

Dawson City Council Minutes
September 5, 2017
5:30 PM

The Dawson City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Councilpersons present: Councilman Jeff Olson, Councilman Dave Lien, Councilman Steve Tufto, and Councilman Charlie Prestholdt.

Councilpersons absent: Councilwoman Becky Bothun and Councilman Alan Tufto.

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, Payroll/Utility Billing Clerk Jill Kemen, Dawson Sentinel Editor Dave Hickey, Southwest EMS representative Ann Jenson, Morrie Schacherer, Dennis and Ruby Anderson and Burt and Sandy Faehn.

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 with the addition of 9A, Western Minnesota Prairie Waters' request. On a motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second from Councilman S. Tufto motion passed. All councilmen present voted for. Absent was A. Tufto and Becky Bothun. Motion passed.

With a motion from Councilman Lien and a second from Councilman Jeff Olson, to approve of consent agenda items number 4 and 17, approval of the August 1st Council Meeting Minutes and August bills paid. All present Councilmen voted in favor. Councilman A. Tufto and Councilwoman Becky Bothun Absent. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen opened the 10 minute public forum. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Tensen closed the 10 minute public forum.

Dennis and Ruby Anderson were present to ask the Dawson City Council for a cooperative with the City. Anderson owns the Dawson Museum/Bank Building on Main Street. He and his wife were present to work out a deal to see if the City would consider waiving the utility bill for the building. He presented that there was many volunteer hours to rejuvenate the building back to its original presence on Main Street. Anderson also figured he saved the City many thousands of dollars by purchasing the bank building which was in imminent danger of becoming condemned. Councilman Olson said he was thinking about a one year pass on the Dawson utility bill and seeing how it works with a re-evaluation at that time. Morrie Schacherer questioned that if the City is raising water rates, the City shouldn't be giving water away. Everyone should pay for it. Ruby Anderson reiterated that they saved the City thousands by remodeling the building so the City wasn't responsible for tearing it down. She stated that they have donated \$100,000 of their own money towards the project and Dennis had been worked countless hours since the end of March to improve the structure. Ruby and Dennis Anderson agreed that Councilman Olson's offer was fair. Councilman Prestholdt pointed out that Ann Jenson was renting an office in the building which would help cover some of the costs of staying open. Councilman Tufto asked how much per month are we considering. \$60.00-\$100.00 was City Manager Schuelke-Sampson's answer. Ruby Anderson said they have paid the first half of the real estate taxes and feels like they are doing more than

their share. Councilman Lien said he worries about the other business owners in town wanting the same thing and said the council is setting a precedent here. Councilman Prestholdt said that the Anderson's are not taking any money out of the building. Any revenue earned would remain in a fund to help keep the building operating and for future repairs down the road.

Councilwoman Becky Bothun entered the meeting at 5:38 PM.

Councilman Lien asked Councilman Olson to amend his original offer and offer the Andersons a 6 month deal.

Councilwoman Bothun asked Morrie Schacherer what he felt about helping the Andersons. He restated that water rates continue to rise and the City shouldn't be giving water away. Councilwoman Bothun said she felt that was a small investment compared to some things the City does. With the conversation complete, Councilman Olson motioned to have the City pay the Dawson Museum/Bank Building water bill for 6 months and to revisit after that time. With a second from Councilman Lien. Voting in favor: Councilman Olson, Councilman Lien, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting Against: Councilwoman Bothun. Absent: Councilman A. Tufto. Motion passed.

Councilman Prestholdt wanted to publically thanks Dennis and Ruby Anderson for all that they have done. When the project is all said and done, it will be a beautiful building again. He also encouraged anyone who hadn't see the building yet to stop in and do so. Burt Faehn stated that other things are being considered with the building down the road. He stated that one thing mentioned was the bank robbery reenactment during Riverfest.

Ann Jenson who works with Southwest EMS and also Dawson Ambulance was present to explain the Lac Qui Parle County Transport Vehicle Request. She handed out a summary of the proposed mental health transport vehicle and spoke to the need of this service. She explained that mental health transports are huge for the Dawson Ambulance and local law enforcement. She stated that there is not law that says the ambulance must transport a mental health patient. She said when they are transferred by ambulance that very little if any of the costs are covered by insurance. A county group has gotten together spearheaded by County Sheriff Al Anderson and County Auditor Jake Sieg. The LQP program will be based off a program implemented in Granite Falls. Jenson presented the approximate costs to the program and what the City portion would be. She said the City would only get a bill at the end of the year if the service was used. Dawson's share of the bill would be split 1/3 City of Dawson and 2/3 to Johnson Memorial for the hospital service and the ambulance service. Councilman Lien asked what the protocol would be in the event of a transfer. Jenson said she hoped she would be notified and would dispatch out from there to help keep the transfer private. Jenson said that Chief Stock has been good to work with getting the transfers handled as well as the ambulance handling some. Mayor Tensen said that the council only had to vote tonight if they were in support of the project. Councilman Olson asked if this would be additional and above the money that the City of Dawson already donates to the ambulance budget. Jenson stated that the money donated by the City goes to update and replace equipment. Councilman Prestholdt moved to support the transport vehicle. Councilwoman Bothun stated the mental health need is not going away.

With a motion from Councilman Prestholdt and a second from Councilwoman Bothun to support the transport vehicle. All councilpersons present voted in favor. Absent: Councilman A. Tufto. Motion passed.

City Manager Schuelke-Sampson said the Library Donation Committee met with Deb Lanthier, head librarian and two people from Southwest Initiative Foundation about transferring some of the memorial donations into an endowment fund run by SWIF. Schuelke-Sampson said she really liked the idea but was concerned that the library expense coming up could be great with the roof repair needed. The committee recommended moving \$100,000 to the endowment fund at this time. Councilman Olson said he would like to have the money accessible to borrow against when repair is needed. Once the money is in the fund, the City no longer gets it back. The City would receive an interest check based on the market. Councilman Prestholdt asked about the grant that the City had applied for to fix the roof and subsequent library problems. Schuelke-Sampson said that there were 115 requests which amounted to \$11 million dollars and there is only \$3 million dollars to donate. Councilman Olson said that we are better off holding onto our money. He said we need to have an air quality control test done on an apartment in the building and obtain an estimate on the work that needs to be complete. Councilman Tufto motioned to table the endowment request for one year and revisit it then. Councilman Lien seconded the motion. All present Councilperson approved. Absent: Councilman A. Tufto. Motion passed.

The Lac Qui Parle EDA 2017 contribution request was presented. Schuelke-Sampson said this is a budgeted item. Councilman Lien motioned to approve the request with a second from Councilman Tufto. All present Councilpersons voted yes. Absent: A. Tufto. Motion passed.

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters' requested was presented. Schuelke-Sampson said this is a \$100 increase from the previous year. Councilman Olson stated that they do a good job in advertising Dawson. Councilman Lien motioned to approve the \$3600 request with a second from Councilman Olson. All present Councilpersons voted yes. Absent: A. Tufto. Motion passed.

The second reading of the Mediacom cable television franchise ordinance was presented. This is to give Mediacom permission to use our right of way. Councilman Olson motioned to accept the request made by Mediacom with a second by Councilwoman Bothun. All present Councilpersons voted yes. Absent: A. Tufto. Motion passed.

The Mediacom summary which is to be printed in the paper as written was motioned by Councilman Tufto with a second by Councilwoman Bothun. All present Councilpersons voted yes. Absent: A. Tufto. Motion passed.

The LQP EDA report was presented for information only.

Approval was needed on the liability coverage waiver form. Councilman Olson motioned to keep the waiver with a second from Councilman Lien. All present Councilpersons voted yes. Absent: A. Tufto. Motion passed.

Schuelke-Sampson requested approval on the 8% levy increase she is budgeting for. She reminded the council that once this is set, it can no longer be increased only decreased from this point on. She said the public will have a chance to say their opinion at the December 2017 first meeting of the month which will be starting at 6:00 PM. Some of the budgeted capital items for 2018 included carpet, wall work, and trim work to the inside of the City Hall building. Radios and a new squad car for the police department. There will also be a grant applied for through the USDA for help with the funding of a new squad car. The Finance Committee will continue to meet to help with the budget. Councilman Olson stated that the levy request will go down at the next Finance Committee meeting. Councilman Olson motioned to approve the 8% levy increase for 2018 with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. All present Councilpersons voted yes. Absent: A. Tufto. Motion passed.

Maintenance Superintendent Powers Report:

- A. Powers addressed the handicap ramp curb at the corner of Pine and 7th Street. He would like to see this removed so dirt and silt won't wash away. He estimated it would cost approximately \$1,000-\$1,200. He has contacted Larson Brothers but hadn't yet heard back from them. Powers stated that the block would still have the other side of the handicap assessable corner to use to reach the sidewalk. Councilman Tufto asked if this was something that could wait until next year since the rainy season is about over for the year. Councilman Prestholdt said they understand the issue and will work on rectifying the situation but wanted it tabled until Spring 2018.
- B. Powers stated that their summer help is done with the exceptions of weekends or after school. The City crew is still currently mowing two times a week due to recent rain. The pool is being winterized and the crew is getting fired up for the fall season.
- C. Councilman Olson inquired about Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water. Powers responded that LPRW is waiting for the crops to be combined before starting their digging work. LPRW is currently drilling for wells in hope to find an aquifer to build a new water treatment plant for the future. Powers continues to work with the DNR to increase the City water permit for future needs and any possible industry wanting to relocate to Dawson.

City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson's report:

- A. Schuelke-Sampson shared there is currently a resident displaced in the apartments due to the air quality and subsequent mold issue in her apartment.
- B. She had a conversation with Dan from DSI and he stated that by the end of September three more business should be under contract and the business goal for the DSI loans would be met. The homeowner goal is still short by three homes which they are currently working to encourage homeowners to apply.

- C. The police union met with the Personnel Committee over a new contract. When negotiations were complete, it was agreed to increase comp time from 60 hours accumulative to 70 hours. Cost of living adjustment was agreed to at 3% for 2018 and 2019. A motion from Councilman Lien and a second from Councilman Tufto to approve the police union contract updates. All present Councilpersons voted yes. Absent: A. Tufto. Motion passed.
- D. Schuelke-Sampson also distributed a new check balance for the liquor store fund. The previous balance only contained expenses as month end was not yet completed and revenue wasn't entered. Councilman Olson stated they the liquor store will continue to be monitored and the council is expecting real costs of the liquor store. Councilman Olson requested that a liquor store meeting be scheduled.
- E. Schuelke-Sampson enclosed the Computer Commuter update for information only.
- F. Councilman Lien also asked about part time police officers wage increase. Schuelke-Sampson stated that this was in the budget for 2018 already. Part time police officers will now be paid at the step 1 wage of a full-time officer to be competitive with surrounding towns.

With no other information to be addressed Councilwoman Bothun motioned to adjourn the meet with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. All present Councilpersons voted yes. Absent: A. Tufto. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Payroll/Utility Billing Clerk

Mayor