

Dawson City Council Minutes  
March 12, 2024  
5:30 pm

Councilpersons present: Jake Bothun, David Hansen, Vince Adelman, Charlie Prestholdt, J.T. Schacherer. Absent: Councilman Olson. Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins, City Attorney Rick Stulz, City Manager Jill Kemen, Police Chief Andy Stock, Patrolman Nick Vorvick, Patrolman Brandon Gosson, Dennis Anderson, Burt Faehn, John B. Parsons, Duane Hastad, Jim Michels, Hope Mammele and daughters, Brian Hersom, Peggy Crosby, and David Pederson.

Mayor Tensen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and everyone repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tensen announced the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of minute taking.

Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Councilman Schacherer motioned to approve the consent agenda item 4, February 6th, 2024 council meeting minutes and item 13A, February financials with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

#### 10 Minute Public Forum

Jim Michels addressed Council regarding sidewalks with the project around town. Peggy Crosby asked Council when the construction crew will be back. City Manager responded that there is no date as of yet. Duane Hastad said he is getting questions on what the policy is going to be for trees this coming year. Kemen said same as replacement trees from Phase 1. Kemen wrote a grant and won't know if there is a rebate until grants are awarded. Hastad offered to write a grant for trees with additional help writing.

Mayor Tensen closed the council meeting and opened the public hearing for Annexation of Titan Machinery at 5:35 pm. Peggy Crosby asked what the next step was. Hearing nothing else, Mayor Tensen closed the public hearing at 5:38 pm and re-opened the council meeting.

Burt Faehn inquired about trees on the corner next to stop signs. Maintenance Superintendent, Kurt Collins, stated there is something written in our ordinance and he would look it up and get back to Burt with information.

Hope Mammele and her daughters presented the Riverside Rockets 4-H community pride project to the council. The club would like to install a doggie waste station at Veteran's Park. Mammele showed Council an example of what it would look like. Mammele is wanting city

input where to put the station with the hope of having it installed before Riverfest. Councilman Prestholdt motioned to approve the installation of the waste station in Veteran's Park. Councilman Schacherer seconded the motion. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed. Mammele was asked to work with Kurt Collins regarding location at the park.

#### Reports of officers, boards, and committees

- A. Recreation and Growth committee agenda covered swimming pool, seasonal park help, and a shelter at the softball fields. Brian Hersom, Fire Chief, addressed council with the idea of building a shelter between the two fields at the softball park. He supplied a visual of where the shelter would be built and a drawing of what he was thinking. With the fire department running the beer stand during Riverfest, the shelter would be useful. Hersom also spoke about getting a softball batting cage in there at some point for practice. Cost of the project is approximately \$16,000. Motion by Councilman Bothun with a second by Councilman Schacherer to proceed with the shelter. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.
- B. Enterprise Committee agenda covered Dawson Bank Museum request regarding utility bill, local contractor request when flipping dilapidated homes in our community, and timeline for water meters and pumps at water treatment plant.
- C. Employee/Volunteer Committee made a recommendation based off of Chief Stock three proposals on how to spend the Public Safety Aid money. Also reviewed was the draft step and pay system for full time employees. City Manager resumes are due March 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collin's Report.

Collins spoke regarding the meeting with the school and the new parking project. More information regarding this will be available at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting including minutes from the meeting. 12 additional parking spots on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 40 additional north of the school. Councilman Hansen asked if the cul-de-sac would present a fire problem. Collins said we will know more next meeting.

With the nice weather, neglected projects have been addressed. Replacement of the micro screens in the insulate room at the wastewater plant the MPCA has been asking us to complete. Chemical feed plumbing at the water plant has been replaced. Work has happened at the rock rapids. It is cleaned up nice, however; the silt from the rising river covers the sidewalk and stays in the rip rap. Employees are doing what they can to remove the silt. Vegetation has been cut way back to help control what's there.

Olsen Plumbing is working on the east side of Main Street on the sewer. Meters for the water plant are to be shipped on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Hansen asked about sweeping streets. Collins stated it was moved and unwinterized today and would be sweeping in the next couple of weeks. Hoping for rain to help with the sweeping.

#### City Manager Jill Kemen's Report

Kristin and Jill passed the deputy registrar test to become certified on titles. There are 5 applicants for the city manager so far. Resumes are due Friday, March 15. An ad in the paper was run for lifeguards, water safety instructors and concession stand lease. Kurt and Jill continue to work on the PFAS litigation and identify sources with the help of MnTAP. Three employees passed the smart salting test that will help with one of our activity tree topics for our wastewater variance. Dawson EDA has agreed to terms with the first lot sale in the new development. This lot is for a single-family home sold with a development agreement. Widseth and Ryan Contracting will have a pre-con meeting before work starts this spring. No date or time has been given. Councilman Adelman would like to see AGP test their PFAS limits since their discharge comes to our treatment plant. Councilman Bothun asked about inspections at the concession stand. Collins and Kemen stated that every year Countryside Public Health comes and completes an inspection.

#### Old Business

An email for information only was included in the packet regarding updated time lines for the water meters and hyd pumps. There will be a pre-con meeting before anything starts.

Dennis Anderson was present to address the utility bill at Dawson Bank Museum. The museum has lost their office renter and are now struggling to pay their bills. Anderson was also present at the committee meeting to ask for monetary help with the base fee portion of the bill. The recommendation of the committee was to keep the bill as is. Councilman Hansen explained the position of the committee. While the city is grateful to have the museum in our community, the struggle is to be fair with everyone in the community that pays utility bills. Councilman Prestholdt explained the background of the building and his opinion of the museum while also expressing he will be abstaining from a funding vote due to being on the board at the museum. Councilman Schacherer shared his opinion regarding past precedence and feels everything needs to be weighed on its own merit. Schacherer feels you have to find a way as much as possible to work with the community, however; he also stated he doesn't like the idea that the city has an obligation to the museum. His suggestion was to help write a grant or other ideas rather than just saying no since utility forgiveness from the city can't happen. City Attorney Stulz stated that the city cannot donate to nonprofit. There has to be a public purpose and has to be authorized by state statute. The city is limited to what we can donate. Attorney Stulz reiterated it's not the museum rather the entity. Stulz suggested maybe the Dawson EDA could find a way to help as a business. Councilman Adelman does feel it would set a precedence. Where does it go? Who

will be the next one? He associated his opinion with starting a business and having a plan when it's started. After discussion, on motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second by Councilman Schacherer to ask the Dawson EDA to review the Bank Museum for any funding that would be available for them. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

#### New Business

The money given to the city through the public safety aid was addressed at the committee meeting. The city received \$64,151 from the State in December 2023 with limitation on what the funding can be used for. Mayor Tensen explained the committee's viewpoint of how to spend the money. He explained that the city wants to keep good officers in our community and supply them with the best possible tools. Councilman Adelman questioned the urgency to spend the money. Councilman Prestholdt asked Chief Stock to explain where the funds would go. Explanations were included in the council packet. Stock provided further explanations to support the request for the suggested use. Councilman Adelman asked how much the request is going to increase the budget. Stock stated it would cost the city less due to money being put into the police budget from the public safety aid to help pay for things already budgeted. The suggested funds for fire and ambulance are to supplement the monies towards what is already budgeted to help fund those important aspects of the community thus reducing levy money spent. Councilman Hansen feels that with the police department we should outfit our officers with the best equipment we can like the Taser 10 and red dot gun sights. Chief Stock hopes in two years, class sizes will increase for those wanting to be an officer and the staffing issues will slow down. He stated cities aren't getting rid of their police departments because they want to, rather it's because they can't find employees. Stock feels that with the money the state has given the city, it would look good to the officers to offer a retention bonus. It says something from the city without it being a lot of money. Councilman Adelman asked Kemen to explain what 1/3 of the overtime budget used already has been for. Kemen stated there were a couple big cases in January that already required a great deal of work and additional time. After additional discussion, Councilman Hansen motioned to accept the use of the Public Safety Aid money as recommended by the committee, Fire equipment fund \$7,500, JMHS Ambulance \$7,500, Police officer retentions \$12,000 (over two years), Badges, Patches, Flashlights, gun sights etc. \$8,000, Taser 10 \$15,000 with the remaining to help cover overtime costs in the Police Department of approximately \$14,151. Councilman Prestholdt seconded the motion. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed. Councilman Prestholdt thanked the officers for being present to discuss things. Councilman Hansen stated he doesn't want these three officers to go anywhere.

Admission and pool passes at the Dawson Aquatic Center and swimming lessons were addressed at the committee meeting. With area communities increase wage scales for guards and water safety instructors, Dawson needs to increase their wages to stay competitive. To help offset the

increased wages and other expenses the committee recommended family passes increase to \$200.00 from \$150.00, single pass to \$100.00 from \$75.00, punch passes to \$40.00 for 10 punches from \$30.00. Along with pass increases, daily swim rates will increase to \$5.00 day and weekend rates from \$4.00 with night swim rates staying at \$2.00. After discussion regarding the increases on motion by Councilman Schacherer to accept the recommendation of the committee with a second from Councilman Adelman. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

The city purchased more bag tags to sell to community members. The price of these to the city increased and thus the consumer price needs to increase as well. On motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second from Councilman Hansen to increase bag tags to \$3.50 per tag. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Jack Attack Basketball Boosters gambling permit request for a raffle was presented. On motion by Councilman Bothun with second by Councilman Hansen to approve the request. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Dawson Chamber gambling permit request was submitted. On motion by Councilman Hansen with a second from Councilman Bothun to approve the request. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Dawson Boyd Baseball Association Liquor License request was submitted along with all paperwork. On motion by Councilman Schacherer with a second from Councilman Bothun to approve the liquor request. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Scotty Biggs BBQ food truck peddlers permit was submitted. On motion by Councilman Bothun with a second from Councilman Schacherer to approve permit request once payment is received. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Prairie 5 Rides information was included in the council packet. P5 is looking for a representative from the Dawson community to volunteer for the board. After discussion, Councilman Schacherer graciously volunteered to serve on the board.

Johnson Memorial Health Services annual report was provided in the packet for information only.

Miscellaneous Announcements

The next city council meeting will be Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm.

With nothing more to discuss, Councilman Schacherer motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Councilman Hansen Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

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Jill Kemen, City Manager

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Randy Tensen, Mayor