

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

October 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes of the Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met on October 6, 2025, for a regular meeting.

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

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

Also were Gayle Van Genderen, representing the South Dakota Mail; James Taylor Plankinton's City Attorney; Vince Assmus; Howard Weischedel; Jack Marette; Tom Madrigal; Linda Heath; Skyler Kehn; Curt Nelson; Brad Green; and Lindsey Weich arriving at 7:01 p.m.

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

Nielsen made a motion to approve the agenda, which Schuldt seconded. All voted aye; motion carried.

PUBLIC CONDEMNATION HEARING

Nielsen recused himself from the council seat to present evidence as the Building Inspector. Evidence was presented on the property at 602 E 1st Street. Legal description is Lot 7, Block 6, Walling's Addition. Mr. Nielsen read all of the hazards and risks associated with the property. Nielsen read a statement from Darin Cranny, the Health Inspector. The floor was then open to public comments. Property Owner Linda Heath addressed the committee and had a rebuttal to each of the issues. Skyler Kehn, who lives at 606 E 1st, commented that he has witnessed numerous animals coming in and going out of Linda's residence. He commented that the back door is open wide enough for them to come and go as they please. Multiple times during the years, the grass has been over 2 feet tall. Skyler stated that this has been a problem for numerous years, and nothing has ever been done about it to the extent of our ordinances. Tom Madrigal, who lives at 101 N Pearl Street, commented that Skyler and he have mowed her yard a couple of times, but nothing is ever getting done with the yard or house. He understands that she has problems, but he doesn't want to ruin his lawnmower, mowing her yard anymore.

Mayor Bode opened the discussion up to the council members. Popek-Hurst wanted to know when the last time she lived in the house was, and if you are behind on the monthly bill? Linda responded that it has been a few months since she lived there, and she is currently behind on her utility bill.

Councilmember Bohr asked Linda if she didn't have any water, how would you clean, do dishes, or shower? Linda responded to that question. As of right now, she isn't.

Mayor Bode asked for a motion, and Popek-Hurst made the motion to proceed according to our ordinances to condemn the property at 602 E 1st. Bohr seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Green- aye, De Geest- aye- Bohr- aye, Popek-Hurst- aye, and Schuldt- aye. The ayes have it and the motion is carried. Next, Linda will have 30 days to initiate the process of condemnation or appeal the decision.

Mayor Bode signed the Order & Notice of Order Following Proceedings Under Plankinton City Code Title XV: Land Usage, §§ 150.40 & 150.41. A copy was given to City Attorney James Taylor and Linda Heath, and a copy will be kept at City Hall.

Mayor Bode asked Building Inspector Nielsen about vacating an alley. Nielsen replied that due to the adjoining landowner's lack of response, he requested that we table this indefinitely.

BILLS TO PAY

Schuldt made a motion to approve the bills, with Green seconding. All voted aye, Motion carried.

SD DEPT OF REV- SALES TAX- \$4289.22; F&M BANK- PAYROLL FEES-\$7.55; BARNES AND NOBLE- BOOKS PURCHASED- \$118.69; CENTRAL ELECTRIC- WHEELING FEES- \$1528.21, DEPARTEMENT OF ENERGY- POWER PURCHASE- \$15871.20; EAST RIVER- POWER PURCHASE-\$4321.46; HEARTLAND POWER PURCHASE- \$17334.58- NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS- GRATE- \$705.00; SD 811- MESSAGE FEES- \$16.80; VERIZON WIRELESS; TABLET/WIFI- \$131.80; A&B BUSINESS- IT- \$739.05; J&D CONTRACTING- CEMETERY MOWING-\$1500.00; A&B BUSINESS- TABLETS-\$254.34; BARNES AND NOBLE- BOOKS PURCHASED-\$109.08; BORDER STATES- ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES- \$617.13; CENTRAL ELECTRIC RAMP LIGHTING-\$234.00- DELTA DENTAL-DENTAL INSURANCE- \$317.00; DGR- RATE STUDY-\$560.00; DOLLAR GENERAL- DECORATIONS FOR OFFICE-\$12.74; GUARDIAN- STD,LTD, LIFE-\$347.35; PLANKINTON LUMBER- SUPPLIES-\$103.92; RON'S MARKET- WATER AND POOL SUPPLIES- \$113.00; RUNNINGS- ANTIFREEZE-\$83.94, SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH- WATER TESTING-\$132.00, VSP- VISION INSURANCE- \$134.63- BARRY GEIMAN- CELLPHONE STIPEND-\$150.00; DARIN CRANNY- CELLPHONE STIPEND- \$150.00;CHANCE BOYD- CELLPHONE STIPEND-\$150.00; CARL BODE- CELLPHONE STIPEND- \$150.00; VESTIS-RUG CONTRACT-\$37.41; DOUGS CUSTOM- LAWNMOWER PARTS-\$181.08; CINDY GEIMAN- CELL PHONE STIPEND-\$150.00; DAN GEIMAN-CELLPHONE STIPEND-\$112.50; JAMES NIELSEN- CELLPHONE STIPEND-75.00; MORGEN MARHT- CELLPHONE STIPEND- \$150.00; SANITATION PRODUCTS- STREET SWEEPER BRUSHES-\$1283.90; BELL BANK, MINI-\$919.42; CONTINENTAL WESTERN GROUP- \$40671.00; CNH- SKIDLOADER-\$959.11; AVERA HEALTH PLAN- INSURANCE- \$5601.40; BORDER STATES-ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES- \$345.19; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP- ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES- \$33.09; DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE- CIVIL PROCESS FEES-

\$54.00- FARMERS AND MERCHANTS- PAYROLL FEE-\$7.60; HEARLAND- LOAN#1-1241.68; HEARTLAND- LOAN #2- \$1241.68; TOSHIBA FINANCIAL SERVICES- COPIER CONTRACT- \$203.46; AUORA COUNTY CON.DIST-TREES FOR PARKS-\$987.50, SANBORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE- SMALL CLAIMS SERVED-\$72.42; MENARDS- ANTIFREEZE AND WOOD-\$230.66; SOUTH DAKOTA UNEMPLOYMENT- 3RD QUARTER-\$95.72; H&W SEWER PROJECT-\$32418.75; MENARDS-SUPPLIES- \$98.10; BORDER STATES-ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES- \$780.68; SPN- ENGINEERING FEES- \$27400.00; SPN- ENGINEERING FEES- \$1498.76; MORGEN MAHRT- SDML MILEAGE-\$161.46, AURORA BRULE WATER- WATER PURCHASE-\$9291.00, L&L SANTIATION- GARBAGE- \$60.00; GOLDEN WEST- PHONE UTILITIES-\$500.67; PLANKINTON LUMBER-SUPPLIES-\$282.44- SD MAIL- PUBLISHING- \$913.87.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

According to the SDML Handbook, the council no longer has to make a motion, second, or approval on the minutes. Mayor Bode asked if there are any additions or corrections to the minutes. As there were none Mayor Bode declared the minutes approved as read.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jack Marette read a prepared statement. The corn crib is complete. He has been calling it the Corn Crib Park. However, he told the council that they could rename it or hold a contest. He thanked numerous people who helped him complete the corn crib project.

Lindsey Weich (Disc Golf and Cemetery Repairs)

The service club has been raising money and has bought the nets for Disc Golf. Mason Karst took on finishing this project as a senior project, so the intention is to have it completed by the spring of next year. There is a small portion that is not on school grounds that the city mows. Popek-Hurst asked if there is any concern about hitting houses in that area. They did change the map so the houses were not in the way of any of the holes. Darin brought up that if there is a lot of rain, it is highly unlikely that there will be a bridge over the creek. She said that there may be a sign that states if there is water, the course is closed. There are a lot of logistics that the school has to approve of yet. She is just here to see if it is okay with the city to use part of the right-of-way. Additionally, the school wanted to gauge the city's opinion on the matter. Nielsen made a motion to approve the project. Green seconded the motion to give the city's blessing to proceed with the disc golf project.

Lindsey has a passion for history and researching family histories. She first wants to mention that the mowing at the cemetery was great and very well maintained. However, there are several headstones that are deteriorating. It is her understanding that there may have been a budgeted fund to repair some headstones before the COVID pandemic. She is inquiring about budget options for repairing headstones. Superintendent Cranny said that there used to be money, but not in the last couple of years. Several veteran headstones need repair. She thinks it might be worthwhile to explore contracting with a company again to fix the headstones. There are also several badger holes in the cemetery right now, making it difficult to walk around.

One suggestion she has is for the city to reach out to community members to see if they'd like to create a directory to help people locate loved ones. Currently, there's no way to search for a loved one on weekends. First, you need to visit the courthouse to see if someone is buried there, and then you must go to city hall to find their location. Neither place is open on weekends. She is willing to head a project for creating a directory, and it would be even better if there is a directory that we could place on the City's Webpage. Mr. Taylor later commented that the council might want to consider contributing to a perpetual care fund for the cemetery. This could come from the money collected for grave openings, grave closings, and grave sales. The fund could also include donations from private citizens.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 92.38 2nd Reading

Mayor Bode read the following ordinance to the council and public.

1st Reading: 9-8-25

2nd Reading: 10-6-25

Date Adopted: 10-6-25

Date Published: 10-16-25

Effective Date: 11-6-25

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10-6

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §92.38 OF THE CITY CODE OF PLANKINTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, REGARDING PROCEDURES FOR REMOVING JUNK MOTOR VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton previously adopted §92.38 of the City Code of the City of Plankinton setting forth the procedure for removing junk motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton now finds it necessary and expedient to amend the aforesaid §92.38 so as to modify, clarify, and alter certain provisions of the procedures for removing junk motor vehicles from streets, alleys, and public rights-of-way and private property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Plankinton, Aurora County, South Dakota, the following

For purposes of modifying, clarifying and altering certain provisions of the procedures for removing junk motor vehicles from streets, alleys, and public rights-of-way and private property under §92.38 of the City Code of the City of Plankinton the entirety of §92.38 is stricken and replaced by the following:

§ 92.38 REMOVAL PROCEDURE.

(A) **Responsibility.** The City Council, under such rules of procedure as it may from time to time adopt regarding duties and assignments of individual Council members and with the assistance of the City Electrical Superintendent and City Maintenance (Water, Waste Water, Streets, Parks & Cemetery) Superintendent, will identify and cause to be removed from the streets, alleys, and public rights-of-way and private property junk motor vehicles as defined under §92.32, hereof, which:

- (1) are parked on any street, alley or public right-of-way and do not display a required, current motor vehicle license or other registration plate; and
- (2) appear to have been parked in the same place on any street, alley or public right-of-way for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours; or
- (3) appear to have been parked on any private property (other than within a closed structure or junk enclosure as specified in §§ 92.50 through 92.53, hereof) for more than ninety (90) consecutive days.

(B) **Notice of Violation.** The City Council shall cause notice complying with the particulars of section (C), below, to be given in connection with any vehicle which is identified by it, pursuant to section (A), immediately above, and §92.32, further above, as a junk motor vehicle as follows:

- (1) by certified mail, return receipt requested to the last registered owner of the vehicle, if it is a vehicle subject to registration;
- (2) by certified mail, return receipt requested to the person having charge of the vehicle or having charge of the property on which it is parked if known; and
- (3) by securely attaching a notice on the vehicle, by taping it to a window or otherwise securing it in a conspicuous place, so long as such notice can be placed without committing trespass.

(C) **Contents of Notice of Violation.** The notice as required by section (B), immediately above, must include the following:

- (1) a description of the vehicle;
- (2) a statement that the vehicle may be illegally parked in violation of this subchapter;
- (3) the date, time and place of hearing to be held before the City Council to determine if
 - (i) the vehicle is a junk motor vehicle as defined herein and
 - (ii) if the junk motor vehicle is legally or illegally parked;

- (4) no member of the City Council who has been assigned under the Council's rules of procedure to identify and cause to be removed junk motor vehicles will sit as a finder of fact in the hearing to be held before the City Council;
- (5) if the vehicle is determined by the City Council to be an illegally parked junk motor vehicle, it will be ordered to be removed;
- (6) any order to remove a junk motor vehicle will be made orally at the City Council hearing and that no further written notice will be given;
- (7) if the junk motor vehicle is ordered to be removed by the City Council such removal must be completed within fifteen (15) days of such order;
- (8) if the junk motor vehicle ordered to be removed by the City Council is not removed within fifteen (15) days it will be towed and impounded on the order of the Mayor or the Mayor's designee, the expenses of such towing, impoundment, and storage being the responsibility of the registered owner or any person claiming such junk motor vehicle;
- (9) a penalty in the amount of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) will be imposed against the registered owner or any person claiming ownership of any junk motor vehicle ordered to be removed and not removed as required;
- (10) if the owner or person having control of the alleged junk motor vehicle fails to appear at the hearing, a determination may still be made that the vehicle is a junk motor vehicle and that it is parked in violation of this subchapter.

(D) Hearing.

- (1) A hearing, the notice of which must have been given pursuant to sections (B) and (C), above, will be held before a quorum of the City Council.
 - (i) Calculation of such quorum will exclude any Council members who have been assigned under the Council's rules of procedure to identify junk motor vehicles.
 - (ii) Such excluded Council members may be called as witnesses at the required hearing, but must not participate or deliberate as finders of fact.
 - (iii) Both the City and the owner, or any person claiming ownership, of the alleged illegally parked junk motor vehicle will be allowed to present all witnesses and other evidence relevant to the Council's decision.
 - (iv) Deliberation will occur immediately following the close of evidence, without adjournment or recess, and the Council's decision must be announced in open session immediately following the conclusion of such deliberation.
- (2) If at the required hearing the City Council determines a vehicle is a junk motor vehicle as defined herein and such junk motor vehicle is illegally parked pursuant to this subchapter, the Council will, as required by section (D) (1) (iv), immediately above, announce such decision to the

owner or any person claiming ownership of the vehicle who is present at the hearing. The announcement of the decision will include, as relevant, the facts and findings that

- (i) such vehicle is a junk motor vehicle as defined herein;
 - (ii) is illegally parked;
 - (iii) must be removed and legally parked within the municipal limits or otherwise removed from the limits of the city, not later than 12:00 midnight on the fifteenth (15th) day following the pronouncement of the City Council's decision at the hearing; and
 - (iv) the penalty for violation of this section (D) is Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) as set forth in §92.99 of this chapter.
- (3) If the owner or person having control, or claiming ownership, of the alleged junk motor vehicle fails to appear at the hearing, the City Finance Officer will, the next business day following the hearing, mail written notice of the decision, including all particulars of subsection (2), immediately above, to such individuals.

(E) Removal by City.

- (1) Any junk motor vehicle subject to removal under the terms of (D), immediately above, which is not removed within the time set forth in (D), above, will be removed by towing at the direction of the Mayor or the Mayor's designee. All towed junk motor vehicles will be impounded by the towing agency, under the authority of the City Council and pursuant to any contract the towing agency may have with the City.
- (2) No such towed junk motor vehicle will be released except upon payment of:
- (i) The fine imposed under division (D) above; and
 - (ii) The towing agency's charges for towing and storage of the junk motor vehicle.

(F) Unclaimed Removed Junk Motor Vehicles. Any towed, removed, and stored junk motor vehicle not claimed by the owner or other person within ten (10) days of towing may be released by the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to the towing agency for disposition as an abandoned vehicle.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, whether standing alone or codified to the Plankinton City Code, which are in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Subject to the provisions of the referendum, this Ordinance shall be in force and effective twenty one (21) days following publication.

Adopted this day, 6th day of October, 2025

Mayor

Carl H Bode

ATTEST:

City Finance Officer

Cindy Geiman

Mayor Bode asked for a motion to approve the second reading of the junk vehicle ordinance. Bohr made a motion to approve the junk vehicle ordinance, with Popek-Hurst seconding. All voted aye; the motion passed.

JUNK VEHICLE ACTION

About once a month, Popek-Hurst drives around town to see if any actions have been taken. She has found that some issues have been addressed, while she also notices new ones that are in violation. Then she updates the spreadsheet. This way, it's easier for the council to identify the properties or vehicles that need attention. Next time she goes around, she wants to bring another council member with her so they can work as a team. Mayor Bode suggested that in November, Popek-Hurst pick a council member to accompany her and then present those findings in November.

PEDDLERS' PERMIT

Several adjustments were made based on Mr. Taylor's emails. The noise regulation was updated to 90 dBA, equivalent to a lawnmower. Additionally, the city does not issue food vending licenses; instead, food trucks are regulated by the South Dakota Department of Health. Therefore, Mr. Taylor suggested that that department manage licensing. Finance Officer Cindy Geiman contacted local communities to check for tiered fee systems for food trucks and peddlers. She discovered most communities use a flat rate, so she recommended keeping the fee at \$75.00 annually. Mr. Taylor proposed maintaining the current peddler's permit and creating a new ordinance for Mobile Vending. If additional operating hours are granted for peddlers, the ordinance will need to be revised. In summary, separate ordinances are necessary: one for Mobile Vendors and an amendment to the peddlers' ordinance to set business hours from 8 am to 8 pm. Councilmember De Geest suggested leaving the peddler's permit unchanged regarding business hours, so only a new ordinance for mobile vendors would be required. Popek-Hurst made a motion to accept the mobile vendors' application, rules, and requirements, with an annual fee of \$75.00. De Geest seconded the motion, all voted aye, and the motion carried.

2026 BUDGET 2ND READING

Mayor Bode apologized to the council for how quickly we went through the budget at our last meeting. Tonight, we will take our time and review the budget line by line, allowing the council to ask questions. Mayor Bode asked Cindy to proceed with going through the budget. As Finance Officer, Cindy reviewed the budget, and some questions were raised about specific items. These concerns were then addressed by either the Finance Officer, Superintendent Chance Boyd, or

Superintendent Darin Cranny. After the budget was read, it was noted that numerous changes were needed, especially after reviewing the insurance renewal and wages. Therefore, a special meeting will be held on October 20th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. solely to discuss the budget.

SEWER PROJECT- PAY APP, CHANGE ORDER #3 AND SRF DRAW REQUEST

I received a Pay app application to reseed the town. That payment application is for \$32418.75, payable to H&W. Finance Officer Cindy also received two bills from SPN, one for engineering fees of \$27400.00 and another for professional services totaling \$1498.76. Along with this, there is a State revolving loan Draw Request, which covers the seeding expenses and the SPN bills by paying \$61317.00. The State revolving loan states that the project is 98% complete. De Geest made a motion to sign the state revolving loan, SPN, and H&W agreements. Amber seconded the motion. Popek-Hurst asked questions about the motion, expressing concern about how much is left to pay since the sewer is not yet complete and it appears we are just sending money without visible progress. It was suggested to send out the entire meeting packet beforehand due to the complexity of some materials. This issue was tabled until the meeting on October 20th. Nielsen and De Geest have requested the punch list from SPN, Darin, and Cindy.

WAPA ACH ACCOUNT

The City received notice from WAPA, or Western Area Power Administration, that, starting October 1st, they will no longer accept checks for bill payments. Payments must be made through ACH or EFT. Finance Officer, Cindy wanted the council to know that no more checks would be written to WAPA. Cindy will send a file to Farmers and Merchants State Bank so they can process it via EFT. A voucher will still be printed for it.

INSURANCE RENEWAL

Clint from Bultsma agency sent the city employee's health insurance renewal to the council. It came in at 5% increase from the previous year. We had budgeted 10%. Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the insurance renewal at the 5% increase. De Geest seconded the motion. All in favor voted aye. The ayes have it. The motion is carried. Delta Dental sent a letter to the council stating that the premium will increase from \$43.70 for a single plan to \$50.40 for a difference of \$6.70. Nielsen made a motion to approve Delta Dental increase to 50.40. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion. All voted aye motion passed.

PAST DUE UTILITY BILLS

According to Finance Officer Cindy Geiman, several bills are overdue by 30, 60, and 90 days. Cindy admitted she dropped the ball last month and did not follow the ordinances by shutting off service. She was told that, regardless, we must follow the ordinances, or else people will become accustomed to not getting shut off for unpaid bills. Cindy also mentioned that two accounts are currently in small claims.

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Popek-Hurst found this grant writing workshop for Deputy Finance Morgen Mahrt to attend. The cost is \$25.00 to participate in the class and the cost of mileage to go to the meeting, which will be held in Aberdeen on Wednesday, November 12. De Geest and Green mentioned that they might go up as well. Green made the motion to approve Morgen to attend the workshop, with Popek-Hurst seconding the motion. All voted aye; the motion carried.

BUILDING PERMITS

Josh Rolling at 715 Pirate Drive, Lot 15 of Briggs Addition, submitted a building permit for a fence in the backyard. Kylee Urban at 301 S Main, Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 11 in the South Addition, submitted a permit request to replace concrete work and add a patio. Kristine Payne at 712 E 3rd Street, Lots 5 & 6 in Drake's Addition, wants to install a fence to contain her dog. City of Plankinton/Service Club, all lots of Block 4, Walling's Second Addition, wants to install a sidewalk along the south side of the pool. Buddy Douglas, who lives at 215 E State Street, Lots 1,2, and 3, Block 10, East Addition, wants to put up a garage. IWORDQ pitched Nielsen about a program we can use to track, upload forms, and code enforcement. Nielsen mentioned that if it is free, he is all for it; otherwise, we can do without. Updating the council on vacating an alley, adjoining landowner Vern Hill doesn't want to make a statement either way. Therefore, we can't complete the petition for vacating the alleyway.

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

I spent some time at the parks last month. I had to rebuild the soccer goal posts, along with some other miscellaneous things.

All 3 of us worked for 1 day to raise the storm drains at the corner of 1st and Pearl. The east one is maybe a little high, but any water will run either towards it or around to the pipe inlets we have. They turned out a lot better than they used to be. We did those the day before the grass seeders showed up, so they seeded around them for us too.

We have some fire hydrant issues. I'm trying to get a hold of a company that works on them to help with some. I also have someone scheduled to replace two at the school next Monday, which is a holiday (no school). I will have to work at least part of the day that day. I'm also looking to replace one more this year —the one at the poolside park. We are going to do that one ourselves. I have money in capital outlay and repairs to cover this. We have quite a few aging hydrants around, so there will be more work to get everything up to par. I'm working on a plan to replace more of these older ones if needed and repair others if possible. There's not a vast number of hydrants to do, but we need to get the ones fixed or replaced done as money allows.

I was out twice early this last month fogging mosquitoes. I think we should be done doing that, but we'll see what the weather does.

Barry and I replaced two more culverts. We are out now, so I have some more ordered and someone will be going to Huron this week to pick them up.

I got all my sampling done and all the water discharged from the lagoon that we should have discharged this last month to prepare for winter. I'm required to check that every day, including weekends, and adjust if needed. We were discharged for a couple of weeks.

We worked on and repaired a couple of water main valves, used our vac and cleaned out a bunch of the valve boxes, and exercised all of them before the fire department flushed hydrants.

Spent part of a few days doing some road work here and there.

Spent one rainy day cleaning, greasing, and fixing equipment.

I got all the remaining chip seal rock swept up off the streets that were done this year. I had to order new brooms for the sweeper; they are here.

Barry and I did some odds and ends cleaning up from the sewer project. Pulling steel posts, cleaning up a few weedy areas, cleaning up around a few culverts, etc.

We've had some issues with the motel's water meter not working properly, but I think we have fixed it after a few visits. It had some rocks inside that were stopping it from turning, but I think we finally got them all cleaned out.

I did a little sign work this month. Our new street signs came in, so I'll start working on them as soon as I can.

I spent some time at both RU sites again. Cleaning areas, pushing up trees, pushing in pit, etc.

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

We had 1 outage this month, caused by a homeowner cutting a tree that came into contact with the line. They were billed for Barry's time spent getting the fuse changed.

I began working on the underground installation from Main Street to Union Street along 6th Street and the alley between 5th and 6th. I used my trencher for most of this, saving us several days. If the weather stays favorable, we plan to finish this section and energize it soon.

I will have to have Zach bore a conduit across Madison Street for the new house being built to the South. I haven't been able to get in contact with the electrician doing the work, as I just found out who was doing it on Friday. That will probably happen this month.

Worked on getting the lights installed for the sign on City Hall this month.

One of our lights for the flags at the welcome sign quit working as it got filled with water with the rain we had and corroded out the connections. New replacement LEDs for these were over \$350 each. I did some re-piping and installed some new surface-mount lights. These Light the flags up good and the back of the sign. It shows how badly the sign is rotted now and should be something to consider fixing/replacing. I believe Darin brought it up to the Service Club if they were interested in doing it.

I reached out to Blair from DGR to see what information he needed from us to get started on reviewing electrical rates again. Cindy has been working on gathering the information he needs and we will get it sent over to him to get started.

We changed a pole out just East of Iowa Street, and we changed another pole out on Sanborn Street.

I got some grass seed put out on some of the areas we did underground. some of it took off with the rain we got, and some didn't.

Looking around some other Cities and utilities, a lot of them have some sort of "aid in construction" policy. I think we should look into this for our commercial and industrial accounts. This is something that, if a business comes into town or an existing one expands, would help cover the cost of the electrical infrastructure needed for their project. 3-phase transformers are anywhere from \$10k-\$60k+, depending on the size and voltage. This doesn't include metering, cable, terminations, or anything to even get power turned on. I asked Blair about this as well, and he can look into it if the council would like him to. Some cities will make the customer pay for all of the costs as well. With these higher costs, we also struggle getting stuff here on time. Some lead times are getting better, but some are still 5-6 months out.

I have a cow elk tag for the Hills this month. I plan to take a few days off for that in the coming weeks. I have quite a bit of vacation to use before the end of the year as well.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

The first week was filled with doing regular duties such as billing, making deposits and helping customers. We also worked on the budget in preparation for the first reading at the council meeting. Then, the next couple of weeks, we had the council meeting and payroll, and then I was busy writing minutes.

I was sick for a couple of days the following week. So, Morgen handled the office while working on cemetery stuff.

The next couple of weeks, I spent some time adding up monthly figures for the auditors, starting back in January of 2024. We must add all checks, vouchers, ACH, and EFTs and ensure they match the computer program. It's a long process. I did get to December of 2024. Now we will start working on 2025. My goal is to do it each month so we aren't that far behind.

While I was busy with that, Morgen spent a couple of days out at the cemetery and almost finished the work there. Reviewed some old minutes to locate the necessary information.

Then, in the last part of the month, we addressed penalties and then billed for September the following week.

MAYORS REPORT

I met with Jack and Nathan on September 18 to discuss the article in the paper. Jack felt like the article put him in a negative light. I assured him our discussion during the city council meeting was definitely not our intent. All of us on the city council at the time shared the responsibility of not authorizing funds for the project until we had the property deed in our hands. We were all also acting on the belief at the time we were using ARPA funds for the corn crib project, and only later determined we were spending out of the city savings. Thanks, Jack, for all your hard work in making this corn crib an attractive feature for people coming into our town, and thanks also to all the other folks who volunteered their time and labor.

I appreciated Chance's offer to rent his trencher to the city at a rate that would save the city a substantial amount of money. I discussed the legal aspects with Mr. Taylor and the insurance aspects with Clint. The city will reimburse Chance through his LLC. The rental will be invoiced and paid just like the city does with any other vendor, which addresses Mr. Taylor's concerns. The city's insurance will cover the trencher rental, while Clint recommended that we have a written agreement on the rental.

Looking at ways to manage our city expenses, I asked Cindy to review how much we spend each month on cell phone stipends and how much it would cost to have the city sign up on a cell phone plan and issue phones to each of the people currently covered under the stipends. We currently spend about \$362.50 each month on the cell phone stipends. A basic plan for 8 lines, including phone protection, would be \$303.94. The savings of \$58.56 per month, having to deal with both personal and business phones, plus the city having to account for the city-issued phones, just do not seem worth the difference.

I've asked our full-time city employees to complete their self-evaluation forms by Oct 13. I will also work on the performance assessment forms and will seek input from the other council members, as well as the city employees' peers, with a goal of having reviews for our employees completed by the end of October.

Some people may notice that I have a Facebook account. I only use that account to follow the Facebook pages for our city and various organizations. I have no friends on this account and don't do any messaging there. If you wish to get hold of me, please text my cell phone number listed on the city web page.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- LEGAL SDCL 1-25-2 (3)

Going into executive session for legal at 10:19 p.m. Coming out of executive session at 10:57 p.m. with no action taken.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Carl Bode,

Mayor

ATTEST

Cindy Geiman

Finance Officer