

Dawson City Council Minutes
September 7th, 2021
5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Dawson City Hall Council Chambers. This meeting was also available by Zoom. Councilpersons present: Jeff Fish, Jeff Olson, Vince Adelman, Dean Petersen, and Charlie Prestholdt. Also Present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen, Utility Billing/Office Clerk Kristin Daline, Maintenance Superintendent Kurt Collins, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Dave Hickey, County Sheriff Alan Anderson, Chief Andy Stock, Burt Faehn, Emery and Patty Jensen, and Lee Gunderson. Others present via Zoom: Councilman Steve Tufto, Jeff Kuhn with Widseth and Dave Falness.

Mayor Tensen called the meeting to order and everyone repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Olson motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Petersen, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

Councilman Fish motioned to approve the consent agenda and financial information. Seconded by Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Petersen, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen opened the 10-minute public forum. Emery Jensen, who lives at 1279 Pine Street addressed the Council. He had concerns about the Road & Bridge Committee Minutes in regards to the sidewalk discussion on Pine and Chestnut Streets and the motion to do just the South side on both Streets. Emery was under the impression the motion was for both sides of the Street. Councilman Olson advised him that the motion was for just the South Side of Pine and Chestnut Streets up to 15th Street. Lee Gunderson commented that the sidewalks are going to look like crap if homeowner's choose to have the sidewalk replaced on their property that isn't part of the safe routes to school plan. He said that some sidewalks are in total disrepair and elevations on Streets have changed a lot. Councilman Olson said that from what he has seen, the sidewalks look fine. Burt Faehn had questions on a tree that he would like to save and having to move his water line. He would like to know why the water line can't run to Memorial Place instead of Pine Street. Kurt said that they have come up with a solution to re-route the line so his yard wouldn't be completely tore up.

Hearing nothing else, Mayor Tensen closed the public forum.

Alan Anderson, Lac qui Parle County Sheriff handed everyone a packet and gave a brief update. The Sheriff's Department had a Dodgeball tournament to raise funds for scholarships for kids going into law enforcement that live within the County. \$4,000 was raised that went out to five kids. Throughout the past year, Officer's have been sent to the Twin Cities for the riots as well as to Cass County for the Pipeline protests among other areas of the State. The Sheriff's office was closed to the public in 2020 due to COVID and has since reopened. The Mental Health Car has proven to be a good investment for the County. In 2019, 20 transports were made and in 2020 there were 38 transports. National Night Out had a great turnout with 500-600 people in attendance. Alan was impressed with the amount of support from area businesses and residents for our local law enforcement agencies.

Jeff Kuhn with Widseth gave an update on the street project. The curb crew will be in Dawson Wednesday and staying until everything is done. The underground has been completed. A subcut will be done on Linden between 5th and 6th Street for tile, sand and classified going down in preparation for curb and gutter.

The paving crew will be in town the end of the month to do the final lift. The seeders are in town today, tilling and getting ready for seeding. Councilman Prestholdt asked when Phase 2 will be starting. Kuhn said that he will be submitting plans for 6th Street and ADA portion to the State this week. It takes a month for approval. As soon as the City receives approval, it will be brought to Council. Kuhn is hoping it will be ready for the October meeting, with bids to follow and construction starting next Spring.

Kuhn presented pay estimate # 9 for Kuechle of \$1,090,547.50. The project is tracking within the original estimate amount under the 5% contingency. On motion by Councilman Olson to approve the pay estimate with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Motion passed.

Kuhn asked that the pay estimate for Maguire Iron of \$3,800 be approved. There is some electrical work that needs to be completed before the tank can be filled. The date for the old water tower to come down will be pushed back closer to the end of the month.

City Clerk Jill Kemen presented the KLM pay request of \$35,042 for inspections on the water tower. Councilman Fish asked if this contract is soon done. Kemen said that she would check on it. On motion by Councilman Fish to approve the pay request with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Motion passed.

Duane Hastad was not at the meeting to present on trees. Councilman Adelman said that he drove down Pine Street to analyze the trees in the area of the 2012 infrastructure project, 6th Street to 12th Street. He had some concerns about the amount of trees that have been taken down, and are marked to be taken. He counted 50 trees that were still standing on both sides of Pine. Kuhn said that they underestimated the amount of trees in the 1st Phase, and placing the tile behind the curb definitely takes a lot more trees, where in 2012 it was not done that way. Tile is being put in to give a better base so the street lasts longer. Kuhn said they are trying to balance the best that they can, but every tree cannot be saved.

On motion by Councilman Olson to approve the extension of the safe routes to school sidewalks on the South side of Pine and Chestnut Streets from 12th to 15th Street with a second from Councilman Fish. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Motion passed.

The Finance committee minutes were included in the packet. Kemen stated that Rebecca Kurtz with Ehlers, ran numbers that she will take to PFA and make changes where herself and the City see fit. The preliminary budget of 11% will be brought to the September 21st Council Meeting.

Kemen has been in contact with Blaine Johnson, the County's Emergency Manager as to how to best utilize the ARPA Funds for the City.

A letter was included in the packet regarding the approval of the wellhead protection plan. Kemen said that letters have been mailed to three private well owner's in and a local business in Dawson. Grants for upgrades, or to seal the wells are available. Councilman Prestholdt inquired about the cost to seal a well, which is a cost between \$2,500 to \$3,000 per well.

The SDCP Grant letter was included in the packet. Dawson was awarded \$701,500. The commercial area on 6th Street runs from Locust to Spruce Street. There wasn't a target area for residential properties. The City will be working with the RDC.

Kemen presented a summary for the 2021 Swimming Pool season. The pool was closed for one day due to COVID. The 4th of July had 41 swimmers. Chad Felton has stated that he would like to be pool manager again next year. He is in need of more lifeguards, and at this time we do not have any WSI's for next year. Chad also has a list of repairs that need to happen before opening next year, and a wish list. Thanks to the Dawson Co-op Credit Union for their donation of \$1,000, the lifeguards were able to have new umbrellas on the lifeguard stands, new basketballs and nets.

Kemen presented the 2022 preliminary budget with an increase of 11%. The budget will be gone through line by line at the next Council Meeting. The net tax capacity was up \$40,000, and the pool levy went down \$8,370. The City will be receiving an increase in LGA money of \$3,960. Assessments from the street project will be seen in 2023, in the sum of \$46,300.

City Attorney, Rick Stulz spoke about hazardous housing. Council agreed that the process should be the same in every instance. He would like to invite the homeowner to a Council Meeting to let the Council know the intentions for the home. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Stulz asked the Council to look at the two homes in question from the curb and bring back thoughts to the next meeting.

Maintenance Superintendent Kurt Collins said he would like to physically go out and look at skidloaders to compare as the bids are very similar. He is looking at John Deere, CAT, Bobcat, and New Holland.

EDA minutes were included in the packet. Kemen gave a brief update. Zach Bubany with CEDA shared his "stoplight" report of the year. Zach will be moving on to a different position, and CEDA is currently looking for a replacement. Kemen said that she spoke with Val from Madison, and will reach out to RDC and a lady who has stopped in Dawson and shown interest in helping both communities. There was discussion whether the City should start doing housing. HME/SLE has submitted their numbers, but they are still pretty far off from making a deal for a development off of Ash Street. Kemen stated that she currently has eleven people on the wait list for Heritage Courts, and another apartment owner in town isn't keeping a list anymore. Councilman Prestholdt would like the City and EDA to send a Thank You to Ken Club for his dedication to Dawson and years served on the board.

With COVID funds received last year, Chrome Books were purchased. Mary Quick with Computer Commuter has offered her services, and is willing to do a small group presentation for Councilpersons interested in learning how to use the Chrome Books.

Computer Commuter update is for information only.

The City of Dawson will be having a booth at the Lac qui Parle County fair this year. Kemen has contacted the Chamber, who stated they were not planning to do anything this year. The School will be setup with the City as well.

The next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Hearing nothing else, on motion by Councilman Tufto with a second by Councilman Petersen to adjourn. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Utility Billing/Office Clerk

Mayor