

Dawson City Council Meeting
December 6, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Dean Petersen, Vince Adelman, Steve Tufto, Jeff Olson and Charlie Prestholdt. Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, Interim City Manager Jill Kemen, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins, Public Works Supervisor Colin Lee, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Jake Bothun, David Hansen, June and Bill Batula, Al Schacherer, Kris Jacobsen, Lauren Olson, Dave Hickey, Ann Jenson and Crystal Bothun.

Mayor Tensen announced that the meeting will be recorded for minute taking purposes due to lack of staff available for the meeting. This is the City's Truth in Taxation Meeting which requires a 6:00 pm or later start time by state law.

Mayor Tensen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and everyone repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Olson motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of 11F. Polling Place Resolution with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

Councilman Prestholdt motioned to approve consent agenda item 4, November 15th Council Meeting Minutes and agenda item 12, and November financials. Second from Councilman Petersen Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

10 Minute Public Forum

No one spoke during the public forum.

Mayor Tensen called on Kris Jacobsen from JMHS to speak about the ambulance donation request tabled from the previous meeting. Jacobsen introduced herself along with Ann Jenson, Ambulance Director, and Crystal Bothun, CFO. Jenson spoke about the history of the ambulance and when it was transferred from a city owned to a then, Dawson Hospital owned, ambulance. Councilman Olson asked the balance in the ambulance account. Jacobsen responded it typically runs with a negative margin. The ambulance makes on average 100 runs a year with 75% of those being outside the city of Dawson. Bothun stated that the fund balance is currently about \$250,000-\$260,000, with all the funds allocated to the two new ambulances on order. Councilman Prestholdt said the council was just inquiring for budget reasons within the city and the possibility about skipping a payment. Councilman Adelman asked what year the ambulances are. Jenson said 2010. The reason they received two the same year was due to USDA grants. After the next purchase, they will be going back to a 5 year/10 year rotation thus only trading one at a time. On motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second by Councilman Olson to approve the donation request for the ambulance. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

Reports of officers, board, and committees.

Motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Prestholdt to approve the finance committee minutes as written. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Petersen with a second by Councilman Tufto to approve the personnel committee minutes as written. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Tufto with a second by Councilman Olson to accept the memo drafted by Widseth as written pertaining to the water/wastewater committee meeting. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Petersen with a second by Councilman Olson to approve the police commission meeting minutes as written. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

Public Works Superintendents Kurt Collin's Report

The Road and Bridge Crew have been making truck repairs. They are staying busy with Christmas light installation including the new ones along Hwy 212. The heater in the screen room at the Wastewater Plant has been installed. The dump ground was burned. FEMA grant will reimburse City of burning dump. Collins has been staying busy with year-end reporting. Committee meetings are needed to address some items.

Interim City Manager Jill Kemen's Report

Discussion about the budget and cuts that were made to decrease the proposed budget of 17% to 11.6%. Considerable work went in to balancing the budget and trying to be as fair as possible to the tax payers knowing that the increase would be significant. \$1,320,946 is the final number. This is an increase in taxes of \$137,593. Kemen explained where cuts were made and where extra income will come from in 2023. The Norma Thompson/LilyAnn Moe Library Memorial Funds will be used to help cover expenses at the library. The Dawson Fire Department relief donation which is slated every year to be paid for retirement of \$25,000, will be skipped for 2023 with enough funds in the account. There will be LGA money from the Park fund that will be moved to the general fund to help cover the costs of the overrun to Kuechle Underground for 2020 Street and Utility Project. Phase 1 assessments will start to be collect in 2023 so there won't need to be any property tax levy for Phase 1. With a substantial bond payment on Phase 2 and no assessments completed for Phase 2, there was \$406,700 levied for 2023 to make the payment. Discussion on where the City stands and how financially strapped the City will be for several years. Kemen stated that cuts will be mandatory and nothing will be off the table when looking into the future. Planned expenses are seal coating Hackberry Street, seal coating 2012 streets, office computer upgrades, and pool repairs. Enterprise funds were updated for council. Kemen mentioned that there will need to be single audits completed in 2023 due to borrowing from PFA. Councilman Elect David Hansen asked about the state budget high and if there was anything that the City could benefit from. Kemen encouraged people to come to the Town Hall Forum and speak with our representatives regarding the state of our City. Councilman Tufto referenced the liquor store.

With the change in things happening at the city, he stated at some point the reality is some things will need to change.

New Business

A. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Petersen to approve the 2023 levy. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

B. The County brought forward a renewed contract for the crisis transportation vehicle for 2023-2024. This was passed at the County and is something that is used frequently throughout our communities. City Attorney spoke to the benefit of this program. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Prestholdt to approve the crisis transportation agreement. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

C. Kuechle Underground presented their final pay estimate for consideration. City Engineer, Jeff Kuhn feels strongly that council should move to make the final payment. There is minimal punch list work to be completed. \$231,317.04 is the final payment. Councilman Olson disagrees with making this payment due to the work being done. Kemen explained that the City can go back to the Surety bond if needed to which Councilman Olson disagreed. His feeling is it should be the engineers' issues if they are recommending payment. Councilman Tufto also questioned a payment in full to complete the project and wanting to know how many days of work are left. Collins said one week at the most. Councilman Adelman asked if we would be in violation for not making the payment. City Attorney Stulz recommended paying to avoid any type of breach of contract. More discussion on payment occurred. On motion by Councilman Tufto with a second by Councilman Petersen to approve the payment along with our expectations. Voting in favor Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, and Councilman Petersen. Against: Councilman Olson and Councilman Adelman. Motion passed.

D. Pay estimate #7 for Ryan Contracting was recommended for payment. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Tufto to pay. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

E. The Fire Department purchased the skating rink liner last year with gambling funds. This year, the liner wasn't funded. Kemen stated that a new liner would be \$1,300-\$1,800. Councilman Prestholdt inquired about funds in the park department to cover this liner. Councilman Tufto asked about moving it back to the river. Collins asked about a warming house attendant. Stulz will research what other cities do. June and Bill Batula shared that the rink had minimal use but would encourage the City to continue to try to get kids interested in skating. Councilman Adelman shared history about cleaning and flooding the river. Collins said if we use a liner, there has to be a better way to keep it from cutting or getting damaged. Councilman Prestholdt's opinion is that 9 months of the year, the rink is an eye sore. Kemen said the current warming house could be brought over closer to the river. Stulz said most cities post "Skate at your own risk". Mayor Tensen said to have river skating this year and look into it a liner for future years. Councilman Olson motioned to table to future meeting.

Councilman Prestholdt motioned to move the rink back to the river this year. Councilman Olson changed his motion to put the rink back on the river this winter with a second by Councilman

Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

F. Motion by Councilman Olson to approve the polling place resolution, with a second by Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous Announcements

The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, December 20th, 2022 at 5:30 pm if needed.

Adjourn Meeting

Hearing nothing else, on motion by Councilman Tufto with a second from Councilman Petersen to adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Tufto, Councilman Olson and Councilman Petersen. Against: none. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Jill Kemen City Clerk

Randy Tensen, Mayor