Happy 4th of July!!!! Have fun! Stay safe! And please remember the reason for the celebration! The individual independence and freedoms we enjoy in this nation are surpassed by none other.

The City Council Meeting last night ran a little longer than usual. We have a lot of things to consider as we move forward with water issues, the sewer rehab, the plans for a swimming pool, the repair and replacement of worn out equipment, and the task of producing a sensible budget that meets those needs. It was nice to see some faces not often seen, and hear the ideas of the public. The public is always welcome to attend and to speak about concerns. I believe that disagreement of an ideas is not necessarily disapproval of a person; that airing of ideas and dreams is not necessarily demand for fulfilling those dreams; and that the best end results usually come from a good mixture of ingredients. So thank you all for your in-put.

As each new day with its challenges and rewards arrive, I become more and more thankful for the people who work for our city. Larry Stallbaum, known as Boomer by many, has been with the city maintenance department for quite a while. He is the ONLY one who knows where things are stored, who to call for help, and when to panic and when to stay calm.

Arriving tall and strong in a new world of work, but confidently applying all of his prior knowledge and skills comes Patrick Hochstein. He has adapted to his new role without a hitch and I feel confident that he is learning all the ins and outs that Boomer has mastered, while teaching all of us a few new tricks.

Fondly referring to the two men as “the boys,” Kaleena Einriem joins them in the parks and streets on mowers or in dump trucks, helps research and order parts and supplies when needed, assists in the office work, and is the Economic Development Director. She has a lot of hats, and wears each well. Since her work will take her from the office to the parks, to the streets, to the supply stores, to group and one on one meetings, you will never know where to find her, but just call or text her, she will answer.

Kathy Nohr brings her office skills to the big desk in the office where she handles most phone calls, fields the day to day handling of bill producing, paying, and monetary receipts, and does the day to day data entry and correspondence. Somewhere in that day she will be filing or copying papers and ordering or dispersing supplies. She is getting accustomed to my, “Where is” and “How do we” and

“What if” kind of questions.

I am very proud of our new Police Chief, Jonathan Hult, and although I have not had a chance to read it, I understand that our Yankton neighbor has published a very nice article about him and his new position here. As much as I wanted to help him, I was at a loss in the world of a police officer, and he has been more than capable to reach out for, and accept from, other officers in the area. I am very sure that Jonathan is a real asset to our community.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Mike Chase. A real gentleman, a concerned citizen, and a devoted person to his job, Mike has taken on an unpaid position that requires lots of time and effort in study and execution of the ordinances and policies of the Planning and Zoning Directorship.

These people are a big part of what makes our little city operate on a daily basis. I appreciate all you do and want to say, “Thank You” to the small group that takes care of so much. Bless you all and our country on this holiday,

From the Mayor's Desk Sharol