Susan the best in her future endeavors".

Mayor Staller entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Vissia made a motion to approve. Kehn seconded it. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Kehn moved to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020, regular Council meeting (previously e-mailed to Council). Schuldts seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Vissia moved to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020, special Council meeting for vote canvassing, and reorganization of Council (previously e-mailed to Council). Schurz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Staller entertained a motion to pay the following bills. Kehn made a motion to approve the following bills. Schurz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried

EFT BILL LIST- PD. IN JUNE

F & M STATE BANK—June Bank Fees--\$35.40; 6/15/20--IRS-Pay 12 & Seas. Parks 941 Tax Due--\$2,750.06; 6/10/20--GREAT WESTERN BANK—June Bucket Truck Pay.--\$3,186.19; HEARTLAND—Loan Pay #13--\$2,483.36; 6/25/20--SD DEPT OF REV.—May State S. Tax due--\$3,632.88; 6/12/20—Bi-Weekly #12 & Seas. Parks #3 Payrolls--\$8,634.14; IRS-Pay 13, Parks #4, Mayor/Counc. #2 Payroll Taxes--\$3,551.38; SDRS—June Retirement--\$2,363.08; Bi-Weekly #13 & Seas. Parks #4 Payrolls--\$9,366.81.

BILLS PAID SINCE JUNE 8 SPECIAL MEETING

A & B BUSINESS—6/21-7/20/20 Contract--\$156.72; AFLAC—June Empl. Vol. Ins.--\$165.15; AVERA HEALTH PLAN—July Empl. Ins.--\$5,364.30; CENTRAL ELECTRIC—May Wheeling Fees--\$1,223.18; DELTA DENTAL—July Empl. Dental Ins.--\$211.00; DEPT. OF ENERGY—May Power Purchase--\$13,353.36; DOLLAR GENERAL—Election Cleaning Supp.--\$14.06; EAST RIVER ELEC.—May Wheeling Fees--\$2,545.20; HEARTLAND CONSUMERS POWER DISTR.—May Power Purchase--\$7,104.98; MITCHELL MONUMENTS—Move Gerken Headstone--\$209.00; SD DEPT OF TRANSP.—4/18-5/6/20 Diesel Fuel--\$605.22; SD ONE CALL—May Message Fees--\$22.05; GUARDIAN—Empl. July Life, LTD & STD Ins.--\$308.26; VERIZON—5/4-6/3/20 Tower Internet--\$45.50.; VISA—Mayor/F.O. SDML Conf., off. Supp., Gas cans, Sewer Pipe Plug, Election Workers lunch--\$1,273.57.

BILLS TO PAY AFTER JULY 6 MEETING

A-OX WELDING SUPP.—Shop Supplies--\$153.09; AMERIPRIDE—Rug Contract--\$39.79; AURORA/BRULE RURAL WATER—June Water/Debt Ret.--\$8,243.20; BARRY GEIMAN—2ND Quar. Cell Phone Subsidy--\$150.00; BORDER STATES—Electric Supplies--\$312.58; BULTSMA INS. AGENCY—Add '10 Mack Truck--\$49.00; CENTRAL ELECTRIC—Outage/Repair--\$250.00; CNH INDUSTRIAL CAP.—Mini-excav/skid loader lease--\$1,346.54; CHANCE BOYD—2ND Quar. Cell Phone Subsidy--\$150.00; CITYOF PLANKINTON—Met. Dep. #00-243-01-2 applied to final bill--\$20.00; CITY OF PLANKINTON—Met. Dep. #00-296-03-6 applied to final bill--\$250.00; CITY OF PLANKINTON—Met. Dep. #00-

153-04-7 applied to final bill--\$56.06; CITY OF PLANKINTON—Met. Dep. #00-047-06-7 applied to final bill--\$250.00; CLAY BROUWER—June Cemetery Mowing--\$3,600.00; CORE & MAIN—4 Disconnect Elec. Meters & SURCH.--\$782.98; DAKOTA PUMP—Lagoon Float Adj.--\$140.31; DELPHINE BECKER—Meter. Dep. Balance Refund--\$56.50; CITY OF PLANKINTON—Meter Dep. Applied to final bill #00-375-01-0--\$43.50; DAKOTA AGROW—Weed Spray--\$265.40; DARIN CRANNY—Travel Expense Reimb.--\$25.10; DARIN CRANNY—2ND Quarter Cell Phone Subsidy--\$150.00; FORTERRA—Manhole Extensions--\$214.50; FP MAILING SOLUTIONS—6/20-9/19/20 Postage Meter--\$89.85; GOLDEN WEST COMM.—June Phone Bills--\$413.09; MARCELLA JOHNSON EST.—Meter Dep. Bal. Refund--\$193.94; MIKE’S CONSTR.—Garbage Service--\$60.00; OVERWEG AUTO—Street Supp/Mat.--\$36.22; NW PIPE FITTINGS—Lagoon Supplies/Mat.--\$3,243.56; PLANKINTON LUMBER CO.—Supp./Mat.--\$127.60; RESCO—Electric Transformers--\$18,364.00; ROADSIDE C-STORE—June Fuel--\$593.53; RON’S MARKET—Supplies--\$119.05; SD DEPT OF HEALTH—June Water & Sewer Testing--\$59.00; SD MAIL—June Publishing--\$1,495.26; SPENCER QUARRIES—Ballast for Street Rep.--\$2,575.27; STEVE’S WELDING—Loader Repair--\$65.94; STITCH-N-TIME—Business apparel/logo--\$194.00; TECH SOLUTIONS—July IT Contract--\$690.00; BLUEBOOK—Water Supplies--\$333.90; WHEELCO—Elec. Supplies--\$68.40;

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Staller asked the Council if there are any added suggestions for the 5-yr. Plan. Vissia said we need to stay progressive on our work. Kehn said if we ever work on Westside Park bathrooms, he knows someone who would help with concrete. Mayor said on the 2020 Budget, we may not use all the budgeted Load Management money, due the Covid-19 issues making it impossible to work on it.

Elevator Land Purchase: The cost of SPN’s land survey is \$1,200, and attorney fees may run around \$300. Vissia said we need to sell it to Jim Page. Schurz said we need to declare it surplus property, then we need to have 3 appraisals. Mayor Staller will talk to Mr. Taylor, our city lawyer, about this. Vissia suggested we get appraisals by next meeting on the 90’ x 25’ lot.

Nuisance properties were discussed later in the meeting.

VISITORS- BY APPOINTMENT:

Melissa Davis attended for 2 reasons. She said a new ambulance is needed, and will cost around \$180,000. The ambulance fund has about \$110,000 on hand. They are hoping the City can budget money every year toward purchase & upkeep of an ambulance. Kehn wondered why the City has never helped out the ambulance, as we help the Fire Department. Melissa said “we are going to do it right”. Vissia made a motion that we should budget \$5,000 to an Ambulance Fund for 2021. Kehn seconded it. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The ambulance is a vital part of our community. Melissa stated that Diana Spinar has applied for a grant for radios for ambulance EMT’s and drivers.

The second reason for Melissa’s visit was to discuss the pool bathhouse. She wanted to know if the Council Pool Board will meet with the pool fund raising committee at a set date to discuss the future of the new bathhouse. Vissia would like to find an architect. Schurz, Schuldt, and Vissia will set up a meeting with Melissa in early July. Melissa said “we are going to move ahead with ideas on a new splash pad”. Without installation, it is about \$99,000. The Council would have to gate the area, and it would be in the place of the current baby pool. This company does a lot of work in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Mayor Staller said “we appreciate what the Pool Committee is doing”. Melissa also stated that the Pool received a Wellmark 3-Point Play Grant for \$11,740. That money was used to purchase the Aqua Zip’N that is on order. She entered our city on the App, and thinks Plankinton people helped vote for it. Darin Cranny asked Melissa if we plan on doing the bathhouse this year. She said we have to wait for the ok from Randy Kittle for the LWCF Grant of \$73,000 to proceed. Demolition of the old building will be part of the contract. Melissa departed at 7:05 p.m.

Buddy Douglas arrived at 7:05 p.m. He would like a copy of all the ordinances for the City, and said “the only way he can get his stuff in order is to have a copy of the ordinances”. The 2 letters he received have to do with mowing and junk vehicles. Mayor Staller asked him if the latest letters the City sent him are factual. He said he has started to clean up, and he is taking his cars out of town. His vehicles have to be out of the right of way, and need to be licensed and in running order. Kehn said to “work on your stuff, we will give you the ordinances, and we will be fine”. Vissia said “we hate to ask people to mow or clean up, but have to as Council members”. Mr. Douglas left at 7:20 p.m.

Chris Hill arrived at 7:20 p.m. He wanted to talk about holding a Purple & Gold Game, with just local players and fans, on July 19, at 5:00 p.m. It is a fund raiser for the team. Shurz said that everyone knows the social distancing rules. Pre-packaged food and drink will be served. The Council had no problem with this, and gave their blessing. Chris said the team will clean the bathrooms before and after the game. Chance Boyd will check the scoreboard lights. Chris left at 7:30 p.m.

Deputy Finance Officer, Casey Schmidt arrived at 7:30 p.m. She came to discuss the CIMS Cemetery software cost. She sent the cost sheets around. The Licensing, creation of Smart Map, and System Support Fee, plus \$750 for a half day on-line training will be a first year cost \$13,270, and then \$800 a year maintenance after the first year, with no contract length. Vissia said she watched a tutorial on it, and thinks it looks easy to install. Casey has been working with the cemetery cards, and at the cemetery already. The Council doesn’t want to waste the previous work that was done. Casey said there was a concern that the cards and old record books would be thrown away, but we will keep them for historical purposes. Gayle VanGenderen was happy to hear that the City would be keeping the paper history. Vissia asked if the company would be willing to take \$9,000 down payment now, and the rest of balance later, as Cemetery/parks has \$9,000 budgeted for Land Improvement (work on the stones this year), but that has been put off due to cemetery being so wet. Mayor said to make a contract for \$9,000 down-payment, with a balance due of \$4,270 by June, 2021. Vissia made a motion to go with CIMS for cemetery software, and to take \$9,000 out of Cemetery Land Improvement, and balance of \$4,270 due by June, 2021. Kehn seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried. Casey left at 7:40 p.m.

Council member Brad Kehn departed at 7:42 p.m.

Brian Reis and Lindsey Weich arrived at 7:42 p.m. They presented their ideas on the upcoming smaller version of Pheasant Fest. They are suggesting that admission will be \$5, and those who attend will receive \$5 Plank Bucks to apply to their supper. The restaurants can sell their own stuff, and there may be a “Touch the Truck”. There will only be local advertising, and the goal isn’t to make money, but help the local businesses. They will need Main Street blocked off, with outdoor seating available for those who want to eat outside. It will be just a couple hours in the evening. Lindsey stated if the Covid-19 climate would change, they won’t have it. Brian left at 7:45 p.m.

2021 INSURANCE BIDS:

Lindsey (representing Krohmer Agency) and Kim Lessman (representing Bultsma Agency) were here at 7:45 p.m. for the opening of bid packets for 2021 City and Fire Department Insurance:

Mayor Staller opened the Krohmer Agency bid first. Their quote was \$18,283.00 for City Ins. + \$242.00 if the City should choose Terrorism coverage. The Fire Dept. quote was \$3,471.00. Lindsey stated \$525.00 was included in the Liability coverage to cover sexual harassment & wrongful loss of job. The Aggregate limit was \$5,000,000.00. Lindsey said OneBeacon has excellent claims service.

Mayor Staller opened the Bultsma Insurance Agency quote. Kim Lessman was here representing Clint Bultsma. The quote was \$18,253.00 for City insurance, and \$3,629.00 for Fire Dept. insurance. Kim said Continental Western had a slight increase, but most of the difference was because of adding new purchases. The Fire Dept. quote was the same as last year.

Mayor asked for a vote on the bids. Vissia made a motion to accept Bultsma Agency's low bid of \$18,253.00 for City Insurance for 2021 Insurance, and Krohmer Agency's Fire Dept. Insurance bid of \$3,471.00 for 2021. Schurz seconded it. All voted aye. Motion carried. Lindsey & Kim departed at 8:00 p.m.

NUISANCE PROPERTIES:

Vissia appreciates that Mayor Staller and Councilman Kehn had driven around checking on properties in town. She stated that in the letter to be sent to violators of the City ordinance, if they will get rid of old vehicles, the City has the ability to get rid of them. One property has a motor home on it that is licensed to a person in Mt. Vernon. The gentleman was contacted, and said he had sold it 3 years ago, and the license was never transferred by the new owner. At the same property a neighbor's cat brought over a dead rat from there. Neighbors have seen rat shadows moving across the top of cabinets at night. Birds were in there, and were seen being tossed out. Vissia said a mattress all chewed up inside the house is not right. The owner had stated they were going to move back in over 3 months ago. Hinckley said he is at his wits end with this property, and the City should go to our lawyer to get action taken on this, as a nuisance property.

NEW BUSINESS:

LIBRARIAN:

Mayor Staller stated that 2 people applied for the City Librarian job. He agrees with the Library Board's recommendation to hire Carrie Brink, at a starting wage of \$12.00 an hour, beginning August 3, 2020. Vissia made a motion to approve Carrie Brink as the new City Librarian. Schurz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

CEMETERY MOWING:

Mayor Staller stated that we are up to cemetery mowing number 9 on the current bills.

BUILDING PERMITS:

Kehn gave a report on the following Building Permits. He and Mayor Staller will sign off on them: #61020—James Page—Erect Grain Bin @208 Commerce St; #6820—Curt Guindon—Demo. Bldg. @ 205 E Commerce St; #61120—Brad Kehn—Add 6' to deck @ 107 E Pennington; #61520—Jeff & Natalie Briggs—Install Egress windows @ 108 W State St; #62420—Cordell & Melissa Davis—25' x 24' Concrete Pad @800 E 3rd St.; #62620—Abigail Van Alstyne—Fence @ 611 E Commerce St.; #7220—Rayne Guindon—Widen Driveway @ 309 E 5th St.; #7620-1--John & Susan Steele—New Concrete @ 107 N Vine St; #7620-2—Steele & Steele, P.C.—Replace Driveway @ Business @404 S Main St; #7620-3.

DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER 6-MONTH ANN.:

Casey Schmidt has achieved her 6-month probation as Deputy Finance Officer for the City of Plankinton. Hinckley made a motion to approve a 50 cent an hour raise, to bring her to \$16.50 an hour, as of 7/6/20. Schuldts seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

UTILITY SUPT. REPORT:

Utility Supt. Darin Cranny said we have the new 2010 Mack dump truck. It is a major upgrade, and was badly needed, especially with all of the current street work. The real bad spots were dug up, and 8 – 12 inches of oversize rock and clay was packed in. The top layer is concrete grindings. He wants to put hot mix over as many areas as he can this fall, but could really use a packer. The engineers have approved the bridge at State Street, so he opened that road back up. He has been fogging for mosquitoes, and working on installing new valves at the lagoon between the ponds. Maguire Iron is going to be here to service the water tower.

ELECTRIC SUPT. REPORT:

Electric Supt. Chance Boyd has been helping Darin dig up roads in town, and repairing them. WAPA and East River had substation issues, and this shut down 3 substations overall, including Plankinton's. The city had a few outages this month, and he replaced a bad transformer. He scheduled an outage for the east circuit so he could work on the pole by the Vine Street lift station. MMUA instructor, James is coming, and they will work at the ballfield. Chance finished his MMUA tests for book one of four. He took a 16 hour Code class, necessary for his electrical license. It needs to be done every 2 years. City Hall lighting was replaced with LED, thanks to Heartland Energy Efficient Grant he applied for.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Finance Officer Eileen Sorsen reported that they are prepared for the front door to open again. The maintenance people have built a plexi-glass shield for the front desk. She hopes customers will use the drop box as much as possible, and only come in for business that can't be handled on the phone or by paying by mail or drop box. Training continues for Deputy F. O. Casey Schmidt, and she deserves her raise. There is much to learn, and by working in close quarters, it is easier for training. Both of us take on all projects that come up. The SDML Conference was scheduled for October 6-9, and Eileen and Mayor Staller and Sherry planned on attending. As of Tuesday, July 7, it has since been cancelled, due to Covid-19 concerns.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Staller reported that the office will now be open, with a plexi-glass shield in place, but please use the drop box or mail, if possible. The Emergency Manager, Jim Nielsen, is resigning. The Elevator is putting up a new bin. The Cemetery mowing for this year may get to 12 or 13 times, due to all the rain. Part-time Parks Seasonal Seth Bultsma is done now and will be leaving for National Guard. We are beginning work on the 2021 budget. Work is getting done on the new soccer field. Steve Bucher said adjustors came, but he is debating on whether to repair or tear down the law office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Signed: John J. Staller, Mayor _____

Attest: Eileen Sorsen, Finance Officer _____

