

MARCH 9, 2026
CITY OF PLATO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Neil Engelmann at 7:00pm on the 9th day of March, 2026, at the Plato Fire Hall.

City Council members present: Andy Fasching, Peggy Flusemann, Kyle Strobel and Jeannie Stumpf

City Staff present: Clerk/Treasurer Gerri Scott and Public Works Director Scott Graupmann

Guests: Chief Ryan Neubarth (PFD), Ron Templin, Susanne Couval Templin, Deborah Loem (sp?), Stacy Sohns, Danny Hestad, Matthew Solmonson, and Cheryl Parpart.

Motion: by JS to approve the agenda as presented. Second by KS. All in favor.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC FORUM

Oath of Office administered to Joseph Ehrke as Captain 1 and Department Secretary.

Susanne Couval Templin – comments on the infrastructure project and the comprehensive plan

Danny Hestad – comments on the infrastructure project.

Matthew Solmonson – location for a city-wide garage sale sign along the highway

Motion: by KS to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2026, regular City Council Meeting. Second by PF. All in favor.

REPORTS

Committee Reports:

Plato Planning Commission

- A draft of the February 17, 2026 minutes were provided for review.
- GS advised the City Attorney reviewed the shipping container ordinance. He had one addition relating to the storage of illegal or hazardous material. He also questioned if this ordinance should be in the land use section or in the nuisance section. After discussion, Council felt the ordinance should be placed in the land use section with a section also added to the nuisance section. GS will draft and have the PPC discuss at next meeting.
- A draft of an ordinance related to Solar Energy Systems was provided for Council to review. GS will forward to City Attorney for review.
- Due to the length of time to draft and the extended time for the attorney to review, **Motion:** by KS to extend the moratorium on shipping containers and solar energy systems for an additional six months. Second by PF. All in favor. **RESOLUTION: 2026-06**
- The next PPC meeting is set for March 17, 2026. JS will attend.

Plato Fire Department

- Council was provided the 2027-2029 valuations along with the 2027 Fire District Budget
- Chief Neubarth presented before the council with an update:
 - Fish fry went well, serving approximately 1800 meals.
 - The County is hosting a Skywarn class on April 13 at 7pm at the fairgrounds in Hutchinson. All can attend.
 - Suggested adding carbon monoxide and fire detectors to the fire hall. GS will contact the building inspector to see if he could provide some advice on what is needed and placement.
- **Motion:** by KS to add Kipp Trebesch Jr to the Plato Fire Department Rescue Reserve. Second by JS. All in favor.

McLeod County Sheriff – Council was provided with 4th Qtr 2025 call reports.

Committee/Liaison reports:

- 2026 Boards, Committees, Liaisons – **Motion:** by KS to approve the committees as discussed. Second by PF. All in favor.
- Plato Baseball – PF reported that Adam Dammann is the new president. Short discussion on wifi at the stadium. First home game is tentatively set for May 3.
- Plato Lions – JS reported on the upcoming events (Egg Hunt, Garage/Bake sale and lunch, Blood Drive).

Treasurers Report – **Motion:** by KS to approve the Treasurer’s Report presented. Second by AF. All in favor. Council was provided with a current bank account balance/internal transfer report, and February 2026 timesheets.

Approve Claims – The following claims were reviewed for payment:

Check No.	Date	Vendor	Name	Amount
16802	3/9/2026	19	CITY OF GLENCOE	\$7,538.81
16803	3/9/2026	36	GAVIN JANSSEN STABENOW &	\$112.50
16804	3/9/2026	46	HAWKINS, INC	\$2,025.67
16805	3/9/2026	67	LMCIT	\$25,150.00
16806	3/9/2026	79	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	\$1,078.76
16807	3/9/2026	80	MINNESOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	\$627.00
16808	3/9/2026	474	+T++MOBILE	\$66.10
16809	3/9/2026	504	MINI BIFF, LLC	\$160.14
16810	3/9/2026	544	GERALDINE A SCOTT	\$1,321.14
16811	3/9/2026	547	CENTURYLINK	\$355.22
16812	3/9/2026	562	GLENCOE FLEET SUPPLY	\$29.98
16813	3/9/2026	598	GRAUPMANN SCOTT	\$1,664.89
16814	3/9/2026	738	POTENTIA MN SOLAR FUND 1 LLC	\$444.67
16815	3/9/2026	772	McCARTHY WELL COMPANY	\$600.00
16816	3/9/2026	789	VADIM MUNICIPAL SOFTWARE INC	\$2,713.62
16817	3/9/2026	861	SNAK ATAK #36	\$162.00
16818	3/9/2026	881	DAKOTA ROBINSON TRUCKING	\$800.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT:				
4687	3/9/2026	219	JERRY'S TRANSMISSION SERVICE	\$715.99
4688	3/9/2026	453	CITY OF PLATO	\$177.61
4689	3/9/2026	689	JEFFERSON FIRE & SAFETY	\$274.96
4690	3/9/2026	715	BRENDA SCHULTZ CLEANING SERV	\$240.00
4691	3/9/2026	725	VINKEMEIER STEVEN	\$25.96
4692	3/9/2026	896	BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	\$205.21
4693	3/9/2026	898	KWIK TRIP INC	\$48.13
INTERIM CLAIMS PAID:				
16792	2/23/2026	46	HAWKINS, INC	\$20.00
16793	2/23/2026	67	LMCIT	\$3,955.00
16794	2/23/2026	88	XCEL ENERGY	\$1,765.73
16795	2/23/2026	239	MCLEOD CO-OP POWER	\$138.80
16796	2/23/2026	544	GERALDINE A SCOTT	\$1,401.33
16797	2/23/2026	598	GRAUPMANN SCOTT	\$1,664.89
16798	2/23/2026	721	MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEM	\$873.58
16799	2/23/2026	732	VISA	\$686.00
16800	2/23/2026	777	TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	\$207.55
16801	2/23/2026	853	L and E TREE SERVICE	\$6,575.00
			US Treasury (online) February payroll tax deposit	\$1,586.40
			PERA contribution (online) for 2/1-15/26 payroll	\$554.87
			PERA contribution (online) for 2/16-28/26 payroll	\$538.96

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

4682	2/23/2026	79	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	\$652.64
4683	2/23/2026	453	CITY OF PLATO	\$586.76
4684	2/23/2026	679	ASPEN MILLS	\$174.21
4685	2/23/2026	896	BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	\$281.76
4686	2/23/2026	897	RUSCH CREEK SERVICES	\$305.12

Motion: by JS to approve payment of the above-stated claims. Second by PF. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Joe Hunt – GS provided a Notice of Dismissal relating to the ED Loan foreclosure action. GS also provided confirmation from the State of MN Driver & Vehicle Services stating that JH Group’s dealer license has been cancelled. GS provided information from the City Attorney in regard to the blight issue. The Attorney has drawn up criminal complaint paperwork, but was wondering if the City would prefer to use the abatement process. After discussion, **Motion:** by KS to have the City Attorney start the abatement process as soon as possible, with no delays and push to get done. Second by JS. All in favor.

Complaints – JS advised that Luke Lemmers (16 Main Street East) contacted her stating he had a large amount of product being delivered. It will be on the street for a short period of time and he will get it moved off as quickly as possible.

Pavement Management/Road-Infrastructure Project – GS is currently providing the requested information to the USDA representative. Once she has the information she needs will discuss scheduling a meeting.

- GS advised Nick Aurich, property owner of 221 1st Street NE, provided some information relating to a storm water intake by the alley behind his house. He states that intake is very important to keeping the houses around there from having water in their basements. He wants to make sure that intake is recorded to avoid any future issues. SG will meet with Mr. Aurich and get all the information he can relating to this and note that on the storm water maps.
- Jason Schroeder, property owner of 207 2nd Street NE has requested that a stub for sewer and water be made for that property if there is not one currently. SG to check and note accordingly
- GS will be meeting with the County Engineer on Wednesday to see what they may have planned for upcoming projects in Plato.
- NE suggested that a committee be assembled to assist in this large project. Danny Hestad has agreed to Chair the committee. It was determined that all council members need to be on the committee. Stacy Sohns and Ron Templin volunteered as members. Will seek a few additional members to get started.

The Agreement with Dean Engelmann for lease of a strip of land along the ballfields was provided. Mr. Engelmann has agreed to renew the Agreement for another 3 years at the same annual rate of \$340. **Motion:** by PF to enter into the new agreement with Dean Engelmann. Second by AF. All in favor.

Continued discussion in regard to the property damage claim from 1-23-2026. **Motion:** by AF to pay for the damage and not file an insurance claim. Second by JS. All in favor. KS abstained from any discussion or voting on this matter due to a conflict of interest.

Continued discussion on a back up person/plan for the Public Works position.

Discussion on the final traffic data received from the County relating to the crosswalk project. GS will be meeting with the County Engineer Wednesday to discuss a potential permanent crosswalk.

NEW BUSINESS:

GS provided the current Capital Outlay Criteria policy. This policy is 10 years old and discussion on what the current criteria should be. GS to draft for next council meeting.

COUNCIL REQUEST:

KS – Discussion on solicitors in Plato. PF will put something on the website advising residents to put up “No Soliciting” signage if they do not want people to stop; and, if they feel something is suspicious, they should contact the Sheriff’s Office to have them check it out.

MAINTENANCE REPORT:

- Clarke Mosquito Service advised for 2026 the cost will increase 5% over last year’s amount of \$2,600.
- Crow River Construction provided a quote for 2026 dust control. **Motion:** by PF to enter into the contract with Crow River Construction for dust mitigation as quoted. Second by JS. All in favor.
- Alley maintenance – GS advised that she has heard from many residents in regard to the condition of the alleys in town. Some is a result of CenterPoint Energy digging in them last fall. Others are just lack of maintenance. Discussion that SG needs to contact CenterPoint Energy to fix the spots they damaged. In other areas, SG to determine what needs to be done to keep them in good condition.
- SG presented quotes from Hiperline and Summit Infrastructure on lining of manholes. Council requested that SG open all the manholes noted and create a priority list to line those that are showing signs of leakage. Then, based on that priority list, **Motion:** by PF to contract with Summit Infrastructure with a target budget of \$18,000, no more than \$19,000. Second by JS. All in favor.
- SG presented quotes from Bob Becker Construction and Woytcke Construction LLC for building of a closet upstairs in the community hall. Discussion on what will be stored there. Referring this to the Hall Committee to discuss further and determine the need.
- JS questioned if the handrail could be reinstalled in the ladies restroom in the hall. SG to check on that.

CLERKS REPORT:

- GS provided correspondence from the City Attorney regarding workload.
- Council was provided with a draft of the Spring newsletter for review/comment.
- GS provided a Notice of Public Hearing from the McLeod County Planning Commission which references a business on the edge of Plato city limits. The Council had no concerns with the request. GS to attend and report back.
- GS provided an update on the compilation of the financial statements.
- **Motion:** by KS to charge the Plato Baseball Club \$25.00 for a temporary malt liquor license for the season. Second by PF. All in favor.

OTHER:

none

Motion: by AF to adjourn meeting. Second by PF. Meeting adjourned at 9:59pm.

Neil Engelmann
Mayor

Gerri Scott
Clerk/Treasurer