

September 9th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Castlewood City Council met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Brian Ries, Jeanette Bohls, Heather Schmit, LeeAnne Dufek, & Stef Goldhorn. Absent Chad Ries and Beau Schooley. Also present: Logan Ruesink, Ryan Sikkink, Ryan Ruesink, Susie Benikie, Justin Bucher and Christa Timmer of Banner Associates, Ron White, Donna Holman and Jerry Gerberding.

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the pledge of allegiance was led by the Mayor.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Goldhorn and seconded by Schmit, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Public Comment. Jerry Gerberding inquired why the large trees hadn't been cleaned out of the gully yet near 4th Avenue that was hired out a couple months ago. Donna Holman attended the meeting to promote a dog park for the 2027 budget stating it would provide a social place for both residents and dogs and a great asset to mental health for both as well. Holman's estimated total cost for the dog park was around \$20,000 without all of the bells and whistles but seating and shade could be a fundraiser down the road.

A motion was made to approve the August meeting minutes by Bohls and seconded by Dufek, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

A motion was made to approve the September bills by Goldhorn and seconded by Dufek, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

ALLEGRA 177.98 FINANCE OFFICE SUPPLIES, AMERICAN LEGION STATE HQ 165.00 FLAGS, AUTO VALUE 1093.30 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, BANNER 21807.52 ENGINEERING FEES, BARNES & NOBLE, INC 123.38 LIBRARY SUPPLIES, BASS SANITATION 7140.00 SANITATION SERVICES, BRIAN RIES 120.00 CELLPHONE REIMBURSEMENT, BUFFALO TRACKS LLC 540.84 GOLF REPAIRS AND MAINT, CHESTERMAN (COKE) 1020.00 GOLF COURSE POP, CITIZENS STATE BANK 20.00 ACH FEES, TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES 303.00 MANAGED SERVICES COMP SOFT, DAKOTA DUMPSTERS 1384.51 ROLL OFF RENTAL, DAVE HLAVINKA 70.05 REIMBURSEMENT REPAIRS AND MAIN, DELTA DENTAL 222.40 GROUP INSURANCE, DOUGS SERVICE & MARINE 2522.32 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, EACHEN INC 5073.36 GOLF COURSE ICE MACHINE, AXESS COOPERATIVE 2463.70 GOLF PARKS STREETS MAINT, FERGUSON WATERWORKS #2516 1036.16 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, FIRST PREMIER BANK 150.00 LIBRARY RENT, FPC YOUTH GROUP 150.00 REIMBURSEMENT FOR POPCORN, GLACIAL LAKES/PRAIRIES TOURISM 450.00 ADVERTISING, GREAT AMERICA 236.50 COPIER LEASE, HAMLIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN 306.94 PUBLISHING, HAMILN COUNTY AUDITOR 4225.00 POLICE CONTRACT, HAWKINS, INC 2470.63 WATER SUPPLIES, HEYNER WELDING 836.50 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, ITC 675.42 UTILITIES, J&L MACHINE AND WELD 829.02 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, KEVEES HOMETOWN GROCERY 975.94 GOLF COURSE POP AND FOOD, KEVEES

HOMETOWN GROCERY 85.00 WELLNESS COGS, TMRG BROADCASTING 150.00 ADVERTISING, LG EVERIST 10.89 GOLF COURSE MAINT, THE LIBRARY STORE 89.55 LIBRARY SUPPLIES, MENARDS 2007.61 STREETS MAINT, NB GOLF 1596.51 GOLF COURSE SERVICES REPAIRS, OFFICE PEEPS 248.85 SUPPLIES, OTTERTAIL 3109.36 UTILITIES, POPHAM CONSTRUCTION LLC 150.00 STREET SWEEPING, PORTER DISTRIBUTING CO. 871.95 GOLF COURSE BEER, RIVERSIDE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 300.00 WELLNESS SECURITY, RKM FIREWORKS COMPANY 5000.00 CASTLEWOOD DAYS, RONS SAW SHOP 308.51 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, ROY'S SPORT SHOP 2159.96 REC SMALL EQUIPMENT, SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL DEVELOPMENT 1237.00 WATER LOAN, SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF REVENUE 4796.01 SALES TAX, SD ONE CALL 31.80 LOCATES, SD PUBLIC HEALTH 187.00 WATER SAMPLES, SOUTH DAKOTA RETAILERS 195.00 MEMBERSHIP DUES, SIOUX RURAL WATER 12247.40 WATER PURCHASE, STAN HOUSTON EQUIPMENT COMPANY 150.00 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, STAR LAUNDRY 151.74 RUG RENTAL, TODD BOYD 375.00 REFUND FOR ADVERTISING, UPFRAME CREATIVE 5000.00 WEBSITE 2ND HALF, VISA 776.60 WELLNESS SUPPLIES AND SOFTWARE, VISA 850.24 GOLF COURSE REPAIRS, VISA 954.65 STREETS TOOLS, VISA 490.09 FINANCE OFFICE SUPPLIES, VISA 492.76 GOLF COURSE SUPPLIES, WATERTOWN WHOLESALE 2043.00 SUPPLIES, WINWATER 132.48 WATER REPAIRS, PAYROLL 28171.46 PAYROLL, SOUTH DAKOTA RETIREMENT 2453.14 RETIREMENT, HEALTH POOL OF SOUTH DAKOTA 5579.16 HEALTH INSURANCE, EFTPS 7104.85 PAYROLL TAXES

Finance Report. L. Ruesink provided council with the most recent payroll report as well as the bank reconciliation which was an accurate reflection of the accounting software, with no variance in what was reconciled versus reported. L. Ruesink contacted the State office of Emergency Management regarding grants for flood preparation and mitigation projects. There currently were no grant funds available but the State anticipated some dollars rolling out this fall, they would send an email when the applications were available and the city would have 60 days to complete. Unfortunately the City of Castlewood only had four people in city limits paying for NFIP insurance coverage and sixteen other active private insurance policies which all factors into the likelihood of receiving a grant. That State office of Emergency Management also stated that there have been a lot of cuts to FEMA funding programs so the likelihood of the City receiving a grant for flood preparedness efforts were very slim. L. Ruesink at the request of the Mayor for every meeting provided council with the monthly expenses and revenue reports for both the Golf Course and the Wellness Depot.

Public Works Report. Sikkink reported that concrete for parking would be poured at the Wellness Depot sometime next month, some old wires were cleaned up at the community center, agriline was placed at the ballfields, and trees would be cleaned out of the gulley soon near 4th Avenue. Sikkink provided council with some pictures of all of those different items and of the lagoons to demonstrate how he changes the levels.

Golf Course Report. R. Ruesink mainly discussed the budget for 2027 and what he would like to see which included trading five carts and purchasing three new for a total of \$38,000, a drain

tile project on hole number eight for around \$6,000, a blower for \$7,000, and sales representatives were still looking to price a diesel truckster so that public works could utilize the old one. R. Ruesink would also like to see windshields purchased for the carts at \$200/each that come with a 4 year warranty, giving the city the opportunity to sell advertising space on them and recoup those dollars. R. Ruesink would also like to see gas gauges installed on all of the carts for around \$80.00.

Wellness Report. Benike reported that all members renewed for August, Sanford signs were up, Benike completed some paint touch up, the washer/dryer was installed and a huge thank you to Dave Ruppelt for his generous donation of that piece of equipment. Benike brought up the proposed sport courts of pickleball and basketball stating there was definitely a need for them, she planned to reach out to Lois Wiarda at the Historical Society to see what their plan was with the lot to the west of the wellness depot. Buffalo Tracks LLC donated \$1,000.00 to the Wellness Depot for whatever equipment Benike thought the facility could use. Benike felt an ab machine and lighter barbell would be great at a total cost of \$1574.00 after Jarod Bass's donation.

Wellness Depot Ab Machine and Barbell Equipment. A motion was made to approve purchasing an ab machine and barbell at a total cost of \$1574.00 by Bohls and seconded by Dufek, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Drainage Study. Justin Bucher of Banner Associates stated they would be presenting their final drainage study report next month. Preliminary data has found that detention ponds in various locations throughout town are going to have the largest impact for flood preparedness and mitigation for the gulley between 2nd and 4th Avenue. Regarding Third Avenue, the preliminary data shows that upsizing culverts and fixing the grade of the ditch would help move water out of town quicker. Ron White inquired if a concrete-bottom drainage ditch would help more so than keeping the channel grass and Banner would look into this for the next meeting but stated the costs involved with this would be significant. Ron White also inquired if pilings and a berm were considered for the water issue east of 4th Avenue and Banner would look into this.

Facility Plan Banner August Report. Christa Timmer was present to discuss Banner's final facility plan report and wanted to confirm if the City wanted to move forward with getting on the State water plan by October 1st. Banner proposed the City apply for funding in 2027 with construction starting in 2028 for a collection system improvements project and lift station improvements project that included the main lift station force main replacement at a total cost of 3,825,000.00. It was unlikely the city would receive grants at the current rate of \$35/month per resident for sewer service. The city would have to increase rates significantly to finance this debt. A motion was made to approve the application for the state water plan to see what kind of funding package the city would receive by Bohls and seconded by Dufek, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Smoke Testing. A motion was made to approve smoke testing with the Rural Water Association at a cost of \$1200.00 by Dufek and seconded by Goldhorn, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Economic Development Board Duties. The board discussed having the economic development board finding and completing grants on behalf of the city with council approval. Ron White and Jerry Gerberding had a number of ideas for the direction that the economic development board could go. The Council asked them to put all of their ideas down on paper with details and numbers so that they could make a decision as to what would be a priority. The board could attend council meetings on an as needed basis or meet quarterly.

Economic Development Board Training Course in Rapid City Sept. 28-Oct. 1. A motion was made to approve one economic development board member to attend a training course in Rapid City at a cost of \$850.00 plus fuel, room and board at the end of September and report back by Bohls and seconded by Dufek. All members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Insurance Appraisal Value Adjustments. A motion was made to approve adjusting insurance rates to the minimum required values excluding the pond structures by Schmit and seconded by Dufek, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Public Hearing on 216 S 2nd Ave Variance Request. The Mayor called the Board of Adjustment to order acting jointly as the city council. The Mayor opened the public hearing on the variance request for 216 S 2nd Avenue. Ron White was present to discuss his variance requesting to put an 8 x 10 concrete tornado shelter 2 feet from his north shop property line and 2 feet from his east shop property line as he has plans to add on to his structure down the road and his only neighboring property includes himself and his son on the block. The current zoning ordinance called for White's setbacks to be thirty five feet on the rear and side yards as his commercial property was adjacent to residential. White also noted that the current zoning ordinance didn't account for smaller commercial lots as his lot didn't even meet the new lot requirements. There was no other public comment. The Mayor closed the public hearing. A motion was made to approve the 33 foot variance request on the north property line and the 33 foot variance request on the east property line by Goldhorn and seconded by Bohls, all members present voting aye and the motion passed 5-0.

The City Council reconvened.

No Parking Signs and paint Pearl Street North of School. The lines the City had painted on Pearl Street North of the school had been chip sealed over and some residents brought this to the city's attention. The City had already ordered three "No Parking This Side of Street Signs" and Sikkink felt that would be sufficient to keep people from parking there. Sikkink did say the city could look at purchasing a paint striper down the road to do some of these road painting projects as well as the agriline at the ballfields. The Council stated that they would revisit

painting the lines if parking continued to be a problem for the landowners, but the school should be making announcements of cars that are parked there when they shouldn't be and the Hamlin County Sheriffs Office could be utilized to help with the issue.

1st Reading Ordinance 26-03 2027 Budget Appropriations Ordinance. The Council allocated \$40,000 for a dog park in 2027. The Golf Course paying back the business district fund over the course of five years for sum \$144,000 was also discussed and council decided that transaction could just stay in the economic development fund where it originated. A substantial equipment budget was allocated for the streets department so that the Director of Public Works could replace the city pickup and purchase some other much needed equipment. The general fund would have a contingency of nearly \$50,000 this year and the golf course repairs and maintenance and equipment budget would have a cushion over previous years so that the budget would not have to be supplemented as that was never the goal. A motion was made to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 26-03 2027 Budget Appropriations Ordinance with total appropriations of \$2,001,486.00 by Dufek and seconded by Bohls, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

1st Reading Ordinance 26-04 Adopting 2024 International Property Maintenance Code. A motion was made to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 26-04 Adopting 2024 International Property Maintenance Code only including Chapters 1, 2 and 3 and omitting section 303 by Bohls and seconded by Schmit, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Citizen's CD Maturing 09/02. A motion was made to approve rolling CD 210640 in the amount of \$529,972.35 into a 10-month special at Citizen's State Bank by Dufek and seconded by Bohls. Roll call vote Dufek yay, Bohls yay, Goldhorn yay, Schmit abstained. Motion passed 3-0.

2025 Audit Report. A motion was made to approve the 2025 audit report by Dufek and seconded by Schmit, all members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Gulley Cleanout Quote Popham Construction. Sikkink received word from Popham Construction that it would cost roughly \$2,000/day to mow the gulley once a year for a couple of days. Sikkink's plan for 2027 was to purchase a bobcat with a bush hog attachment so that he could maintain the gulley himself as needed throughout the year and keep the flow moving as quickly as it possibly could out of town. A motion was made to approve Popham Constructions quote of \$2,000/day up to \$6,000 total by Goldhorn and seconded by Dufek. Roll call vote, Goldhorn yay, Dufek, yay, Bohls yay, Schmit abstained, motion passed 3-0.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. by Schmit and seconded by Goldhorn. All members present voting aye and the motion passed.

Logan Ruesink
Finance Office