

Regular Meeting Minutes of the Plankinton City Council

July 7th, 2025 Meeting Minutes of the Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met on July 7th, 2025, for a regular meeting.

Members present included Mayor Carl Bode, Council members Jim Nielsen, DeEtte Bohr, Nathan DeGeest (via Zoom), and Magdalena Popek-Hurst.

Members Absent were Amber Green and Terry Schuldt. Both notified the council that they would not be attending.

Finance Officer Cindy Geiman, Electrical Superintendent Chance Boyd, and Maintenance Superintendent Darin Cranny were among the city employees present.

Also in attendance were Gayle Van Genderen, representing the South Dakota Mail; Curt Nelson; Howard Weischedel; Roman Briggs, representing the Aurora County Sheriff; Blair Metzger with DGR; and Jill Gislason.

Mayor Bode called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilperson Nielsen informed the council that he would like to table the Walleyes Unlimited Grant indefinitely and request the addition of a Liquor License Transfer. Mayor Bode would like to honor Sheriff Roman Briggs's time and move him under the Electrical Rate Study. Nielsen made a motion to approve the agenda, deferring Walleyes Unlimited, adding Liquor License, and moving Contract Law. Popek-Hurst seconded. All voted aye, motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the bills to pay, with Bohr seconding the motion. All voted Aye. The motion passed.

A&B BUSINESS IT- IT CONTRACT-\$567.16; A&B BUSINESS SOLUTIONS- LAPTOPS AND IPADS-\$254.34; AFLAC- VOL. INSURANCE-\$181.55; AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING- YEARLY SUPPORT CONTRACT-\$495.00; AMG OCC. MEDICINE-DOT DRUG TEST-\$36.60; ANIBAL ELEAZAR MAQUIN XOL- DEPOSIT REFUND-\$21.90; AURORA BRULE WATER-WATER PURCHASE-\$9991.00; AURORA COUNTY 4-H-\$100.00; AURORA COUNTY AUDITOR- 1ST HALF CONTRACT LAW-\$39050.00; AVERA- JULY HEALTH\$4481.12; BARNES AND NOBLE- BOOKS PURCHASED-\$140.71. BARRY GEIMAN- 2ND QUARTER CELL PHONE-\$150.00; BELL BANK- SKID LOADER PAYMENT- \$867.73; BORDER STATES-PIPE CLAMPS-\$101.60; CNA WESTERN SURETY-MORGEN'S BOND- \$474.66; CARL BODE- 2ND QUARTER CELL PHONE- \$150.00; CENTRAL ELECTRIC- WHEELING FEES/RAMP LIGHTING-\$1311.90; CHANCE BOYD- 2ND QUARTER CELL PHONE- \$150.00; CINDY GEIMAN- F.O. SCHOOL FOOD AND FUEL-\$264.83; CINDY GEIMAN-2ND QUARTER CELL PHONE STIPEND- \$150.00; COMMERCIAL ASPHALT- OMEGA MIX- \$2074.00; DAN GEIMAN- 2ND QUARTER CELL PHONE-\$112.50; DARIN CRANNY- 2ND QUARTER CELL PHONE- \$150.00; DELTA DENTAL- DENTAL INSURANCE- 268.30; DOUGS CUSTOM, LAWN MOWER SERVICE- \$157.49; EAST RIVER ELECTRIC- WHEELING FEES-\$3617.90; EZ SPOT UR- ELECTRICAL MACHINERY- \$14534.23; F&M STATE BANK- PAYROLL FEE- \$7.95; F&M STATE BANK- BANK FEE-\$1.00; F&M STATE BANK- PAYROLL FEE- \$7.95; FINK PLUMBING- HOT WATER HEATERS- \$1234.65; GOLDEN WEST- PHONE UTILITES- \$496.72; HAWKINS- POOL-\$1712.38; HAWKINS- SUPPLIES- \$1066.62; HEARTLAND- POWER PURCHASE-\$6074.97; HEARTLAND- LOAN #72-1-\$1241.68; HEARTLAND- LOAN #72-2- \$1241.68; HELENA-CHEMICALS FOR SPRAYING-\$590.60; HOMETOWN FAMILY HEALTH-DRUG TEST-\$160.00; IVERSONS- 4- WHEELER- \$9400.00; J HARLEN- ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES- \$489.17; J&D CONTRACTING- 4,5,&6 MOWINGS- \$4500.00; JACK MARETTE- CORN CRIB PROJECT- \$345.00; JIM NIELSEN- 2ND QUARTER CELL PHONE- \$75.00; JIM NIELSEN- CORN CRIB PROJECT-\$89.91; KROHMER AGENCY- FIRSTATION 1999 TRUCK INSURANCE- \$100.00; L&L SANITATION- GARBAGE

SERVICES- \$200.00; MACAYLA GERLACH- WIS REIMBURSTMENT- \$200.00; MAGDALENA POPEK-HURST- BANDAIDS POOL- \$24.43; MAKE IT MINE DESIGNS- CORN CRIB VINYL SIGNS- \$562.00; ON SIGHT- SUPPORT PLANS- \$333.70; PLANKINTON LUMBER- SUPPLIES- \$658.14; PLANKINTON SERVICE CLUB- ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP-\$35.00; RAMOTA- F.O SCHOOL HOTEL- \$357.00; RESCO- STARLIGHT GLOVES-\$312.81; ROADSIDE- FUEL PURCHASES- \$689.45; RON'S MARKET- SNACK FOR POOL- \$295.99; RON'S MARKET- WATER-\$51.17; SCHOENFELDER PORTABLES- APRIL MAY- \$600.00; SD DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE- SALES TAX- \$3786.75; SD DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION- FUEL PURCHASED- \$449.61; SD MUNICIPAL LEAGUE- ELECTED OFFICIALS CONFERENCE- \$100.00; SD PUBLIC HEALTH- WATER SAMPLES- \$30.00; SOUTH DAKOTA 811- MESSAGE FEES- \$12.60; SOUTH DAKOTA MAIL- ADVERTISING- \$1727.56; SPN- ENGINEERING FEES- \$28790.59; TEAM LAB- LAGOON TESTING- \$1200.00; TITAN MACHINERY- BELTS- \$310.15; TITAN MACHINERY- AUGER GEAR, BIT AND EXTENSION- \$4219.00; TOSHIBA FINANCIAL SERVICES- COPIER CONTRACT-189.90; VERIZON WIRELESS- TOWER/SURFACE/HS-\$122.18- VESTIS- RUG CONTRACT *2-\$74.82; VISA SUPPLIES- \$2420.49; VSP VISION- VISION INSURANCE- \$114.23; WAPA- WATER PURCHASE-\$16540.63.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Bohr seconded the motion. All voted aye on the motion; the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jill Gislason informed the council that two bricks were missed during the poolside walkway installation. She would like the council's permission to cement the two blocks around the same area. Maintenance Superintendent Darin Cranny didn't see a problem with cementing it around the same location. The council's approval was given.

OLD BUSINESS

ELECTRICAL RATE STUDY

Blair Metzger with DGR Engineering addressed the council about upcoming issues. One key aspect to review is the financial outlook. What steps should we take with rates to stay ahead? Ideally, this will lead to a rate study and a cost-of-service study in the future. How can we fund capital projects? How do we construct the loop that Supt. Chance needs to convert to underground? Financials aren't as strong as expected. It was the first time Blair saw a negative cash balance in the electrical department. Electrical Superintendent Chance explained that they have a negative cash balance and why the sewer fund has a significant amount of money. Transfers from electrical to sewer caused the negative balance. With help from auditors and the SD Legislative Audit, it was found that funds can be transferred back into electricity to fix the negative balance. Popek-Hurst asked the Finance Officer if she was willing to do this task? Cindy responded that she can contact the Auditors and other Finance Officers, as well as Rod Fortin with the SD Legislative Auditor. Both Chance and Darin agree that customers shouldn't be affected by the internal error causing the negative cash flow. Additionally, in 2022, the city stopped paying for its electricity usage. Blair thought it was best to start charging again. Rising costs have made things worse. All costs have increased, especially for power. WAPA's costs have surged significantly in 2025 and are expected to rise again in 2026. Part of the problem is the transmission costs to deliver power here. These factors have created a serious issue. Blair considered raising rates sharply all at once, but Chance advised against it, leading to only a 5% increase in May, which was a good first step. Blair estimates another 6% increase at the start of the year and an additional 7% mid-year. However, a decision will be made at year's end to evaluate the financial situation and determine the appropriate rate increase. Blair also explained that WAPA is taking a step down in the drought adder; however, they might increase the regular rate at the same time.

CONTRACT LAW

Mayor Bode explained to the council the background of the agreement that the county commissioners and the council had developed. The agreement primarily consisted of \$100 per person, with an annual rate increase of 2% until 2034.

Sheriff Roman Briggs provided a summary of the calls they have been dispatched to throughout this year. Examples include 58 accidents, 40-unit assists, 29 animal complaints, 25 disorderly conduct incidents, 11 DUIs, seven runaway cases, 14 suspicious persons, six thefts of property, 482 traffic stops, 17 welfare checks, 206 miscellaneous calls that don't fit into specific categories, and they served four distress warrants. They housed 34 prisoners for a total of 317 days. Additionally, they handled 62 criminal cases, served seven warrants, and recovered three stolen vehicles.

JUNK VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT

Popek-Hurst has put significant effort into patrolling the town, taking photographs, and documenting vehicles that violate the city's Junk Vehicle ordinances. After reviewing the list, the council decided it would be best to focus on multiple-vehicle violations first and handle 10 at a time to avoid overwhelming Cindy and Morgen. The council would like to see a sample letter that the City Attorney will send out. Some council members asked Popek-Hurst how someone can verify that their issue has been resolved? Popek-Hurst responded that she is willing to visit the addresses to confirm whether the vehicles are now in compliance. Concerns have been raised about Popek-Hurst going out alone to see properties. It was suggested that she take another council member with her. Gayle Van Gendern asked what would happen if they didn't respond to the letter? Popek-Hurst said they will then receive a letter stating they are in violation and have 15 days to comply; otherwise, the vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. There was discussion about when to send the letters. Finance Officer Cindy suggested sending them toward the end of the month, so the community has an opportunity to come to the city council meeting and explain their case.

DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER

Mayor Bode, Councilperson DeGeest, and Finance Officer Cindy interviewed three candidates for the deputy finance officer. After the interviews, they offered the position to Morgen Mahrt at 20.00/hour with 90 days' probation with the approval of the council.

Nielsen made a motion to approve the hiring of Morgen Mahrt as Deputy Finance Officer. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion passed.

Popek-Hurst made a motion to allow Morgen to authorize any bank transactions that need to be done at the bank. Bohr seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Popek-Hurst wanted the Finance Officer to add said duties to the personnel handbook.

PAST DUE BILLS

The Finance Officer reported that there are currently eight past due accounts, and due to the work load today shut offs have been moved until Tuesday the 8th.

RODEWAY INN

As of 2:00 p.m. on July 7th, Rodeway Inn's attorney, Rex Schlicht, contacted City Attorney James Taylor to inform him that they do not wish to pursue an appeal. Instead, they plan to fix the issues and would like to schedule a second inspection as soon as possible. Nielsen reported that he is in the process of reaching out to the Rodeway Inn manager to set up a time either on Wednesday or Thursday this week. Nielsen, along with Emergency Manager and Fire Department representative Skyler Kehn, will only inspect previously checked items such as the fire alarms, smoke alarms, and obstructions to doorways. Any new issues can be brought to the manager's attention, but will not be part of the inspection. If they meet those expectations, then the motel will be open. Tori O' Brien with the South Dakota Health Inspector will do an inspection on their own. And if they find

violations, they will have the ability to pull the motel's license. Additionally, Pam Mora from the South Dakota Department of Public Safety is also monitoring the situation. Nielsen asked the council if they feel like doing a semi-annual inspection or keeping it at the annual inspection. It was the consensus to follow our ordinances and conduct yearly inspections.

SEWER PROJECT/

DRAINING

We are experiencing some drainage issues around town due to the sewer project. One is on Madison, east of Main Street, and another is on 2nd Street, east of Pearl Street. The third is on Duff Street at the intersection with 7th Street. There is a part of town that requires an entirely new sewer line, specifically on 3rd Street from Duff to Sanborn. Hopefully, due to the current sewer setup, they will only need to replace half of the road, as it is situated on the far south side of the ditch. The engineer has said we are more than \$100,000 under budget so far. It is estimated to cost around \$125,000 to fix that 443 feet. Weather permitting, it should take about a week to complete, likely towards the end of the month. Currently, they are planning to shut down 3rd Street, a county road. Darin has contacted the residents that are affected. The clean-up crew is coming back tomorrow to do more dirt work around town. The drainage issue will not be addressed until the project is done on 3rd street. Once the dirt work is done, they will start seeding the dirt.

Another topic briefly discussed was that there are a lot of people in the community who are discharging their sump pumps into the sewer system, which is extremely illegal. We put an ad in the paper stating that it is illegal to discharge into the sewer system. Up to a \$500 fine if caught. If people continue to do it, we will have trouble with the sewer system backing up into people's homes if we have a significant rain.

Popek-Hurst made a motion to sign the State Revolving Fund Loan Reimbursement Request of \$779,892.00. Nielsen seconded the motion, all voted aye, the motion carried.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Mayor Bode explained that the library board met and agreed to hire Vikki Eilts as the assistant librarian at \$13.00/hour, pending approval from the city council. Bohr made a motion to accept the library board's recommendation to hire Vikki, with Popek-Hurst seconding the motion. All voted aye; the motion passed.

TREE REMOVAL

Superintendent Chance Boyd spoke to the council about having B&H Tree Service come and remove the stump on Commerce Street. They can't tear it down anymore because of the electricity on the north side and fiber on the south side. Superintendent Darin Cranny said he hit it with a loader, but the stump didn't move. Nielsen made a motion to hire B&H to remove the stump, with Bohr seconding the motion. Everyone voted aye, and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

UTILITY SERVICE

AGREEMENTS

Mayor Bode informed the council that we have a few small claims cases missing signed utility agreements. Without these agreements, it is difficult to verify the owners or identify the contact persons. In emergencies or cases of suspicious water or electricity usage, we need to contact the correct individual. A discussion was held about whether people should fill out these agreements and whether to send them to everyone. This will be completely voluntary, giving everyone a chance to update their details or add an extra contact person. It will also give some people, who might not know we offer paperless billing, the opportunity to sign up. Supt. Chance mentioned that with rising postage costs, it might be beneficial to offer consumers an incentive to sign up for paperless billing, such as a one-time \$5 credit. Regarding the utility service agreements, this could also

reduce our postage expenses. The council agreed that this topic should be addressed during budget meetings.

CREDIT CARD POLICY

The council received an email from Finance Officer Cindy with a draft for the credit card policy. Popek-Hurst responded with quite a few ideas, which Cindy took into consideration. There is a copy in the packet for everyone to look at. DeGeest made a motion to adopt the credit card policy and add that to the personnel handbook. Nielsen seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

MICROSOFT AZURE AD

Mayor Bode and Finance Officer Cindy Geiman met with Ross Engelbrecht from A&B Solutions regarding the Project Boundary Fence at DSU. Ross mentioned that the 75-page report that DSU did wasn't that bad; he has seen other entities much worse off. If this replaces what we currently have with Microsoft 360, it is going to save us money in the long run. Right now we pay around \$560.00, as you see from the quote, it will be around \$200.00 monthly service fee. The hardware migration to update all users to Azure AD for security and upgrade the Security on the SMB NAS device will cost around \$970.00. With Microsoft Azure AD, we will be more secure, and we will have cloud backups in case something ever happens to the building where we are currently storing information. DeGeest made a motion to approve the quote for the Microsoft Azure AD. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion, all voted aye, the motion carried.

MESSAGE NOTIFICATIONS (TEXT, EMAIL, AND PHONE)

We received several complaints about the streets being closed for chip seal. As a result, Mayor Bode asked Cindy and Morgen to find a messaging service that includes voice, text, and email options. The council was presented with three choices. Option 1) Text-Em-All, which operates on a pay-per-credits system where each standard text costs one credit. Using special characters or more than 160-character messages increases the credit cost. Option 2) Regroup allows unlimited texting without purchasing credits. It leaves a voicemail when calling landlines. You can create groups so only certain areas or groups, like employees or specific parts of town, receive the message. The service costs \$2000.00 a year, or if you sign a three-year contract, you get one year free. Option 3) Everbridge is similar to Regroup but costs \$ 5,000 per year. A discussion was held and the matter has been put on hold until the budget meeting. And to contact the school to see what messaging services they use.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel

Nielsen made a motion to enter executive session at 8:56 pm for the purpose of personnel with Popek-Hurst seconding. All voted aye; the motion passed. Finance Officer Geiman was asked to stay.

The executive session concluded at 9:06 pm with no action taken.

MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS

There is an Application for Industrial Park, Agri-Business Access, or Community Access Grant Funds. Nielsen made a motion to let Mayor Bode sign on behalf of the council to sign the application, with Popek-Hurst seconding the motion. All voted aye; the motion carried. This will be an 80% grant and a 20% out-of-pocket expense.

There is also a resolution that needs to be signed to accompany the application. Nielsen made a motion to approve resolution 2025-08.01, with Bohr seconding the motion. All voted aye; the motion passed.

Resolution 2025-08.01

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Plankinton to improve a portion of Main Street to better serve the Main Street corridor and local elevator; and

WHEREAS, Plankinton agrees to provide a 20% local match for road construction costs, plus pay all engineering, utilities and administrative costs associated with said project; and

WHEREAS, Plankinton will secure the required right-of-way for the construction of the project; and

WHEREAS, Plankinton agrees to maintain the road for its useful life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plankinton City Council duly approves the submission of a SD Department of Transportation Community Access Grant application requesting 80% of the eligible street construction costs for the project as submitted;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mayor of Plankinton be authorized to execute and sign the grant application on behalf of Plankinton.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mayor of Plankinton be authorized as the certifying officer to sign all required pay requests, correspondence and other documents for the proposed project on behalf of Plankinton.

Adopted and effective this 7th day of July, 2025.

Carl Bode
Mayor

Attest:
Cindy Geiman
Finance Officer

POOL PARTY

Popek-Hurst wanted to see if the council would agree to having the pool party on the 2nd Saturday of August every year. That way, there is no confusion about when the party will be held. It will be easier to have everyone plan for it on that day. She would like to do it just like last year, have people donate to the pool everything we might need including food and drinks. They are participating in the same activities that they did last year, including the fire, ambulance, and public safety events. Popek-Hurst is requesting approval of the date and will place an ad in the newspaper. It was discussed that the pool will remain open until August 16th.

FOOD TRUCKS/PEDDLERS PERMIT

Some discussion was held about food trucks and the peddler's permit. Examples were provided to the council by Cindy of what other cities do for food trucks and peddlers as well. We received some clarification from Atty. Taylor regarding what a peddler's permit entails. Discussions took place regarding the creation of a new contract and application process for peddlers and food trucks. Bohr mentioned getting a copy of their sales tax license and their certificate from the Department of Health. Concerns were raised about the noise from the generator at the food truck at Dollar

General and how distracting it can be, especially if they decide to move onto private property next to occupied housing. Another discussion was held regarding the charges for the peddlers permit and the food truck license, as well as the locations where food trucks can go. Notable events in town where food trucks are invited should be exempt from needing such a license. In the end, it was decided that Finance Officer Cindy and Councilperson Bohr prepare a proposal to present at the city council meeting in August.

LIQUOR LICENSING TRANSFER

Dylan Pribyl came into the city office regarding a liquor license transfer from Commerce Street Bar & Grill to Silo Market. To transfer a license, they need an open meeting hearing. So, if we could set the hearing date for August 4th at 7:00 p.m. during our council meeting then we can avoid setting a special meeting date. Bohr made a motion to set the open hearing date for August 4th at 7:00 pm. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

FINANCE OFFICER PROBATION

When the council hired Cindy from Deputy Finance Officer to Finance Officer, it was on a 90-day probation period. That 90-day period has since expired. Nielsen made a motion to remove Finance Officer Cindy from probation, with Popek-Hurst Seconding the motion. All voted aye; the motion carried.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Building Inspector Jim Nielsen informed the council that two houses have basements that are deteriorating. The first house is on 1st Street; its basement is collapsing, and critters are moving in and out. The second house is on 6th Street; its foundation has worsened since last year, and skunks are coming and going. He requests the council's approval to begin condemning the house on 1st Street and to contact the owner of the house on 6th Street. The first step is to reach out to the City Attorney, James Taylor, to find out the procedures for condemning the house on 1st Street.

BUILDING PERMITS

There is one demolition permit and one building permit. The one demolition permit is for Ron Berens garage located at 402 N Duff ; S ½ of Lot 1-6 block 8 of Miracle & Clarks 1st addition. The second building permit is for a front porch for Brian and Charlotte Wageman at 306 E 4th street; lot 15 block 3 of Miracle and Clark 2nd addition. All permits have been approved.

Nielsen would like to attend a building inspectors program through the South Dakota Municipal League. It was recommended by the municipal league that they sign up as associate members. The cost is \$50.00 for the fee and it adds additional members for only \$5.00 each. He would like the council's permission to sign up as an associate member with one additional person for a total of \$55.00. Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve signing up for the associate membership for building inspections with one unnamed member. Bohr seconded the motion, and all voted aye with Nielsen abstaining. Roll call was taken: Bohr—aye, DeGeest—aye, Popek-Hurst—aye, with Nielsen abstaining. Green and Schuldt were absent. Motion passed.

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

I had my usual daily pool work this month, and sometimes a little more than I should have. We've already talked about this, I think.

We did a bunch of road work this month again, fixing up what we could for now, especially preparing for the chip seal. That is done. I have more road patching to do soon, once we get caught up on a few things.

I went and got our new 4-wheeler at the beginning of last month and got some more weed spraying done.

I did some additional work at the jail pond, spraying and spreading the rock that was placed in the parking area and the wheelchair fishing area.

I mentioned this winter I was having a company come in and do some mapping of the first 2 cells of our lagoon to see how much sludge has accumulated at the bottom. They showed up a few weeks ago, and I got the results last week. The average depth of sludge in pond one is 19 inches, and in pond 2, it is 13 inches. That's not bad, but it's not great either. We're not too worried about Pond 2, but it would be nice to get some of Pond 1 cleared out. Approximately 28% of our capacity is gone to sludge in pond one now. They gave me the cost of a treatment plan. It's about \$10,000 per year for the first 3 years, then half that each year after that to maintain. That should get about 7 inches removed after 3 years. This is an enzyme added to the pond to basically break down the sludge. I doubt I'll be able to figure out budget-wise where we are at, even this year, with the project still not completed, but maybe next year's budget, I can see how things are setting, and we can talk about this more. It's important to keep the ponds healthy.

I've had quite a bit of time working with the road guys, engineers, etc. We had a meeting last week and we have some drainage issues that will be addressed before the project is completed. We also have 1 more block of sewer line that is needing to be replaced on 3rd Street from Duff to Sanborn. It's in the ditch so we may not have to replace the road there, we're not sure of that yet. I'm just briefing you here as this project is on the agenda and this will be discussed. That sounds like it will happen in about a month. This is an added line, so it's not included in the completion date. That fiber line that was found in the sewer main is scheduled to be repaired tomorrow. If we don't get a bunch of rain the road guys are scheduled to come back tomorrow and work on ditches again also.

We had a sewer line plug up on north main street one Monday evening. Chance helped me get it open. I spent a good part of that whole week flushing sewers after that. With everything that has been going on we haven't had time to do that as much as we need to. That is just some of the normal maintenance that, unfortunately, we have not had time to do. Things should start getting back to normal fairly soon, hopefully..

I had a few days working on the equipment.

I fogged mosquitoes 2 early mornings.

I had one of Zach's guys come to the west RU site to dig a new hole for us. Well, after he filled the old one in and tried multiple places, he couldn't find anywhere to dig that wasn't used up. I had him quit and just said to send a bill for what he did. I think there is some room, but the contractors hauled 40-50 truckloads of asphalt chunks and gravel where I think the room is. Additionally, they piled dirt in an area where I believe a room is located. I thought we had room in other places, so it wasn't a big deal, but I was wrong. I figured I'd pile that stuff up this fall sometime. I did get a smaller hole dug out there with our mini on Thursday. It's nothing to write home about, but it will work for now.

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

We had 1 outage on the 27th on the North Circuit during a storm. We also had a meter that went bad due to water getting into the meter socket.

I have been working on the underground for the houses on the North side of the Courthouse. This would be the feed that will replace the overhead feeding on North Duff Street. Currently, the underground is being fed from overhead on 7th Street. This route will loop from the Courthouse to Kimball Street North, then east on 7th (which also serves Briggs Development), and finally north on Duff Street. I have a handful of houses to cut over on Duff Street from last year, but I want to wait until we switch it over as we will have a quick outage to do the switch. Barry helped for a day or so and Darin helped do some hand digging in a back yard we couldn't get the Vac into.

Harold Kinyon signed an easement for us to extend the alleyway along his property to the north, allowing us to relocate the electrical lines away from the fiber and trees in the alleyway. The fiber

occupies a significant portion of the alley. Cindy worked with Mr. Taylor to prepare this document for us.

I have Zach lined up to do some boring work in the middle of this week. We need to cross Main Street with two conduits going East along 5th Street, one conduit crossing 5th Street at the intersection of Lawler, and we have four conduits to cross the Courthouse driveway, which is asphalt. We will have some time to get everything connected and the cable pulled in. We don't have the right equipment and manpower to do any big pulls like this, so I am trying to break it up in the middle to make it easier.

With the rain we received, we backed off on the underground for a few days, so I had Barry help me work on getting power into the West Side picnic shelter. We installed lights with outlets in three different locations. I have some other small tasks to finish there, but I will save them for rainy days. We did stub a conduit over for some bathrooms when we can get some built over there. I did trench a 3" conduit to the East side of the soccer field before that was completed for future lights. The picnic shelter at the pool also has power to it that we did a couple of years ago. I am hoping that with these upgrades, they will get used a little more for some get-togethers. Everything is in metal conduit, boxes, and light fixtures to help prevent damage from vandalism as well.

I installed six more 'No Swimming' signs around the Jail Pond. Initially, we had installed five along the easier access areas, but after reviewing the situation, I had Cindy order the rest.

The EZ Spot Ur arrived at the end of last month, and we used it right away, pulling quite a few poles we had around. It works really well. I emailed a video of us using it to all of the council.

WAPA is considering reducing the drought adder that we have been paying for over the last few years. They add a drought adder to the billing when there isn't as much water flow or snowmelt coming to the river to serve the Dams. They add that in there, as they end up buying power from outside sources to make up for the loss of generation. I think there has been a drought adder on our bill 4 or 5 years out of the 6 I've been here. This sounds like a good thing, but in reality, they just made it a permanent increase over this year and next year. Each time they have decreased the drought adder, they have increased the overall total. I'm not sure at this point if the "savings" from the decrease will be the same as what the increase is. This drought adder can also come back quicker than when they take it off as well. This is something to be aware of when setting electrical rates.

I had to help Darin a few times with jetting some sewer lines that ended up backing up. They were spread out over a week or so.

Helped Barry move signs for the chip seal as well when they came to town.

I had to order another set of rubber gloves for working on the power lines as one of mine had a pin hole in the cuff. I try to send gloves and sleeves a few times a year to get tested. I keep 2 sets on hand to rotate them throughout the year.

We are hosting our quarterly electrical safety training on the 28th here. This includes other cities like Wessington Springs, Howard, Miller, Volga, Arlington, and Parker.

FINANCE OFFICER REPORT

It's been a busy month with training and trying to keep up with daily tasks.

I attended the Finance Officer School from June 11 to 13. I learned a great deal and look forward to implementing some suggestions from the meeting on how to serve the council and community better. A couple of things that pertain to the council are that there should not be a round table at a council meeting; if it is important enough to bring to the council, it is important enough to be on the agenda. So, with that being said any items you want on the agenda need to be giving to me the Friday before the meeting. I would like to have all agenda items sent to me by noon on the Friday before. That way I have enough time to prepare the agenda. Another valuable insight is that Snapchats are also considered a meeting if the quorum is present on the snaps. As of January 1st,

2026, there will be no more elections in April. So, the council will need to decide when to have the next election. The options are June or November. Many finance officers expressed interest in partnering with the county for the November election. I am torn on the subject. Since the budget meetings typically occur around November, you will have newcomers joining in the middle of them. June also holds numerous meetings for Finance Officers, including the annual Finance Officer School and budget training.

The following is a bill that recently passed that I thought the city council know. Senate Bill 74 that goes into effect July 1st states.

“ That a NEW SECTION be added to Chapter 1-25 (Meetings of Public Agencies):

Any agency, as defined in SDCL 1-26-1, or political subdivision of this state, that is required to provide public notice of its meetings pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1.1 or SDCL 1-25-1.3 **must annually review the following**, during an official meeting of the agency or subdivision:

(1) The **explanation of the open meeting laws** of this state published by the Attorney General, pursuant to SDCL 1-11-1; and

(2) **Any other material pertaining to the open meeting laws** of this state provided by the attorney general. This will be done at our August Meeting. It then must be recorded in the official meeting minutes that the review was completed.

Next was the budget training meeting. I learned a few things he only got about halfway through his agenda, and our time was up. He didn't get to the parts I really wanted to know. Waiting for his slides to come out so I can go over them.

In June, I finished online accounting classes. There were two classes, Accounting Fundamentals 1 and Accounting Fundamentals 2. I passed each class.

Our Deputy Finance Officer, Morgen, started on the June 30th 2025. She is doing training in GWorks and learning Accounts Receivable. She is bonded now, and she was already a notary before she arrived

MAYORS REPORT

Cindy, Nathan and myself interviewed candidates for deputy finance officer. At the conclusion of the interviews, we extended the offer to Morgen Mahrt, contingent upon the city council approval. I wrote up the city's letter of support for the Firesteel Creek Watershed Project after reaching out to Skyler Kehn and Joe Schroeder (Mitchell Public Works Director, City Engineer) to get more details on the project.

Jim Nielsen and I met with Mr. Taylor last Thursday to discuss the next steps for the Rodeway Inn closing. Mr. Taylor and the attorney representing the Rodeway client are discussing what the client wants to do before we schedule the appeal hearing.

One of the city's small claims cases for non-payment of utilities was withdrawn after discovering the person was being hit with facility charges and surcharges; however, there were no actual electric, water or sewer usage charges. Cindy and I have decided we should get utility service agreements in place for all of our city customers considering Cindy can find agreements for only about half of our customers.

Cindy and I met via Zoom with Ross Engelbrecht at A&B to go over the DSU Project Boundary Fence report findings. Ross has recommended upgrading with Microsoft Azure AD and 365 premium which will address most of the penetration test findings. The city also needs to update Synology SMB1 to SMB3 to address security vulnerabilities in SMB1. A&B will also be updating our city employees' password policy to expire every 90 days and require 12 alpha, numeric and special characters with the last five passwords being unique. We are also determining if we can disable ftp file transfers. With these changes, the city's computer system should be considerably less vulnerable to attacks.

Following complaints regarding the late Facebook notification for the chip seal crew, Cindy, Morgen and I did some research on text and voice messaging services for city notifications. We believe this will be a more effective way than Facebook to reach out to the community for important notifications. We can also filter by groups for more targeted messaging.