

Dawson City Council Minutes
February 18, 2020
5:30 PM

The Dawson City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Councilpersons present: Councilman Charlie Prestholdt, Councilman Jeff Olson, Councilwoman Chessa Frahm, and Councilman Al Tufto.

Councilperson absent: Councilman Steve Tufto and Councilman Jeff Fish.

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, City Engineer Jeff Kuhn and Pete Strand.

Declaring a quorum present, 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 with addition of 5A – Resolution ordering preparation of report on improvement and 8A- Dawson Bowl liquor renewal. On a motion by Councilwoman Frahm with a second from Councilman A. Tufto to approve the agenda with the addition of 5A and 8A. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilwoman Frahm with a second from Councilman A. Tufto to approve February 4th Council Meeting Minutes. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries.

Mayor Tensen then opened the 10 minute public forum. Pete Strand inquired about the capital improvement fees pertaining to streets on the water bill. It was explained that capital improvement fees are charged to help fund updates to structures under the ground (water, sewer and storm sewer). After receiving an explanation of the fees his question was answered. Strand also asked if there would be a storm sewer installed by where he resides to which Jeff Kuhn explained how that will work. Strand also inquired about having the gravel road tarred. This will need to be petitioned to the council. After further discussion on tarring streets currently gravel, Mayor Tensen ended the public forum.

City Engineer, Jeff Kuhn, with Widseth, Smith and Nolting was present to discuss the street project starting with phase one. Phase one was shown on the map as everything north of the railroad tracks. His goal is to start this project late summer or early fall. Kuhn feels that there are still reputable contractors looking for late summer 2020 work. He feels worst case scenario is the bids come in too high so the project wouldn't be able to move forward in 2020 and would need to be rebid. Mayor Tensen stated that they would rather have a good job than a fast job. Signing on with a contractor just because they are the only ones left isn't a good option. Kuhn stated he will give his best legal advice on a good bidder. What he is able to express legally, he will do so for the City. Funding for phase two affordability will be done after phase one. All numbers will be figured again to see when the City can afford to start with phase two of the project. Kuhn stated that phase one was selected first because it is considered to be downstream. He wouldn't want to start south of the tracks and then be locked in a certain stipulations of the phase. Councilman Olson wants a supervisor that works for the best interest of the city so another Pine Street

doesn't occur. Kuhn isn't able to guarantee that isn't going to happen because he can't directly control the contractor due to liability reasons. There is one year warranty on projects but if the city felt it was a viable option, the city could pay for a second year of warranty. Phase one will be divided into zones and work will continue zone by zone until complete. Satisfied with the answers from Kuhn about the upcoming project on motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Prestholdt to approve the engineering service confirmation and preliminary estimate. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries. Contract was signed by Mayor Tensen.

To prepare the citizens for a public hearing, a resolution ordering preparation of a report on improvement was given to council. This is to give WSN authorization to prepare a feasibility report. On motion by Councilman Olson to approve the resolution with a second from Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries. The public hearing for phase one will be held during the next council meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Kuhn proposed contracting with American Engineering Testing, Inc. for the geotechnical services. He stated this was a reputable company for the city to use. They would contract under the city however report to Kuhn on the city's behalf. There was a change to the proposal. Instead of two borings, there would need to be three borings due to the size of the water tower. The water tower will hold 250,000 gallons instead of the proposed 75,000 gallon. Motion made by Councilman A. Tufto to approve the proposal for the geotechnical services with a second from Councilwoman Frahm. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries.

Kuhn addressed numbers for a water tower. They have received many proposals, however they are having a hard time receiving definite numbers. If numbers are not solidified for phase one, the water tower work may be moved to phase two of the project.

Chief Andy Stock asked to have a resolution authorizing solicitations of contributions to fund events that foster positive relationships between law enforcement and the community. Examples of these events are Coffee with Cops and National Night Out. On motion by Councilwoman Frahm to approve the solicitation resolution with a second from Councilman Olson. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries.

Hilltop liquor renewal application has been submitted to the City. All needed information has been received. On motion from Councilman Olson to approve Hilltop liquor renewal with a second by Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries.

Dawson Bowl renewal liquor application has been submitted to the City. All needed information has been received. Councilman Prestholdt motioned to approve the license renewal with a second from Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries.

Councilman Prestholdt has been approached by community members about starting a community garden. Councilman Olson said this has been tried about 15 years ago and there was no interest so it wasn't pursued. Mayor Tensen said he is concerned that people won't take care of their spots by weeding, watering, etc. Location was also discussed. It was thought the skating rink would be a good site but the soil would need to be tested. Along with that, the skating rink would then be moved back to the river. After further discussion it was agreed upon to place an ad in the paper to see if there is any interest in starting a community garden. On motion by Councilman Olson to place the ad for community garden interest with a second from Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries.

Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers' Report

A. The current micro screens are 20 years old at the wastewater plant. Both screens need to be replaced. Powers presented an estimate of \$6,378 from Parkson. On motion by Councilman Olson to accept the estimate with a second from Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor: Olson, Prestholdt, Frahm and A. Tufto; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto and Fish. Motion carries.

City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson Report

A. Schuelke-Sampson reminded the council due to the Presidential Nomination Primary on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020 the council meeting will have to be moved to the second Tuesday of the month. The new date will be Tuesday, March 10th, 2020.

B. Rod Coon from Rod's Auto Body is currently in the process of moving the vehicles parked on Fifth Street. He spoke with Chief Stock stating no more vehicles will be parked in the lot. The blight issues will be addressed in the spring once the snow has melted.

C. Health care facility voting will take place on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the nursing home. The city office will be closed during this election because office staff work as election judges.

With nothing else on the agenda, on a motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second by Councilman A. Tufto to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor