

Dawson City Council Minutes

April 6, 2021

5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session Tuesday, April 6th, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Dawson City Hall Council Chambers following social distancing guidelines and wearing masks. This meeting was also available by Zoom.

Councilpersons present: Jeff Fish, Jeff Olson, Steve Tufto, 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 Maintenance II Colin Lee, City Attorney Rick Stulz, City Engineer Jeff Kuhn with Widseth, Dave Hickey, Marilyn Hannasch, Jeremy Miller, Chessa Frahm with SWCD

No one was on the meeting via Zoom.

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

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

On motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second from Councilman Tufto to approve the consent agenda items number 4 March 16th, Council Meeting Minutes and number 10 March bills paid. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen opened the 10-minute public forum. Marilyn Hannasch asked if the agenda could be published earlier than in the paper the week of the meeting. When the paper comes in the mail, the meeting has already happened. She stated that it could be perceived as the council not wanting to have the public know what is happening. Hearing nothing else, Mayor Tensen closed the public forum.

New Business

A. Marilyn Hannasch asked what the city plans to do about all the trees that have been removed due to the project. She had said she heard there was no plan in place. Councilman Olson said the city is in a money crunch and all the extra funds right now are going towards phase 2 of the street and utility infrastructure project. Mayor Tensen said that the city does not want to see trees planted back in the boulevard again due to the roots causing damage to sidewalks and underground infrastructure. Councilman Olson said that city will take a look at trees once the infrastructure is taken care of. City Engineer, Jeff Kuhn, said typical set-backs for keeping trees is generally 5 feet. They are trying to keep as many trees as they can and it isn't just the contractor taking the trees they feel, the project engineer has a say as well.

B. The preliminary summary costs (stated wrong on the agenda as preliminary pay estimate) for phase 2 was discussed. Jeff expressed the numbers are still tracking just under the original estimate. Phase 2, however, as a whole, has gotten too big for what the city was hoping for with grant opportunities. To maximize the grant opportunities, it would benefit the city to split the remainder of the project into phase 2a and phase 2b. From the map Kuhn provided, the project could be split to include zones 4, 5, part of 3 and water sewer in zone 6 for new development. Councilman Prestholdt asked if the completion date would remain the same to which Kuhn responded it might be a stretch but doable. The max grant for water and sewer is \$5,000,000 each per year. There are no grant funds available for the storm sewer. Phase 2b would be zones 1, 2, part of 3 and the remainder of 6 along with the water treatment plant updates, lift stations and the water meter updates. Kuhn is looking for a consensus from the council about the change. Councilman Adelman asked Kuhn if he had picked the zones that needed to be done first by the ini. This means that there is water infiltrating into the sewer lines from rain, being sent to the wastewater treatment plant that doesn't need to be treated. Kuhn responded yes, that was a main decision on the phase split and the zones picked. Councilman Prestholdt said he would like to split phase 2. Kuhn will look at zone 6 to see if adding water and sewer lines for the new development is feasible to add to phase 2a. Councilman Adelman asked if the increase in material cost would be built into the estimate. Kuhn said no because bids are awarded through a public bid process and there is no way to lock in prices now for future use. Widseth does try to account for the increase in the contingency number. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Petersen to take the recommendation of City Engineer, Jeff Kuhn, and split phase 2 into 2a and 2b. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed.

C. Pay estimate #4 was presented for payment. This is for pvc material that is on-site that Kuechle Underground took advantage of and bought ahead of time to lock in the price before the increase. The estimate also included some tree and brush removal. On motion by Councilman Olson to approve the pay estimate #4 to Kuechle Underground for \$163,884.30 with a second by Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed.

D. Maguire Iron submitted a pay estimate #6 for the work done on the elevated storage tank. This project will continue approximately the middle to the end of April. On motion by Councilman Fish to approve the pay estimate for \$182,495.00 with a second by Councilman Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed.

E. Kuhn provided more information on the size of the lettering on the water tower and the orientation of the letter along with the visibility of the city name. Mayor Tensen said there is already a

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nice sign located south of Dawson so he didn't see a need for the tower writing to face that direction. On motion by Councilman Fish to approve 6 foot letter with an east/west orientation for the water tower with a second by Councilman Olson. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed.

F. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) has again allowed for cities to extended public health emergency leave and/or emergency sick paid leave to their employees should they qualify under certain requirements to help alleviate financial burden from COVID-19. This program runs from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021. Different this year is that cities are allowed to use the tax credits if this benefit is given to employees. Kemen mentioned that the city will receive approximately \$160,000 in COVID relief funds from the new program. Councilman Fish motioned to accept both emergency leaves for employees with a second by Councilman Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed.

G. Minutes were included from the water/wastewater committee meeting that was held. After discussion regarding the minutes, on motion for Councilman Olson to purchase the new lab machine with a second by Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed. The purchase of a jetter truck was tabled for the next meeting. Maintenance Superintendent, Kurt Collins, stated he didn't want to spend money fixing the breaks in the truck if he is able to find a used truck in a short amount of time.

H. The City Maintenance I position has closed its applications on April 2. There will be interviews for those interested on April 13th. Kemen will make sure the point system is followed and refer to City Attorney Stulz to make sure all the correct steps are completely followed. The city manager position is currently being advertised with the last day to accept applications being April 16. Council was reminded by Attorney Stulz that all applicants are private until they are in the interview process. He will provide canned questions and council will interview applicants that meet their requirements.

Old Business

A. Trees – Due to previous discussion regarding trees, nothing else was talked about at this time.

B. Jeremy Miller has petitioned to detach from city limits. Attorney Stulz said there really isn't anything the city can fight regarding this petition. He doesn't have city water, sewer, lights, streets or anything tying him into the city. The property was originally annexed into the city to develop the south

lot for commercial use, which has happened. It was also noted that Miller has paid his past due property taxes.

It was recommended by Attorney Stulz to go forward with the detachment. Councilman Prestholdt asked what happens if others want to detach from the city to which Stulz said it would be looked at on a case by case basis. On motion by Councilman Fish with a second from Councilman Prestholdt to approve the detachment from city limits for Jeremy Miller. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed.

C. School Football Field – Tabled from the meeting in March was the request for monetary donations to help with the retaining wall the horticultural class is doing at the football field. After discussion, the council agreed to not support the project stating that this was a cosmetic improvement verses a capital improvement. Councilman Jeff Fish and Councilman Jeff Olson.

D. Water Tower Land – Attorney Stulz said the land was purchased in 1963 for \$3,000.00. There are no easement records and the land is now completely surrounded by AGP. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Fish to sell the land back to AGP for \$3,000.00. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt, and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Absent: None. Motion passed.

Maintenance Superintendent Kurt Collins' Report

A. The campground on Highway 212 has water on. This will also be full in short order due to the construction going on with long term residents. The restrooms/shower house is also open. There will be temporary water lines run to the campground next Tuesday. Discussion on getting sewer to the campground as well so it would be considered full hook-up. Mayor Tensen asked how this would happen. Collins said that there would be a manhole and it could be trenched over to the campground and each site would need to be dug in.

Interim City Manager Jill Kemen's Report

A. JMHS 2020 report was provided in the packet. If the council is interested, Tami Schuelke-Sampson, the city representative on the JMHS board could attend a meeting to answer questions.

B. EDA minutes were included in the packet. There is a waiting list at Heritage Courts Apartments. It was noted that Tami Schuelke-Sampson was not in attendance as the minutes reported.

C. Lac qui Parle SWCD – Chessa Frahm was present to answer any questions regarding the one watershed, one plan program. She is also looking for people to be on the advisory board. This 1W1P program is a 10 year plan.

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D. Since the City of Dawson is now contracting with the county for assessing services, there will be no Board of Equalization meeting. The open book meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the city hall. Any questions can be asked at that time for 2022 property values.

E. The bond refunding closing date is Thursday, April 8th. Ehlers will take care of paying off the old bonds (pool, 2012 street and 2012 sidewalk).

F. The city has requested an extension of the armory project from the Minnesota Historical Society until August 31. Work left to do is chimney, lot grading and paving, and humidity issues inside.

G. The next council meeting will be Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm. This will be a work session. There will be no action taken on any items.

The liquor store will lose power for approximately 8 hours coming up in the next few weeks. Otter Tail Power will be working on the lines and replacing the transformer. The liquor store will be open that evening once power is restored.

There is a link on the city website sharing the Pioneer Public TV interview regarding housing and Riverview Estates.

The 2020 Consumer Confidence Report is completed and will be publicized in next week's Dawson Sentinel. The website has been updated to reflect the current year and hand outs are available at the city office.

Mayor Tensen addressed concerns regarding the underage golf cart drivers. He wants the police to enforce the age limit on driving golf carts and also the number of people occupying the carts.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor