

Dawson City Council Emergency Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2020  
12:00 PM

The Dawson City Council met in emergency session on Wednesday March 25, 2020, at 12:00 PM. Due to the pandemic this was also a conference call to recommended for social distancing.

Councilpersons present: Councilman Jeff Olson, Councilman Jeff Fish, Councilman Al Tufto, Councilman Steve Tufto.

Present via teleconference: Councilman Charlie Prestholdt and Councilwoman Chessa Frahm

Others present: City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, Police Chief Andy Stock, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, Utility Billing/Office Clerk Kristin Daline, Dave Hickey

Others present via teleconference: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen, City Attorney Rick Stulz.

Mayor Tensen called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM.

On motion by Councilman Fish with a second by Councilman Olson to approve the agenda as written.

Voting in favor: Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Frahm motioned to approve the resolution declaring a state of emergency with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor: Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

On motion by Councilwoman Frahm to approve the temporary policy in responds to COVID-19 pandemic with a second by Councilman S. Tufto. Voting in favor: Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Frahm motioned to approve the utilization of paid leave during a public health emergency policy resolution with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor: Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Councilman Olson motioned to make Tami Schuelke-Sampson, City Manager, the designated authority to make quick decisions with a second from Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor: Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Discussion was held about late utility bills. Water shut offs were the first topic. This happens when people are behind on their bill and haven't arranged a payment. Schuelke-Sampson stated that other

local cities have waived the shut-off due to hand washing being essential during this pandemic. Councilman Prestholdt motioned not to have shut offs during the pandemic with a second from Councilwoman Frahm. Voting in favor: Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Late fees were also discussed. Mayor Tensen feels that this isn't as clear what to do. His recommendation is to allow case by case reviewal of late fees. If residents contact the city and ask, office staff has the ability to waive fees based on their past payment history. Attorney Stulz also suggested this was a good idea as it is easier to handle case by case. On motion by Councilman A. Tufto to use the past payment history to be the basis of waiving late fees if requested. Councilman Olson seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Schuelke-Sampson stated she has a conference call scheduled this afternoon with Countryside Public Health, EM Andy Stock and a representative from Johnson Memorial Health Services.

Councilman Prestholdt brought up the Farmer's for Dawson looking for permission to extend a sidewalk under the driving bridge on the north side so walkers, etc. don't have to cross the road to access the other city park. Motion was made by Councilman Fish to approve this sidewalk but was later rescinded. Advice from Attorney Stulz stated that emergency meetings are not the place to have motions outside the necessity. This was tabled by Mayor Tensen until the next council meeting.

On motion by Councilman Olson to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 PM with a second from Councilman Fish.

  
City Clerk/Treasurer Manager

  
Mayor