

Dawson City Council Meeting  
September 6th, 2022  
5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session Tuesday, September 20th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Dawson City Hall Council Chambers.

Councilpersons present: Jeff Olson, Dean Petersen, Vince Adelman and Steve Tufto. Absent: Councilman Charlie Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Also present: Mayor Randy Tensen, Interim City Manager Jill Kemen, Deputy City Clerk Kristin Daline, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins, Public Works Supervisor Colin Lee, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Dave Falness, Jason Olson, Lauren Olson and Lowell Tyler.

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

Councilman Tufto motioned to approve the agenda with addition of 9E, EDA appointee with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

Councilman Olson motioned to approve the September 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting minutes with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

#### 10 Minute Public Forum

Mayor Tensen opened the 10 minute public forum at 5:31 p.m. Hearing nothing, the 10 minute public forum was closed at 5:31 p.m.

#### Reports of officers, boards and committees

During the Finance Committee meeting the committee discussed the preliminary budget for 2023. A major highlight in the budget for 2023 is the City will need to budget \$408,000 for street and storm sewer interest payments for phase 2. Underwriting for permanent financing for street and storm sewer went out for bids. Eight banks put in bids. Rebecca at Ehlers recommended the City go with Baird. They are local, and Rebecca deals with them often.

At the Water/Wastewater Committee meeting a letter to the City from the MPCA describing our limits for chloride and phosphorus limits was discussed. Larry and Jeff joined via Zoom to talk about recommendations for the future to meet the requirements the MPCA is requesting. Larry will be reaching out to the MPCA to request a meeting with the City to go over the findings. The Committee agreed to move forward with purchasing new water meters. Rebecca feels confident the City can get funds for the meters.

#### Public Works Superintendents Kurt Collin's Report

Staff moved the monument in Veteran's Park due to ADA regulations. They have been busy seeding, growing grass and trimming trees. The fence at the Ambulance garage was pressured washed today and is white again.

Matt with Widseth gave a brief street update. Currently there are two underground crews and two road crews. A third crew will be here next week working on 11<sup>th</sup> Street North of Locust. They will be patching areas on the County road. Curb and gutter will start next week. Restoration to yards South of the river will start next week. Mayor Tensen asked about the curb and gutter on 7th to get buses back in the garage and fire trucks back in. Matt said that it is in the plan to get that accomplished. The road from Hwy 212 into AGP complex was talked about briefly as it is in the plan to reconstruct the road in Phase 2. Mayor Tensen said the City has no use for the road and could it be brought down to gravel grade. Attorney Rick Stulz said that if the City would like to vacate the street, the City would still have to maintain it for a few years. Jill will speak with Jeff at Widseth to get a price to mill it. The City will look at doing a cost share with AGP after milling. In the meantime, the City will patch the areas as needed. Councilman Tufto motioned to leave the street out of the project and address it in the Spring on 2023 with a second from Councilman Olson. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

#### Interim City Manager Jill Kemen's Report

A Bond Rating call with Standards & Poors is scheduled for next week. Baird recommended we get our new rating. Councilman Tufto said he would like to join the call. There is a grant available through the Blandin Foundation that the City applied for. Kris Jacobson and Crystal Bothun from JMHS were on the committee and would like to see the City parks updated with new grills and kayaks for the river. There were 3,000 applications, and of those Dawson moved through to the second round. The assessments for Phase 1 will be sent over to County tomorrow. The City has an option to either opt out of paying assessments on City property or pay. Discussion was on having to levy for the cost anyway so it doesn't make much sense to pay the assessments for City property. On motion by Councilman Tufto to set the payment to \$0 with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

#### Old Business

The Olson Sanitation Contract was tabled from the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Olson Sanitation is willing to push the rate increase of \$2 to January 1<sup>st</sup>. The proposed contract would go from a 4 year contract to a 3 year contract. In order for the City to retain the 10% an increase of \$2.20 will be added to the Utility Bill. The City currently gets \$8,000 year to do the billing, which the office staff does not feel is worth doing. Jill addressed the concerns again from the city office. Councilman Tufto motioned to contract with Olson Sanitation for 3 years, with the rate increase happening January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Councilman Olson abstained. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed. Jill asked Jason Olson about garbage pickup in the alleys on the North side of town. Jason said that some of the alleys are too tight, and come Spring they get soft with the thaw. He went on to say that they have had staffing issues, and pickup times are not consistent. Water Meter Financing was discussed. DSG held the bid for an extra 30 days for the City to come up with financing. Meters are scheduled to be here in the Spring of 2023 at a cost of \$292,209.50. Councilman Tufto motioned to get a 5 and a 7 year plan for financing and open it up locally to the Co-op Credit Union, Minnwest Bank and F&M Bank with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent

Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed. The Council would like to ask Larry if the bid could be held for another week to get quotes from the three institutions. Discussion was had on leasing vs. financing the meters and needing more information from Rebecca on what the increase will be to homeowner's on their Utility Bill come Fall 2023.

#### New Business

The preliminary budget for 2023 was included in the packet. The Finance Committee met and asked Jill to cut the budget by \$200,000. An important budget item for 2023 will be \$408,000 for the storm and sewer interest for Phase 2. Items that were cut from the budget were the CEDA contract, the addition of a Road & Bridge employee to shadow Dennis before he retires, \$20,000 in PIR, pool items the Manager was hoping to get, \$20,000 in the Road & Bridge Dept for an addition on to the shop and/or snow plow and \$10,000 for a Police garage. Councilman Olson motions to increase the levy to 17% to give the City some wiggle room before December with a second by Councilman Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

A resolution decertifying TIF District No. 6. was included in the packet which is Hackberry Street. By decertifying, the City would get back \$50,000 for 2023 which was included in budget under general fund. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Petersen to to decertify TIF District No. 6. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

A Pre-Sale Report for the 2022D Street Improvement was included in the packet. The information states the City intends to sell the bonds. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Petersen to accept the pre-sale report for the 2022D Street Improvement. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

A Pre-Sale Report for the 2022E Stormwater Improvement was included in the packet. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Petersen to accept the pre-sale report for the 2022E Stormwater Improvement. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

Kim Miller has resigned from the EDA. The EDA would like to appoint Dave Pederson to the Board. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Tufto to approve the appointment of Dave Pederson to the EDA Board. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

#### Miscellaneous Announcements

The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, October 4th at 5:30 p.m. Engineers will be present.

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Adjourn Meeting

Hearing nothing else, on motion by Councilman Petersen with a second from Councilman Olson to adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Petersen. Absent Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Jeff Fish. Against: None. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

The Council stayed in closed session for an Attorney Client Privilege meeting.  
Mayor Tensen opened the Council Meeting at 7:41 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

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Kristin Daline, Deputy City Clerk

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Randy Tensen, Mayor