Dawson City Council Minutes

December 19th, 2023

5:30 pm

Councilpersons present: Charlie Prestholdt, Jake Bothun, David Hansen, Jeff Olson and Councilman Vince Adelman. Councilman JT Schacherer absent. Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Jill Kemen, City Clerk Kristin Daline, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins, City Attorney Rick Stulz, David Peterson and Steve O’Neal.

Mayor Tensen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and everyone repeated the Pledge of

Allegiance.

Councilman Prestholdt motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Schacherer. Motion passed.

Councilman Prestholdt motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Schacherer. Motion passed.

10 Minute Public Forum

Mayor Tensen opened the 10-minute public forum at 5:31 pm., hearing nothing the public forum closed at 5:31 pm.

Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collin’s Report

The guys have been busy working on catch up things. Currently they are working on an old poly 2-way snow plow blade to be put on the payloader which will make it easier to plow alleys

and cul-de-sacs. The blade will need a few new hoses. Dennis will begin part time January

2nd. He has opted to do the PERA phase out. It would be nice to open a full-time position to replace him. Dennis’s social security retirement age is the end of 2025. This position would work in the R&B department as well as Park in the summer. There will be a W/WW committee meeting Thursday to discuss lead line compliance and a few other things.

City Manager Jill Kemen’s Report

The city received a property & casualty dividend check from the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) in the amount of $3,234. Jill asked for a motion to approve hiring a new full-time person for Dennis’s position. On motion from Councilman Prestholdt to approve the hiring of a new staff member with a second from Council Olson. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Schacherer. Motion passed.

Old Business

Council discussed vacating N. 10th Street for Titan Machinery. Jill has spoken with Mike Weisneberger from Titan who is spearheading the project. Weisneberger wanted Council to know that what Titan is doing will be very beneficial to the city. The plan is to build to the North, if that doesn’t work, they will be building to the East. The lot purchased from Paul Hill will be a lot to park equipment for sale. The parcel will be annexed into the city which will generate taxes. Rick provided the survey. Abatement will continue on building; the new property will not have an abatement. Titan plans to start the improvement in 2025. They plan to hire three new

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technicians and a salesman. Councilman Hansen motioned to have Stulz start the process to vacate N. 10th Street with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Schacherer. Motion passed.

New Business

Provided in the packet was an update to the Personnel Policy regarding the Earned Sick and Safe time wording. On motion from Councilman Bothun with a second from Councilman Hansen to approve the new wording for ESST. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Schacherer. Motion passed.

The letter from Ehlers provided in the packet is information only.

Ordinances and Resolutions

The first reading of Ordinance 325 amending the use and connection rates for utilities was read. Councilman Adelman is not in favor of businesses getting a break on usage over 200,000 gallons. Councilman Bothun would like to look further into this as well. The staff will look at the last year’s numbers. High water users include Noah’s Ark, the Lac qui Parle Co-op summer meter and AGP. Councilman Prestholdt mentioned that AGP is being charged a lot more after we increased the rates this year, do we want to hit them again.

The first reading of the Summary of Ordinance 325 amending the use and connection rates for utilities was read. The Summary is what gets published in the paper.

Councilman Prestholdt spoke with a homeowner in Riverview Estates. He would like to see the streets around the development tarred as part of phase 3.

Miscellaneous Announcements

The next city council meeting will be January 2nd, 2024.

With nothing more to discuss, Councilman Prestholdt motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Schacherer. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

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Kristin Daline, City Clerk Randy Tensen, Mayor