

Dawson City Council Minutes

November 4th, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Vince Adelman, Jeff Olson, Jake Bothun, Dean Petersen and David Hansen. Others present: Mayor JT Schacherer, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins, City Manager Jill Kemen, City Clerk Kristin Daline, Deputy City Clerk/EDA Director Tyler Franzky, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Kevin Ketleson, David Pederson, Peggy Crosby, Steve O'Neal and Dave Hickey.

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

Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the agenda with additions of items 11C 2026 COLA, 11D Deferred Comp increase, 11E comp bank increase, 11F Minnesota Paid Family Leave (PFML) and 11G pumper truck repair. Seconded by Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Adelman, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

Councilman Olson motioned to approve consent agenda item 4, October 21st Council Minutes and item 13, October financials with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Adelman, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

10 Minute Public Forum

Mayor Schacherer opened the 10-minute public forum at 5:32 pm, hearing nothing it was closed.

Kevin Ketelson with the UMRDC provided a packet of the energy assessment report through Otter Tail that was done for city buildings. The program distributed \$90,000 throughout the region for energy audits with city owned buildings. The City of Dawson has applied for \$6,200, no match. Dawson has chosen the wastewater plant for the project as this is the highest bill the city has. Otter Tail did audits for the Library, Fire Hall, wastewater plant and water plant. The city could see \$3,200 in potential rebates through Otter Tail.

Mayor Schacherer closed the regular meeting at 5:35 for the public hearing on delinquent utilities and weed extraction (mowing). Resident Steve O'Neal expressed concern over the care of a private property on the boulevard. Hearing nothing else, the public hearing was closed at 5:36 pm.

Reports of officers, boards and committees

The Employee/Volunteer committee met and spoke about COLA, deferred comp, comp bank increase, PFML, pay differential and the pumper truck repair. Action will be taken on those items later in the meeting.

The Recreation & Growth committee meeting met this morning to talk about the pool floor repair. Action on this will take place later in the meeting.

Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collin's report

Kurt spoke about the filter replacement at the water treatment plant. The city is currently running on the first new filter, working on the second filter in hopes to be complete by the end of next week. The project has been going well. The street crew has been busy street sweeping and blowing out water lines at the parks. Lauritsen's are applying biosolids today and tomorrow.

City Manager Jill Kemen & Tyler Franzky report

Tyler mentioned that the city should hear back next week about the solar grant. The polling place grant application has been submitted. The EDA meeting was cancelled for today as there was nothing new to discuss.

The city office and staff are asking permission to close the day after Thanksgiving. That date is also a state holiday for DVS/DNR. Councilman Olson motioned to approve the city office being closed the day after Thanksgiving, all employees to use vacation or comp time with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Adelman, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

An Open Meeting Law packet was in the council packet, but was not discussed.

Old Business

Trail's Edge Duplex Update, packet was included in the packet. Tyler gave a brief update. Window treatments were decided on today. Jill will meet with sales representative tomorrow to finalize.

New Business

Kurt received a quote to replace the manhole that was located in the ditch from DSG. The quote is significantly less than what was quoted prior. Material is all plastic. The manhole can be jetted and tv'd through the 12" opening on the top. Councilman Olson motioned to approve moving forward with replacing the manhole through DSG. Seconded by Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Adelman, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

Pool Operator Nathan Grengs received three quotes to repair the pool. The Recreation & Growth committee met this morning to discuss options. The deep end is completely delaminated. Nathan did a background on Senior Pools and had good reviews. Mayor Schacherer did some background check as well and was pleased. A quote for \$165,000 from Senior Pools was recommended by committee to take action as an urgency to be done next Spring before opening. The city does not have firm funding at this point. Tyler will reach out to

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Townships, as was done in 2007, fundraising and contacting local businesses. The city does lose quite a bit of money every year at the pool, but council feels the pool is a much needed and wanted asset. Council feels that it's not just a city amenity, but a community amenity. The city will set up a recreation fund, giving an entity the possibility of donating every year. Mayor Schacherer would like to take action on the contractor to get locked in for spring 2026 repairs. If the repairs are not done, the pool won't be opening. Thank you, Nathan Grengs, for working so hard getting the quotes. The other two quotes came in at \$220,903 and \$205,900. The life span for the plaster is 15 years. Senior Pools will remove the plaster, rough it up and replaster. The current pool bond is done in 2027. Councils hope is by taking this approach will alleviate not having to take out any loans to cover the repair. Councilman Olson motioned to approve moving forward with Senior Pools with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Adelman, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

The Employee/Volunteer committee recommended matching the union COLA increase for non-union employees at 3.5% for 2026 and 3.25% for 2027. Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the COLA for 2026 with a second from Councilman Olson. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Olson and Petersen. Opposed: Adelman. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

The Employee/Volunteer committee recommended a deferred comp increase of \$5, going from a city match of \$105-\$110. This was a request that came from staff. Councilman Olson motioned to accept the \$5 increase in matching funds with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Adelman, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

The Employee/Volunteer committee recommended a comp bank increase from 70 to 80 hours in lieu of overtime. This also came at staff requests. Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the increase in the comp bank with a second from Councilman Olson. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Olson, Adelman and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) is new starting in 2026. There is a 50/50 premium split for employer/employee. Built in to that recommendation an employee can top off with either sick, vacation or comp time banked. An employee will get paid up to 90% of their wage through DEED alone. Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the new policy and allow employees to use their earned time off to top off with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Adelman, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

The Employee/Volunteer discussed different options with Fire Chief Brian Hersom about the pumper truck repair. The truck is not in use and the Fire Department is required to have two pumpers at all times. Options discussed were renting a truck until the pumper is fixed. Purchase a different truck to get by. Trucks available were old, and all of the unknowns about the trucks were a concern. The quotes to purchase a different truck were comparable to what the repair is.

Hersom provided two quotes for the repair, K&M Fire out of Willmar, and Heiman Fire out of Sioux Falls. The quotes were within \$100 of each other. The committee's recommendation was to go with the company that can get the repair done first. Dawson Fire is currently utilizing Boyd and Madison as a secondary pumper. Our current pumper is a 1996. The FEMA grant that is currently being written has the highest chance of getting rewarded for current trucks that are over 30 years old. Councilman Olson motioned to move forward with the company that can get the repair done the fastest. Seconded by Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Bothun, Adelman, Hansen, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

A resolution on proposed assessments for delinquent utilities was presented. The resolution presented had a proposed property that will be taken off as the bill was paid and property was sold. Councilman Petersen motioned to approve the resolution on proposed assessment for delinquent utilities with the removal of the one property. Seconded by Bothun. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Petersen and Adelman. Olson Abstained. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

A resolution on proposed assessments for delinquent weed extraction (mowing) was presented. Councilman Olson motioned to approve the resolution with a second from Councilman Petersen. Councilman Hansen would like the private property on 6th Street mentioned earlier in the meeting addressed. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Olson, Adelman and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

A resolution re-establishing the polling precinct location for the city was presented. Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the resolution with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Adelman, Olson and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

Pay estimate #7 from Rouge construction was presented. Councilman Petersen motioned to approve the pay estimate with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor, Bothun, Hansen, Olson, Adelman and Petersen. Absent: Stafford. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous announcements

The next city council meeting will be Tuesday, November 18th at 5:30 pm. Tyler mentioned there will be a funding committee scheduled soon.

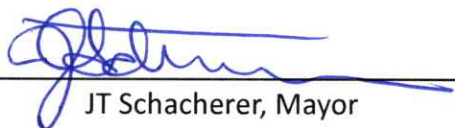
With nothing more to discuss, Mayor Schacherer closed the regular session council meeting at 6:23pm for a closed meeting with Jill Kemen and Kristin Daline.

Mayor Schacherer closed the closed meeting at 8:00 pm and opened the regular council meeting to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Daline, City Clerk



JT Schacherer, Mayor