

Dawson City Council Minutes
December 5, 2017
6:00 PM

The Dawson City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Councilpersons present: Councilman Dave Lien, Councilman Steven Tufto, Councilman Al Tufto, Councilman Charlie Prestholdt and Councilwoman Becky Bothun.

Councilman absent: Jeff Olson.

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, Payroll/Utility Billing Clerk Jill Kemen, Head Librarian Deb Lanthier, Dawson Sentinel Editor Dave Hickey, Lee Gunderson, Morrie Schacherer, John Nevins, and Bob Kuhlmann.

Declaring a quorum, Mayor Tensen called the meeting to order and the group repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Tensen asked for approval of the agenda. On a motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second from Councilman A. Tufto to approve the agenda. All councilpersons present voted in favor. Absent Councilman Jeff Olson. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen asked for approval of consent agenda items November 21 Council Meeting minutes and November bills paid. On a motion made by Councilman Lien with a second by Councilman S. Tufto to approve the November 21 minutes and November bills. All councilpersons present voted in favor. Absent Councilman Jeff Olson. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen then opened the 10 minute public forum. Officer Joe Unzen stopped in to show off the new uniforms the officers will be wearing. Hearing nothing else, Mayor Tensen closed the public form.

Mayor Tensen then opened the floor to discussion on the 2018 levy. Enclosed in the council packets, since the City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson was absent, was a review of the levy. There will only be an increase of approximately 4% instead of the proposed 8%. John Nevins was at the meeting to speak about the rise on the fair market value on his home. He inquired that if fair market value went up, did we need the levy to increase as well? Councilman Lien addressed Nevins and said that the City levy is a specific dollar amount not just an estimated percentage value. So if the house values continue to rise, the City doesn't see more money in return, just what the levy money is. For an explanation to the increased fair market values, the residents are asked to call the Lac qui Parle County Assessor's Office or attend the equalization meeting in April. After further discussion pertaining to City owned land and street improvements, the Truth and Taxation discussion ended at 6:20 PM. On a motion made by Councilman Lien with a second by Councilman Tufto to approve the 2018 levy. All councilpersons present voted in favor. Absent Councilman Jeff Olson. Motion passed.

Mediacom information was presented for information only on a rate increase that would be taking place. No action required.

The personnel policy updates were addressed. Mayor Tensen stated that the terminology needed to be brought up to date. The new draft copy of the policy was available to council with yellow highlights to show changes made. This policy was created with the input from the League of Minnesota Cities example as well as reviewed by Attorney Stulz. On a motion by Councilman Prestholdt to approve the updated personnel policy as printed with a second by Councilman A. Tufto. All councilpersons present voted in favor. Absent Councilman Jeff Olson. Motion passed.

Attorney Rick Stulz's retainer contract expires at the end of 2017. Stulz, via text, said he appreciated and enjoyed working with the City. There was no change to his contract renewal. On a motion to renew Attorney Rick Stulz contract as printed was Councilman Lien with a second by Councilman Prestholdt. All councilpersons present voted in favor. Absent Councilman Jeff Olson. Motion passed.

Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers' Report

A. Powers was absent from the meeting. However, the company to fix the collector chain at the Wastewater Treatment Plant will be in Dawson on December 6 to start the repairs needed. This work will take approximately 10 days.

City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson Report

A. Schuelke-Sampson was absent from the meeting. The EDA update was given by Mayor Tensen. Change was made to the contract for David Bergeson. Bergeson will now only be charged tillable acres for cash rent purposes. Currently, there are two homes being constructed at Riverview Estates and a lot of interest. The EDA is still awaiting the news about the Library/Heritage Court grant that was applied for.

B. DSI has now completed the sign up for residential and commercial projects. All the available monies will be spent before year end.

Handed out at the meeting was the Computer Commuter update for information only.

A current check balance was also provided to show the liquor store sales since the report in the council packet was before sales were posted for the month of November.

Hearing no other news, Mayor Tensen asked for a motion to adjourn the council meeting. On a motion made by Councilman Lien with a second by Councilman A. Tufto to adjourn the meeting. All councilpersons present voted in favor. Absent Councilman Jeff Olson. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Jill Kemen, Payroll/Utility Billing Clerk

Randy Tensen, Mayor

