

Dawson City Council Minutes

February 7, 2017

5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Councilpersons present: Becky Bothun, Jeff Olson, Dave Lien, Al Tufto, and Charlie Prestholdt.

Councilpersons absent: Steve Tufto.

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, City Clerk Treasurer Kristi Kvaal, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, Dawson Sentinel Editor Dave Hickey, Jerry Thompson and Dan Lee.

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 no changes. On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilman Lien to approve the agenda with no changes. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto, and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Lien seconded by Councilwoman Bothun to approve the Consent Agenda Items #4 and #10, Approval of the January 17th Council Meeting Minutes, the January Bills Paid and the Fourth Quarter Financials. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto, and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto. Motion carries.

Mayor Tensen opened the 10 minute public forum. Jerry Thompson, representing the Dawson Baseball Association, was present, along with Dan Lee, to discuss the existing concession stand building at Nelson Field. They informed the Council that they would like to tear down the current structure and replace it with a new building. The current building has no water access, making it impossible to serve food. Dan Lee stated that the new building would have hot water and stainless steel, which is required for food preparation. Lee showed the Council a sketch of the new facility and pointed out the new features. They also hope to get the school involved, since they also utilize the field. They are hoping to get started in early spring, with an estimated cost of \$7,500 - \$8,000. Discussion was had concerning whether or not the construction class at school could provide assistance. They are also planning to reside the shed that was relocated from the football field. Councilman Prestholdt asked if there were any plans to do any work on the concession stand at the softball fields, to which Thompson replied not with this project, but added that there have been discussions regarding that building as well. Councilman Olson estimated that it will cost \$8,000 - \$10,000 to install water and sewer to the new structure. Maintenance Superintendent Powers will work on getting estimates. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Tensen closed the public forum.

Mayor Tensen asked if anyone would like to see changes made to the current 2017 Committee Assignments. Councilwoman Bothun indicated that she felt the issue needed to be addressed regarding the number of committees each Councilmember is assigned, but added that she had no problem with the current assignments. Mayor Tensen stated that he would maintain his position on the EDA Board and would make accommodations regarding work conflicts. On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilman A. Tufto to leave the 2017 Committee Assignments as previously adopted. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto, and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: S. Tufto. Motion carries.

The LQP EDA Operations Reports were presented. No action required.

Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers' Report:

1. Brent reported that the City has had further discussions with Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) regarding an expansion of their service area and the need for an additional water source. Previously LPRW was reluctant to pursue an agreement with the City based on the hardness level of the water. Recently they contacted the City in hopes of securing more water due to an increase in demand and are willing to purchase the City's water with the current hardness levels. Powers stated that the City has permits for 130,000,000 gallons/year. The current usage is approximately 76,000,000 gallons/year. LPRW has indicated that they would like to purchase up to 50,000,000 gallons/year. The water treatment plant is capable of 200,000,000 gallons/year. Councilman Prestholdt stated that we should be cautious about spreading ourselves too thin in case a current or future business would like to expand. Powers indicated that the City could contact the DNR to increase the permit. Discussion was had concerning current rates and the number of gallons used by AGP before they constructed their own wells. Councilman Bothun asked about the amount of revenue this agreement would generate, to which Powers replied \$50,000 - \$100,000/year. Councilman Prestholdt stated that the City should contact the DNR regarding permit capacity before moving forward and that the City needs to allow for new or expanding businesses. Powers went on to explain that the City now offers a lower rate for usage over 200,000 gallons, but indicated that the DNR would prefer to see a higher rate assigned to commercial usage over that amount. Mayor Tensen asked when LPRW would like to begin, to which Powers replied they would like to lay pipe this year. Councilman Olson stated that if the City entered into this agreement, it would bring our usage numbers back to where they were when AGP was still purchasing all of their water from the City. Powers stated that the cost to make water is minimal, and that LPRW will maintain their own system. The City could also buy back water if necessary while performing filter maintenance at off peak times. Powers will check with the DNR concerning permit limits.

Interim City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson's Report:

1. Tami reported that INSPEC was here to inspect the interior damage at the Library and Heritage Court Apartments. We are currently waiting for a schematic design to apply for a Historical Society grant.
2. The house at 712 Pine Street has been scheduled for a training burn on March 11, with a backup date of March 25.
3. Dan from DSI reported that there have been no new applications for the Small Cities Grant. DSI is looking for ideas as to how to reach out to people in the target area. They have already gone door-to-door, sent out mailings, made phone calls, distributed door hangers, etc. Councilwoman Bothun suggested that they hold a meeting and serve food. Councilman Prestholdt asked about the perimeters of the current target area, to which Tami explained that it is north of Walnut Street and south of Hwy 212 on the northeast end of town, and includes the main street businesses. Powers asked if it was income based, to which Tami replied yes. Councilwoman Bothun added that commercial applications are not income based. Tami indicated that this is our last year for the program. When asked about expansion, Tami stated that DEED is unlikely to expand the target area due to the fact that the current target area is already considered large for a town our size. Discussion was had concerning the local businesses that have taken advantage of the program and the method of payback on the grant.

Mayor Tensen asked if there had been any progress on the sale or renovation of the old bank building on main street. Councilman Prestholdt indicated that he is scheduled to have a meeting with a potential buyer. Attorney Stulz added that progress is in the works.

Tami reported that she and Kristi had attended the Ehlers Conference last week and found it very informative.

Councilman Prestholdt addressed his concerns about the policy of paying Councilmembers for Council meetings whether or not they attend. He stated that he felt that it should be changed to a pay per meeting policy. Attorney Stulz explained that an increase in wage must be done prior to an election, but that a decrease or a change in payment method could be done within a year of the election.

On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilman Lien to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.