

Dawson City Council Minutes
September 21st, 2021
5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session Tuesday, September 21st, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Dawson City Hall Council Chambers. The meeting was also available via Zoom. Councilpersons present: Jeff Fish, Jeff Olson, Vince Adelman, Dean Petersen, and Charlie Prestholdt. Absent: Steve Tufto. Also Present: Mayor Randy Tensen, Acting City Manager Jill Kemen, Utility Billing/Office Clerk Kristin Daline and City Attorney Rick Stulz and Jeff Kuhn via Zoom.

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

Councilman Fish motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Councilman Fish motioned with a second from Councilman Olson to approve September 7th Council Meeting Minutes. Voting in favor: Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

With hearing nothing in the 10 Minute Public Forum, Mayor Tensen closed the Public Forum.

New Business

Acting City Manager Jill Kemen gave a brief update on the discussion at the Personnel Meeting. After much discussion, it was recommended to create a new hierarchy to the Road and Bridge/Water/Wastewater departments. The new positions are as follows, Public Works Superintendent, Public Works Supervisor, followed by two City Maintenance positions. Kemen feels this will make the departments more uniform and help departments establish direction for succession planning. There is currently an open position for Maintenance 1 that is posted internally until Thursday, and then will open. The Police Department does not have any part-time Police officers. Jagger Anderson took a position in Canby and won't be able to help Dawson for six months. Derek Birdsall has been asked to help fill in as he recently took a position at AGP and doesn't have a concrete schedule yet. Maintenance Superintendent, Kurt Collins, is staying quite busy with street and infrastructure projects, Kemen felt the Police department could take over the duties of zoning official. The income from this becomes part of the Police revenue and is the Police who enforce our ordinances. Councilman Tufto would like to add that any disputes between property owners gets vetted through the City Attorney before coming to the planning and zoning committee. On motion by Councilman Olson and a second from Councilman Prestholdt to approve the Police Department taking over the Zoning Permit duties. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Jeff Kuhn, City Engineer with Widseth, gave a brief update of the street project. The paving contractor will be here September 30th for three to four days. They will start on streets that have not had a first lift. There was a subcut done on 5th Street today. The contractors have been busy pumping out rain water yesterday and today. Town and Country has been road grading areas between 7th and 9th Streets south of Highway 212. The grass that has been planted is starting to come up and looks good. The concrete work is complete, and will have a one year warranty. Councilman Olson stated that Viking Street needs more gravel, as there is a lot of standing water. Kuhn mentioned that they are holding off until the second lift is poured to see how much gravel it will take to fill. The water tower was filled last week and a leak was discovered. A valve wasn't closed completely and was fixed right away. The plan is to refill the tower on Wednesday, followed by disinfecting the tower.

City Attorney, Rick Stulz talked briefly about hazardous housing. Homeowners were sent letters inviting them to this meeting to express their concerns and intent for the property. With neither of these homeowners attending the meeting, it was suggested to move forward. Another letter will go out giving the homeowners 30 days to respond. On motion by Councilman Fish with a second by Councilman Prestholdt to adopt the finds from the September 7th meeting and approve moving forward in the hazardous housing process. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Stulz provided information on Open Meeting Law for information only. Under this law, Councilman and the public are only able to attend two meetings a year via Zoom.

Maintenance Superintendent, Kurt Collins wasn't available to be at the meeting so Kemen spoke about the skid loader quotes. John Deere's option for a rig with high flow will be too big for what are needs are. Kemen has quotes available if any of the Councilman would like to take a look at them. This will be brought to the Road and Bridge meeting on Wednesday as well. The skid loader will be used to clean off the new sidewalks in the safe routes to school plan. Councilman Adelman is concerned about the layer of ice that the blower will leave behind, and thinks the broom would be a better option. Councilman Olson said that Madison uses their skid loader more than their payloader as it significantly smaller and easier to maneuver. Kemen mentioned that this may be something that could be purchased with ARPA Funds the City received.

The School is having an election at City Hall on November 2nd. The City Council meeting will move to November 9th.

The Prairie Waters Annual Event flyer was included in the packet. It is in Dawson this year Wednesday, October 13th from 5-7 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come.

Letters for utility bills and mowing assessments will go out October 21st.

Mayor Tensen said Puris is having a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 13th from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The next council meeting will be October 5th at 5:30 p.m.

Hearing nothing else, on motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second by Councilman Petersen to adjourn. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Utility Billing/Office Clerk

Mayor