

SEPTEMBER 14, 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 14th day of September, 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; Susanne Couval Templin; Cheryl Parpart; Ron Templin; Shane Palmquist; Doug Falk; John Schauer; Mike Hawkins; Jevin Hawkins; Benjamin Wieman; Sargent Darrell Caturia; and Jamie Schlechter

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

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC FORUM

Ben Wieman (candidate for State Representative for 17B) introduced himself, provided background information and purpose for running.

Motion: by KS to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026, regular City Council Meeting. Second by PF. All in favor.

REPORTS

Committee Reports:

Plato Planning Commission

- Draft minutes from August 18, 2026 meeting.
- The next PPC meeting is set for September 15, 2026. JS will attend.
- Short discussion on expansion “bubble” around City and data center information.

Plato Fire Department

- Chief Neubarth monthly recap: burn trailer training, business meeting, helped at Stiftungfest, helped with Fallen Heroes event, pump training course, and EMS shifts at McLeod County Fair
- **Motion:** by KS to accept the donation from Brian/Kari Crown in the amount of \$300 to be applied to the washer/dryer project. Second by PF. All in favor.

McLeod County Sheriff – discussion of potential roads for speed trailer and illegal dumping into and by the creek.

Committee/Liaison reports:

- Holiday Lights Committee: PF reported some additional information relating to using a service to put up holiday lights. PF will meet with the committee to provide the information and receive input to report back.
- Park and Recreation/Tree Management Committee: KS stated he is waiting for the delivery date on the pine tree.
- Community Hall Committee: Committee met on September 3. After reviewing report, recommend having the piece of asbestos pipe wrap/insulation removed now. **Motion:** by KS to contract the removal of the piece of asbestos wrap/insulation in the estimated amount of \$1,500. Second by PF. All in favor. Also, the committee would like to explore the feasibility and cost of adding a ramp on the west side of the hall and then installing a unisex bathroom upstairs. GS to start on obtaining some design/estimates for the ramp.
- **Plato Blue Jays are the Class B Champions!!!**
- Plato Lions: Fall Festival on October 3 and blood drive on October 8.

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

Approve Claims – The following claims were reviewed for payment:

Check No.	Date	Vendor	Name	Amount
16978	9/14/2026	19	CITY OF GLENCOE	\$11,171.53
16979	9/14/2026	46	HAWKINS, INC	\$678.48
16980	9/14/2026	80	MINNESOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	\$627.00
16981	9/14/2026	88	XCEL ENERGY	\$1,520.51
16982	9/14/2026	135	BUSSLER LAWN SERVICE	\$600.00
16983	9/14/2026	249	CROWN DOORS LLC	\$40.00
16984	9/14/2026	342	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$9.45
16985	9/14/2026	473	REINDERS, INC	\$887.98
16986	9/14/2026	474	+T++MOBILE	\$67.10
16987	9/14/2026	544	GERALDINE A SCOTT	\$1,181.53
16988	9/14/2026	562	GLENCOE FLEET SUPPLY	\$40.58
16989	9/14/2026	598	GRAUPMANN SCOTT	\$1,664.89
16990	9/14/2026	696	HERALD JOURNAL PUBLISHING	\$53.40
16991	9/14/2026	738	POTENTIA MN SOLAR FUND 1 LLC	\$931.62
16992	9/14/2026	861	SNAK ATAK #36	\$88.05
16993	9/14/2026	900	NUVERA	\$359.19
16994	9/14/2026	904	TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC	\$6,500.00
16995	9/14/2026	905	TANGLETOWN GARDENS LLC	\$7,028.52
FIRE DEPARTMENT:				
4748	9/14/2026	79	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	\$30.07
4749	9/14/2026	453	CITY OF PLATO	\$204.68
4750	9/14/2026	593	NEUBARTH RYAN	\$83.72
4751	9/14/2026	715	BRENDA SCHULTZ CLEANING SERV	\$240.00
4752	9/14/2026	861	SNAK ATAK #36	\$99.18
4753	9/14/2026	897	RUSCH CREEK SERVICES	\$465.83
4754	9/14/2026	898	KWIK TRIP INC	\$175.53
INTERIM CLAIMS PAID:				
16963	8/24/2026	46	HAWKINS, INC	\$10.00
16964	8/24/2026	67	LMCIT	\$121.00
16965	8/24/2026	79	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	\$59.89
16966	8/24/2026	88	XCEL ENERGY	\$1,912.07
16967	8/24/2026	239	MCLEOD CO-OP POWER	\$145.30
16968	8/24/2026	342	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$12.15
16969	8/24/2026	504	MINI BIFF, LLC	\$180.54
16970	8/24/2026	544	GERALDINE A SCOTT	\$1,321.14
16971	8/24/2026	598	GRAUPMANN SCOTT	\$1,664.89
16972	8/24/2026	732	VISA	\$724.25
16973	8/24/2026	747	REC TECH SALES & SERVICE	\$36.00
16974	8/24/2026	777	TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	\$75.00
16975	8/24/2026	861	SNAK ATAK #36	\$538.77
16976	8/24/2026	883	STUMPF MARSHA J	\$126.60
16977	8/24/2026	891	MIDWEST GROUNDCOVER	\$3,080.00
			US Treasury (online) August payroll tax deposit	\$1,531.26
			PERA contribution (online) for 8/1-15/26 payroll	\$538.96
			PERA contribution (online) for 8/16-31/26 payroll	\$511.64
FIRE DEPARTMENT				
4744	8/24/2026	79	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	\$31.03
4745	8/24/2026	453	CITY OF PLATO	\$452.74
4746	8/24/2026	688	ALLINA HEALTH SYSTEM	\$1,101.75
4747	8/24/2026	861	SNAK ATAK #36	\$20.01

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Joe Hunt – GS advised after the 30 days, the Attorney will file a motion for summary enforcement of the abatement. GS is waiting for a response on what updated documents are required by the City. A Lis Pendens was filed with the County Recorder on September 1, 2026.

JS advised she has met with Joe in regard to the fence he would like to install. She has encouraged him to get a survey. She will review fence placement once it is marked.

Complaints – Doug Falk discussed the vermin issues in town and has recently trapped one woodchuck. John Schauer stated there are rats in the compost/yard waste site. He also talked about areas that could “harbor” vermin. Discussion on cleaning up the yard waste site.

Mike and Jevin Hawkins were present in regard to the property at 2503 Highway 212. They were contacted in regard to the blight conditions and zoning violations at the property. They have started the cleanup and will be removing the tenants from the lower level of the property. Upstairs tenant will be staying. Council thanked them for taking action.

Pavement Management/Road-Infrastructure Project – set the next committee meeting for either October 6 or 8. GS to send dates to committee members and set for the date most can make it.

PRE Family LLC et al vs. Mark L Lange, et al (includes the City) – waiting for an update from City Attorney.

200 4th Avenue SE – nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS:

Utility account for 216 McLeod Avenue N and 321 1st Street NE. After discussion, **Motion:** by AF to not provide any credits as water used did go into sewer system. Second by KS. All in favor. A payment plan without late fees can be offered to account holders.

2027 Preliminary Tax Levy: After discussion, **Motion:** by KS to set the preliminary 2027 Tax Levy at \$345,000 (\$300,000 general, \$20,000 water, \$25,000 sewer). Second by AF. All in favor.

GS presented the Electrical Franchise Ordinance proposed by Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy). GS to have City Attorney do a quick review.

2027 Budget Meeting Schedule: October 22 – Personnel; November 12 – water/sewer; and December 5 for general/final.

COUNCIL REQUEST:

none

MAINTENANCE REPORT:

- SG advised that Overline was here on September 3. While televising the storm water line on 3rd Ave NE, they ran into a fiber optic line that was run through the storm water line. The storm water line was not located, so will be a City repair. AF reminded SG to get video of the lines when done for City records.
- Discussion on the compost site and dumping from non-residents. SG to get sign done first, then re-evaluate if it needs to be locked up.
- SG and KS met with the playground equipment representative. He concurred that the post needs to be redone – should be deeper in ground and taller (anchoring slide from the top).
- SG would like to take off Friday, September 25 and use PTO. Council approved.
- Annual lead service line letters went out last week.

CLERKS REPORT:

- GS suggested the Council consider an increase to their annual salary. Would need to be done at October meeting to be effective January 1.
- Email from Lili Lennox re: a mural. GS to respond to obtain more information.
- City office will be closed tomorrow – September 15 – and GS will take 4hrs PTO. Council approved.

OTHER:

Jamie Schlechter presented before council to provide information on what transpired prior to his leave of absence from the Fire Department.

Motion: by AF to adjourn meeting. Second by JS. Meeting adjourned at 9:41pm.

Neil Engelmann
Mayor

Gerri Scott
Clerk/Treasurer