

Regular City Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 5th, 2025

The Castlewood City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 5th, 2025. Council members present Jeannette Bohls, Heather Schmit, LeeAnne Dufek, Chad Ries, & Beau Schooley. Also present at the meeting; Rubble Site employee Dave Hlavinka, Utility/Streets Superintendent John Schmit, Golf Course Superintendent Doug Gerhold, Mayor Brian Ries, Interim Finance Officer Kristie Sikkink. Justin Bucher P.E., Banner Associates. Absent Stef Goldhorn. Other members of the community are also in attendance.

Mayor Ries called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Mayor Ries led the city council with pledge of allegiance.

Golf Course Superintendent requested the addition of hiring an additional seasonal employee to the agenda. Motion by Alderwoman Schmit to approve the agenda with the requested addition, seconded by Alderwoman Dufek. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Attendance was recorded via a sign-in sheet. Present were Heidi Schooley, Julie McElhone, Schuler McElhone, Jeff Shepherd, Brenda Shepherd, Jen Block, Shane Mack, Jesus Alvarado, Lance White, Ron White, and Justin Hyen.

Mayor Ries acknowledged the attendees and opened the floor for public comment. The discussion centered around the heavy rainfall event on July 27th, 2025, during which an estimated 7 inches of rain fell, resulting in significant flash flooding throughout the community.

Residents raised concerns regarding basement flooding, stormwater drainage, and the capacity of existing infrastructure to manage such extreme weather events. These issues are affecting not only individual properties but the broader community. Some residents shared historical context, noting that many streets in the area were originally constructed with stormwater ditches designed to hold and gradually release runoff into local waterways. Over time, many of these ditches were removed for aesthetic purposes or to increase street parking, which residents believe has compromised the area's ability to handle heavy rainfall.

To help show the severity of the situation, a resident shared videos and photos that documented the flooding as it occurred. Mayor Ries added to the discussion, stating that he had personally witnessed the same flooding while he was out surveying the impact that evening. These visual materials provided both the City Council and the public with a clearer understanding of the extent and impact the event had on the community.

During the discussion, residents proposed several potential solutions to help address the problem. Suggestions included the installation of new culverts, cleaning and maintaining existing culverts, and encouraging property owners to reroute stormwater runoff away from areas prone to flooding. It was also noted that there are properties within the community that experience stormwater discharge year-round, requiring continuous pumping, which further highlights the drainage challenges faced by certain areas.

Residents sought guidance from Justin Bucher, P.E., Banner Associates, inquiring about the possibility of a drainage study or future infrastructure projects for the City of Castlewood. Bucher informed the group that Banner Engineering is currently working with the city on a Water and Wastewater Facilities Plan, which will help the city identify infrastructure needs and plan for long-term improvements. Bucher also expressed understanding of the frustration of those in attendance.

Golf Course Superintendent Doug Gerhold remarked that, based on his experience in the community and with the golf course, the current water table is the second highest he has seen. Residents further pointed out the topographical challenges of the area, explaining that the community's relatively flat landscape naturally hinders stormwater drainage and contributes to repeated flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.

Ongoing discussion will continue at regular city council meetings; city employees will continue to monitor and make recommendations to the city council.

Alderwoman Bohls moved to approve the minutes, second by Schmit, all voted aye, motion carried.

The Castlewood City Council reviewed "Conducting the Public's Business in Public pamphlet, a guide to South Dakota open meeting laws. This will be reviewed annually.

Council member Schooley moved to approve the list of claims presented, second by Bohls, all voted aye, motion carried. Brief discussion was held regarding the culvert replacement along 3rd Avenue and installing culverts along the alleyway. The work was completed by Mack Concrete & Hauling, LLC, in the amount \$12,425.00. Also noted in the claims list is Basin Construction & Drain Tile, LLC, they presented invoice for cleaning out of ditch along 3rd Ave, seeding and erosion control blanket, total claim approved \$15,404.11.

AUTO VALUE 84.92 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, BASS SANITATION 7140.00 SANITATION SERVICES, BRIAN RIES 30.00 CELLPHON REIMBURSEMENT, CASTLEARTS 260.00 WEBSITE UPDATES, CASTLEWOOD DAYS COMMITTEE 1000.00 DONATION FROM CITY, CHESTERMAN (COKE) 476.40 GOLF COURSE POP, CLARKS HANDYMAN SERVICE 935.00 PROGRESS BILLING COMMUNITY CEN, TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES 1619.00 SOFTWARE, DAKOTA DUMPSTERS 1484.51 ROLL OFF RENTAL, DAKOTA TOBACCO 419.32 GOLF COURSE CIGS, ELLWEIN BROTHERS 5387.15 GOLF COURSE BEER, AXESS COOPERATIVE

4192.27 CITY AND GOLF COURSE, EXPRESS EMBROIDERY & PRINTING 384.90 WELLNESS APPAREL, FIRST PREMIER BANK 150.00 LIBRARY RENTAL, GOLF BALLS.NET 343.34 GOLF COURSE UPPLIES, GREAT AMERICA 346.63 COPIER LEASE, HAMLIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN 354.86 PUBLISHING, HAMILN COUNTY AUDITOR 4225.00 POLICE CONTRACT, HD ELECTRIC 1047.31 UTILITIES, ITC 722.68 UTILITIES, JOHSON BROS OF SOUTH DAKOTA 739.05 GOLF COURSE LIQUOR, KEVEES HOMETOWN GROCERY 30.85 CITY SUPPLIES, KEVEES HOMETOWN GROCERY 602.62 GOLF COURSE SUPPLIES, KEVEES HOMETOWN GROCERY 693.72 CONCESSIONS, MACK CONCRETE & HAULING LLC 12425.00 PROGRESS BILLING THIRD AVE CUL, NB GOLF 624.64 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, OFFICE PEEPS 53.68 GOLF COURSE SUPPLIES, OTTERTAIL 3869.09 UTILITIES, PORTER DISTRIBUTING CO. 1004.40 GOLF COURSE BEER, SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF REVENUE 221.69 WELLNESS SALES TAX, SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF REV 3771.69 GOLF SALES TAX, SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF REV 457.36 GARBAGE SALES TAX, SOUTH DAKOTA RETAILERS 195.00 GOLF COURSE SERVICES, SIOUX RURAL WATER 14427.25 WATER PURCHASE, STAN HOUSTON EQUIPMENT COMPANY 892.37 STREETS REPAIRS AND MAINT, VISA 1428.66 STREETS REPAIRS, VISA 740.71 FINANCE SUPPLIES, VISA 201.76 GOLF COURSE SUPPLIES, WATERTOWN WHOLESALE 2060.45 SUPPLIES, PAYROLL 30603.76 PAYROLL, SD RETIREMENT 1854.30 RETIREMENT, HEALTH POOL SD 2689.90 HEALTH INSURANCE, EFTPS 7752.05 PAYROLL TAXES.

Utility/Streets Superintendent John Schmit provided an update to the council regarding ongoing efforts to address identified water loss within the system. He stated that work continues to identify and repair leaks as they are detected. Schmit also contributed to the discussion surrounding the recent flash flooding event, acknowledging the frustration expressed by homeowners. He asked for understanding from the community as he continues to work on improvements and preventative measures.

Golf Course Superintendent Doug Gerhold presented the monthly revenue report, noting that despite the significant rain events in July, the course remains consistently busy and expresses appreciation to the council for their previous approval of new equipment purchases, emphasizing that the time savings during the day have been substantial.

Superintendent Gerhold also requested council approval for a support contract related to the Rain Bird watering system, in the amount of \$3,900.00. He explained that while the system included entry-level technical support at the time of purchase, he was unaware of the requirement for an annual renewal. Following discussion, a motion was made by C. Ries, seconded by Schooley, to approve the support contract. All voted aye; motion carried.

Shane Mack of Mack Landscaping & Lawn Irrigation was present to provide a quote for landscaping work at the golf course. He presented the scope of work in two parts. The first portion includes the removal of natural landscape rock, site preparation, and replacement of the landscape rock around the clubhouse, with a total cost of \$13,655.00. To include additional work on the island located on the west side of the clubhouse, the total project

cost would be \$17,345.00. Mr. Mack noted the complete scope of work could be completed prior to August 7th, 2025. Brief discussion was held. Alderman C. Ries moved to approve the total project in the amount of \$17,345.00, second by Alderman Schooley, all voted aye, motion carried.

It was noted that in prior meetings, the City of Castlewood had approved the purchase of new perennial plants intended for use on the island on the west side of the golf course as part of this landscaping improvement.

1st reading of the 2026 Appropriation Ordinance will be presented to the city council at the September regular city council meeting. In prior council meetings there was discussion & input regarding the appropriations.

1st Reading of City Ordinance 25-2 Castlewood City Code Ordinance, will be held at the September regular city council meeting.

Castlewood Days, updates and invitation to participate in the celebrations.

Justin Buchner with Banner Engineering provided an update to the City Council, stating that the Water and Wastewater Facility Plans are expected to be completed by the end of the year. He also informed the council that Banner Engineering is currently working on securing bids for infrastructure televising, which will assist in identifying areas in need of repair or replacement within the city's utility systems.

The use of the City Rubble Site was also brought forward for discussion. Staff members noted that large amounts of unwanted construction materials have recently been placed in the city's roll-off container, which is intended for general rubble use only. The City Council urges residents to rent their own roll-off containers for personal construction projects or for the disposal of damaged household goods and construction debris, rather than placing them in the city-provided container.

During the regular City Council meeting in September, Castlewood School Superintendent Angela Keszler is expected to provide a parking proposal for the council's review. The proposal will be evaluated and will likely move forward with an agreement, pending council discussion and any necessary revisions.

Justin Buchner of Banner Engineering held further discussion with the council regarding the collapsed culvert on 1st Avenue, located near the 8-plex apartment complex. This issue was brought to the city's attention following the flash flood event in late July. Buchner and the council discussed possible approaches for addressing the damage and the infrastructure needs in that area moving forward.

Renewal of a water cd in the amount of \$53,894.95, motion to approve by Bohls second by Dufek, all voted aye, motion carried.

The council reviewed properties that have received a "Notice to Abate". A discussion was held regarding the status of these notices, and the council requested that Finance Officer Sikkink verify whether the letters were received by the respective property owners.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by C. Ries, seconded by Bohls, to table further action on code enforcement. The matter will be placed on the September meeting agenda for continued review.

Justin Bucher, P.E., of Banner Associates, presented a General Engineering Services Contract to the City Council. The contract is structured as an on-call services agreement, allowing the city to request engineering support as needed. When services are required, the city will contact Banner Engineering, who will then provide a detailed scope of work, estimated fee, and project schedule for the identified tasks under the contract.

The agreement was presented in the amount of \$7,500.00 plus applicable taxes. A motion was made by Dufek, seconded by Schmit, to authorize Mayor Brian Ries to sign the contract. All voted aye; motion carried.

Motion by Schmit, second by Bohls approving 2024 financial audit report presented by ELO CPA's & Advisors. There were no significant findings. All voted aye, motion carried.

Utility/Streets Superintendent John Schmit reported road damage on Prairie Street and 2nd Avenue North. The affected area has been marked off for safety. The City Council and city employees strongly urge residents to stay out of the damaged area. A reminder to parents to speak with children that they do not play near or enter the restricted area for their own safety.

The council discussed the potential installation of a Daktronics temperature sensor on the city's digital sign. The estimated cost is approximately \$2,000.00. Finance Officer Sikkink will request a formal quote to be reviewed at the September regular City Council meeting.

Motion by Schooley, second by Schmit to approve the hire of Tyson Manley at \$15.00 for seasonal employment at the City Golf Course.

There being no further business to discuss, Alderwoman Schmit moved to adjourn, second by Alderwoman Bohls, all voted aye, motion carried.

Mayor Brian Ries

Interim Finance Officer Kristie Sikkink