

Regular Meeting Minutes of the

Plankinton City Council

April 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes of the

Plankinton City Council

The Plankinton City Council met on April 6, 2026, for a regular meeting.

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

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

Among the visitors present were Curt Nelsen, Tony Erpenbach, Larry Gerlach, and Lezlie Larsen.

Also present was JP Studeny, representing the South Dakota Mail.

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 members and the mayor are present, we have a quorum."

AGENDA APPROVAL

Nielsen made the motion to approve the agenda as published. Nathan seconded the motion. All voted aye motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tony Erpenbach asked the council and the cemetery committee members to meet and find a spot for the Cemetery Directory at the cemetery. Mayor Carl Bode said the cemetery committee should meet with Maintenance Superintendent Cranny to find a spot to place the Directory.

JUNK VEHICLES/PROPERTY HEARING

All the letters that were sent out are now in compliance with our ordinances.

[MagdalenaAnd](#) wants to remind people that, with the Spring Cleanup in May, it is time to clean up around their properties.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nielsen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as printed. Bohr seconded the motion. All voted aye motion passed.

BILLS TO PAY

A&B BUSINESS SOLUTIONS- IPADS/LAPTOPS-\$254.34; A&B BUSINESS IT-IT CONTRACT- \$774.54; AURORA BRULE WATER- WATER PURCHASE-\$6347.50; AUTO VALUE- SHOP SUPPLIES-\$98.22; AVERA HEALTH PLAN- HEALTH INSURANCE-\$5881.45; BARRY GEIMAN- CELL PHONE- \$150.00; BELL BANK- MINI EXCAVATOR-\$919.42; BERNICE KOLLMAN- BENDWERS SEWER- \$ 767.73; BORDER STATES- ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES- \$1410.13; CARL BODE- CELL PHONE STIPEND-\$150.00; CENTRAL ELECTRIC- WHEELING RAMP LIGHTING- \$2332.45; CHANCE BOYD- CELL PHONE STIPEND-\$150.00; CINDY GEIMAN- CELL PHONE STIPEND-\$150.00; CNH CAPITAL- SKID LOADER- \$959.11; COMMERICAL ASPHALT- OMEGA MIX- \$6310.40; CORE AND MAIN- ¾ METERS- \$1790.53, DAKOTA PUMP- LAGOON MONITORING-\$2340.00; DAN GEIMAN- CELL PHONE STIPEND-\$112.50; DARIN CRANNY CELL PHONE STIPEND- \$150.00; DELTA DENTAL- DENTAL INSURANCE-\$227.60; DGR ASSOCIATES- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-\$288.00. DIANA SPINARE- AED FOR BUCKET TRUCK-\$1470.26; EAST RIVER ELECTRIC- POWER PURCHASE-\$8059.04; F&M BANK- PAYROLL FEES-\$7.50; FINK PLUMBING-BERNICE KOLLMAN-\$100.00; GUARDIAN-LIFE INSURANCE-\$365.54; HEARTLAND LOAN #1- \$1241.68; HEARTLAND LOAN#2-\$1241.68; J HARLEN COMPANY- PPE'S- \$320.61; JAMES NIELSEN- CELL PHONE STIPEND- \$75.00; KATHY GUINDON REISSUE CHECK 31403-\$26.02; KROHMER AGENCY- 08 FORD PUMPER- \$167.00; KROHMER PLUMBING-BERNICE KOLLMAN-\$391.02; MENARDS- SUPPLIES- \$1002.84; MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE-ELECTRICAL TRAINING-\$285.00; MORGEN MAHRT- CELL PHONE STIPEND-\$150.00; OVERWEG AUTO-FIX TIRE-\$42.40; PLANKINTON LUMBER-SUPPLIES-\$201.41- RUNNINGS- SUPPLIES-\$361.94; SD DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE- FEB SALES TAX- \$7334.73; SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH- WATER TESTING- \$20.00; SD DOT- FUEL-\$446.63; SD MAIL- PUBLISHING-\$1268.02; SD UNEMPLOYMENT- UNEMPLOYMENT TAX-\$195.53; SD DAKOTA 811- MESSAGE FEES-\$1.05; TOSHIBA COPIER CONTRACT-\$192.38; VERIZON WIRELESS= HOT SPOT-TABLET-\$131.80; VISA- SUPPLIES- \$2224.00; WESCO- WIRE SUPPLIES- \$ 27089.44; ZACH SCOTT CONSTRUCTION- BERNICE KOLLMAN-\$3345.45.

PAST DUE BILLS

MINUTES

BUILDING PERMITS

Jeremy Hurst and Magdalena Popek-Hurst- at 304 E 1st Street- Parcel Number E1/2 lot 13 all of 14 and W5' of lot 15, block 2 of East addition. For a patio with a fire pit.

OLD BUSINESS

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND LABOR COST

Electrical Superintendent Chance Boyd presented to the council a couple of other cities on what they charge for equipment use and labor costs when there is an accident to the city's electrical property. He would like the council to consider setting the labor and equipment costs for the city in stone. The only thing we have set in stone is the after-hours labor cost set at \$75.00/ hour with a minimum of 2 hours. Chance suggested \$100 per hour for equipment use, \$90-\$100/person/hour for after-hours labor, and \$70-\$80 per staff member per hour during working hours. This isn't an everyday deal, but it would also benefit if we need to bid something out as well. Councilmember Bohr agreed with Chance on the equipment amount, \$75/person/hour during workingbusiness hours and \$90/hour/person for after-hours with a minimum of two hours. Councilmember Bohr suggested that the equipment be billed for 1 hour during working hours and 2 hours during after-hours. Chance was instructed to draft the resolution to present to the council for the May meeting and to see what the council thinks of it then.

AID IN CONSTRUCTION

Superintendent Chance Boyd talked with Isaac atwith DGR regarding the service at the Dakota Grower Co-op. Chance had Isaac look at the existing service and the service they want, and Isaac said the existing service is adequate for what they need and shouldn't require a whole new service. Chance explained to the council that if the service Dakota Growers currently provides is adequate, he doesn't think the city should be liable to pay ½ the cost of a new service. The first suggestion is to buy a new spare transformer and leave everything as is. The elevator electrician is Derrick Morris, who is looking to install a new service. That way, if one goes down, they don't have to completely shut down both services. Chance told him it would be about a 2-hour delay to switch out the transformers and get everything hooked back up. Derrick didn't seem to like waiting that long. Chance then put together another estimate for the whole new service, and that will cost around \$60878.39 where the city would pay for half of the backup new transformer. Chance took out less city cost, and the elevator would pay a total of 53092.39. Chance is seeking guidance from the council. The city would be paying about 30,000, which isn't needed because the service is adequate for their needs. Chance did say that we would pay for half of the back-up transformer for a cost of around \$7,700 dollars if that is really what they want. The total would be about \$11,000.00 if they useus the existing service they have now.

Councilmember Popek-Hurst asked if there is room in the budget for the [back-up transformer at](#) \$8,000.00. Chance is seeking permission to tell them that the city will pay for ½ of the backup service, and that if they want a new one, the elevator will be responsible for the whole thing. Nielsen made a motion to approve the ½ cost of the transformer, and any additional work will be at full cost to the elevator. Popek-Hurst seconded the motion, putting a limit on the transformer and the VT package [at of](#) \$12,000. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Bernice Kollman Sewer Problems

Mayor Bode explained to the council that there have been problems with Bernice Kollman's sewer backing up. And looking at the pictures, it looks like whoever put the sewer line into the main just drilled a hole in the top to let it drop down. [\(add period\)](#) Electrical Superintendent Chance explained that when it was originally put in that whoever put the sewer line in from the house cut a hole in the line to the house and cut a hole into the main sewer line and just let it drop in. And then the lining crew (a subcontractor from H&W) didn't put a hole in there, thinking it was just a hole in the main sewer line. Once they put the liner in, solids were backing up, and liquid was going into the ground. And after so long, it started backing up into the house because it had nowhere to go. If there were a proper fitting, then the lining crew would have known to cut a hole there. Larry Gerlach asked when the liner was installed, and Chance replied that it was in June or July of 2025. Bernice told Larry that when she flushed the toilet, the tub gurgled. Once they put in the new line and the correct fittings, it has been working fine; the tub no longer gurgles. Superintendent Cranny contacted SPN to determine whether H&W or the lining crew would be responsible, and so far, there has been no response. Larry replied that there should be some form of compensation for being charged for sewer service when there is no sewer connection to the main sewer line. Mayor Bode explained that we have a reimbursement case with H&W for the cost of fixing the problem. But the city shouldn't be responsible for any compensation because the people who connected the sewer did it wrong in the first place, and she had access to the sewer if it had been done properly. Councilmember DeGeest thinks we should review the contract [with H&W](#) and see if there is any fault in the contract and who is responsible.

Larry also mentioned that the culvert under her driveway is plugged, and she was told to take a garden hose and clean it out. Larry said that you're not going to take a hose and wash 30+ years of dirt out. Larry also mentioned that the culvert is not long enough for the driveway itself. When he goes over there, he must pull partly in the ditch just to get into the

driveway. Mayor Bode said he would take it up with Darin and see what solutions he could propose.

Nielsen pointed out that someone needed to review the contract [with H&W](#). The total was added up and there was \$4,603.77 spent on fixing the sewer. A motion was made by Councilmember DeGeest and seconded by Nielsen to try to have H&W pay the expense of fixing the sewer at Bernice Kollmans. All voted aye, the motion carried.

MAIN SEWER LINE WEST OF LUMBER YARD

At the lumber yard, there is a manhole, and the sewer runs 45 feet in the opposite direction, tying into the lumber yard, which is a dead end. So, they have had to take the Jetter out at least twice this last month and last year to get things cleaned out. A couple of council members thought it would be a good idea to have Scott Construction rebid using the city's rock and vac. They are also going to do a clean-out of the building so we can get things pushed out into the sewer line. The reason to have TJ rebid is so we can compare apples to apples, since Zach Scott included the city's rock and vac. Mayor Bode asked if this is something we could consider at our May meeting. We called Superintendent Darin Cranny and asked him about the bids and whether he could have Scott's Construction rebid using the [City's](#) vac and rock. Also, Mayor Bode asked when Darin gets TJ's bid, if it is below Zach's, then accept the lower bid. Darin said he could do that rather than wait until the May Meeting. Councilmember DeGeest made a motion to get a comparative bid from TJ and table it until May's meeting. Nielsen seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

Mayor Bode stated that DeEtte and Cindy have been working together on the financial reports. Councilmember Bohr asked Finance Officer Cindy to do a little more investigation into the balance sheet because the one she printed doesn't look right and should be reviewed. According to Bohr, all the other reports look good if Cindy could include the bank statement, so the council has something to compare it with.

Purpose: To establish a formal requirement for the Finance Officer to provide comprehensive monthly financial reports to the City Council, ensuring transparency, accountability, and proper oversight of municipal funds, and to ensure timely delivery of all council packet materials.

Monthly Financial Reports Required:

1. **Balance Sheet** – displays assets, liabilities, and fund balances. [Cindy will call gWorks](#)

2. **Revenue & Expense Report by fund** – compares actual revenue and expenses to budgeted revenue and expenses, month-to-date and year-to-date by fund (Last Months)
3. **Bank Cash Report / Bank Reconciliation Journal, including Bank Statement** – reconciled cash balances for all accounts.
4. **Bills to Pay** – details checks to be written, electronic payments, and pending invoices.
5. **Capital Projects Fund Summary** – expenditures, commitments, and remaining budgets for ongoing projects. This report applies only to projects that are active; completed or closed projects are excluded.
6. **Accounts Receivable / Outstanding Customer Balances** – unpaid utility bills 30/60/90 days past due.

Motion for Council Meeting: > I move that the City Council require the Finance Officer to provide the above financial reports on a monthly basis. Additionally, all council packet materials, including department reports and supporting documents, shall be delivered to council members **no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the scheduled council meeting** each month unless extenuating circumstances are communicated. This ensures adequate review and preparation for council discussion and oversight

Councilmember Bohr read the motion, with Popek-Hurst seconding the motion. All voted aye; the motion passed.

PLANKINTON AMBULANCE REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Popek-Hurst made a motion to approve the yearly contribution for the ambulance, with Nielsen seconding the motion. All vote aye motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-04-06

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF PLANKINTON, AURORA COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton previously agreed to accept a gift of real property from Dakota Grower's Coop, a South Dakota cooperative association, to be used for municipal purposes, the real property described as follows:

Lot R-3-A OF Railroad First Addition to the City of Plankinton, South Dakota, located in the NE 1/4 of Section 22, Township 103 North, Range 64 West of the 5th Principal Meridian, Aurora County, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the significant benefit the community will receive as a result of the gift of this real property by Dakota ~~Grower's~~**Brower's** Coop;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council that the real property described immediately above is hereby accepted by the City of Plankinton, Aurora County, South Dakota.

Passed and approved on the 6th day of April, 2026.

DeGeest made a motion to approve Resolution 26-04-06, with Terry seconding. Roll Call vote was taken. DeGeest- yes; Popek-Hurst- yes; Green- yes; Bohr-yes; Nielsen- yes; and Schuldt- yes. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

Mayor Bode explained that the contract is the same as last year but with a 1% increase until we do the 2030 census. The amount of the contract is \$79,662, splitting into two payments. One payment in May and one payment in November.

Green made a motion to approve the law enforcement contract with Popek-Hurst, seconding the motion. All vote aye. Motion passed.

JAIL POND GRANT- RESOLUTION

Councilmember Nielsen read the purpose of this grant. He states “The purpose of this grant is to remove the old well building, erect a new shelter, rework the well as required to ensure its usability and production of 'non-potable' water for use by the city to maintain a proper level of the fishing pond, water trees, parks, and other needs as required.

Installation of piping from the well to the fishing pond (known as the Jail ~~House~~ Pond), and the installation for control box and electrical equipment required for the control of the well. Installation of a gate valve south of the overflow pipe to ensure excess water does not flow into the storm drain or the sewer system unless allowed by the city maintenance department. Installation of the entertainment gazebo and picnic shelter, as well as a handicap fishing area at the fish pond.

Adopted this 6th day of April 2026.”

The purpose of the grant, pictures of locations, and the deed will have to be emailed to Keri Richards by Finance Officer Cindy Geiman.

Popek-Hurst asked about the amount of the grant, to which Nielsen responded \$31,261. Which is a 50/50 grant. Mayor Bode asked how long the grant money would be available if we get it, and Nielsen replied 2 years.

Popek-Hurst made a motion to continue to apply for the grant, with Schuldt seconding it. The motion was approved with all voting aye.

145TH ANNIVERSARY

Councilmember Popek-Hurst and Lezlie Larsen are leading the efforts for the 145th [Plankinton](#) Anniversary and 250th [US](#) Anniversary Day. Originally, the events were

scheduled for June, but they were approached and asked to combine the June celebration, the 250th anniversary, and the Pool Party into a single event. As a result, they are considering August 8th as a day of celebration for the City of Plankinton. They are planning to have multiple activities and events that day to keep things lively. Some of the ideas include a community breakfast, a display at City Hall, and have both museums open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the pool open from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Lezlie Larsen added they are hoping to do a dinner on main street, fireworks show (depending on weather), a vendor flea market, asking the business in town to do a lunch special, even maybe bring a car show to Plankinton that day, and community supper. They are hoping it will be a full day for both adults and children.

Nielsen made a motion to approve the date of August 8th, 2026, as a day of celebration. Green seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATIONS (DEPUTY FINANCE, POOL, AND SUMMER HELP.

Finance Office Cindy Geiman reports that there have been 4 applications taken out for deputy finance officer, with only 2 returned. ~~There were also;~~ 4 lifeguards, 1 ticket taker, and 3 summer help ~~applications returned.~~

Mayor Bode asked council member DeGeest how many lifeguards he wants, and DeGeest responded that he needs 4 to 5 lifeguards with no ticket takers.

Mayor Bode wants at least two council members, including Cindy and Mayor Bode, involved in the hiring committee of Deputy Finance Officer. Schuldt and DeGeest volunteered.

Mayor Bode asked for two council members to conduct Lifeguard interviews: DeGeest and Green volunteered.

Mayor Bode then asked for a hiring committee, ~~including Darin,~~ to fill summer help positions, ~~including Darin.~~ Popek-Hurst volunteered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- PERSONNEL SDCL 1-25-2 (1)

Schuldt made a motion to go into executive session, with Nielsen seconding. All voted aye.

The city council went into executive session at 8:13 pm

The council came out of executive session at 8.41 pm with no action taken.

REPORTS

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

We got the sweeper put back together after it broke last fall/winter. We had a couple of cold days, and it worked out to get it done.

I prepared an inventory for the water and sewer departments for the year.

Had one day of snow removal on the Monday after the weekend snow. Chance was on call over the weekend and made sure at least the roads were open to traffic.

I got all the fire trucks we take care of serviced.

I flushed some of the main sewers on Monday before the weather turned this week.

A lot of my month again was at the jail pond. I got all the rocks and dirt work done. Chance dug some electrical on the east side of the pond, so I backfilled his trench and fixed that up as well as I could. I also have it all seeded. I'm hoping it doesn't freeze too much. If it does, I may have to put down a little more seed later. There are a lot of dead algae blooms just floating on the north side of the pond now. I'm thinking of ways to at least get those removed. There's a lot of dead algae below the surface on the north side too, but there's nothing I can do about that. I am basically done over there, except maybe for a few little things here and there. We put the dock in the water on the 27th.

ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

No outages this month

Darin and Barry helped get some 3-phase conduits buried on the East side of the Jail pond. We finished that up, and Barry and I pulled the cable in and set up the switch. I'm waiting for another reel of conduit to finish getting that into the junction box by the courthouse. We will continue that once that is here.

We had to replace the service because the lugs inside were faulty and were causing the meter to overheat. Our disconnect meters will automatically open so they don't wreck the meter.

Barry and I buried a new service for a house that is supposed to come in next week. This house is beyond city limits.

I have been working on material quotes and getting things ordered for this year. There will be some higher material bills coming through as the material arrives.

I worked on some material quotes for the elevator addition. I talked with Isaac from DGR and had him look at the existing service to see if it was good enough. He said the service there, even with the addition, is more than adequate to run both services. It's still oversized even with this other service. The electrician is pushing to get a new service installed for the

new site, as if the transformer were to go bad during harvest, they would still have the other site to dump grain. I told him if one were to go bad, we would swap it out immediately, which could take around 2 hours. I discussed this with Carl and Dee, and both agreed with me. Since the existing service is more than sufficient, if they want a new service, they will need to pay for the entire cost. I offered to pay for half of a backup transformer if that's the route they want to take. I put together two separate quotes: one for just a backup transformer with a total cost of \$20,295 split 50/50, and another for a whole new service, which is \$60,878.39 minus the city cost of \$7,786.00 for half the cost of a spare transformer. The spare would then be usable at any of the three bin sites they have and would be dedicated only to the elevator since they are our only 277/480V service. I will review this in the meeting.

I submitted grant paperwork to Heartland for the fire station lighting, and I applied for their economic grant to try to get more funding for our rate study again.

I gathered hourly rates for equipment and labor from other cities for everyone to review. I believe we need to investigate this further, since we only have details about after-hours labor costs. I will discuss this in the meeting.

I plan to install 2 new poles from Central to relocate the outfield lights on the West Field since the fence was moved in. This will allow us to remove the 4 poles currently in place. High school softball begins on the 14th, with 5 or 6 home games scheduled here. I believe high school baseball has 2 games here starting on the 9th on the main field.

Cindy and I checked the AEDs to update pads and batteries as needed. The AED in the bucket truck is outdated, and we can't get the pads or batteries for that brand anymore. I spoke with Diana Spinar about ordering a new one for the truck. It costs around \$1400, and she had her order it since it is a necessary item.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

Carl Johnson from Core and Main stopped, and I contacted GWorks at the same time. They argued over who was at fault for the demand not working. Once GWorks realized it was their problem, they began working with the programmer to fix it. I haven't heard anything lately.

We received a good response to the new ACH program, and many people have signed up. I misquoted myself, thinking we only had 64-65 people on ACH, but after looking into it, I found there are more than 155 people. So far, around 100 people have signed up for it. The ACH PRO program that Carl found is easy to navigate and will improve the ACH process.

Morgen and I spent a lot of time reaching out to everyone involved in the current ACH program to discuss switching.

The last week Morgen was here was spent with her explaining what she has been working on and informing me about the open cases involving junk vehicles.

I also noticed that GWorks was charging us an unusually high number of fees for one or two transactions. I submitted a ticket, and one of the customer service representatives is working on it. I think we will get back roughly \$80.00. As of April 1st, anyone who uses a credit card will receive the 4% charge pass-through. And anyone who has not signed up [for the new ACH program](#) will be charged the ~~increased~~[new GWorks](#) e-check fee.

MAYORS REPORT

Met with DeEtte and Cindy to resolve what financial reports to include in our information packets each month the weekend before the city council meeting.

Helped Cindy build up the spreadsheet of our residential and commercial customers who had signed up for ACH payments. I did some research and suggested the ACH Pro program with its ability to import data from the spreadsheet and create the ACH batch files each month. Cindy has found that program to be helpful, and the trial run with Merchants Bank seemed to work correctly. Gladly, we can tell gWorks they won't be soaking us with their outrageous ACH transaction-fee hikes.

Worked with Mr. Taylor and Cindy on getting the property deed from Dakota Growers for the corn crib parcel, taken care of.

Jennifer Davis from EBI Consulting sent us a notice inviting comments about a proposed Verizon wireless antenna to be installed at 350 feet on an existing 375-foot-tall guyed lattice tower located at 25458 386th Avenue. Since this is outside city limits, I suggested to Cindy that it should be forwarded to the county commission for their input.

Reviewed estimates from Chance on the Dakota Growers 3-phase power to be supplied for the new dump pit and bin along [west](#) West Commerce. We'll see what Dakota Growers wants to do, but agree with Chance that the existing transformer is sufficient to handle the additional demand for the new dump pit and bin.

ADJOURN

Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nielsen seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Mayor Carl H. Bode

Attest:

Cindy Geiman

Finance Officer