

Dawson City Council
September 2nd, 2025
5:30 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Dean Petersen, Randy Stafford, Jake Bothun, Vince Adelman and Jeff Olson. Absent: David Hansen. Others present: Mayor JT Schacherer, City Manager Jill Kemen, City Clerk Kristin Daline, Deputy Clerk/EDA Director Tyler Franzky, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Dave Hickey, Fire Chief Brian Hersom and Ross Schaefer.

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

Councilman Olson motioned to approve the consent agenda item 4, August 5th council minutes and item 13, August financials. The financials will be moved to the second meeting in September. Voting in favor, Bothun, Olson, Adelman, Petersen and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed.

Mayor Schacherer opened the 10-minute public forum at 5:31 pm. Hearing nothing, the 10-minute public forum was closed.

Reports of officers, boards and committees

The funding committee minutes and the employee volunteer minutes were included in the packet. No discussion was had.

Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins' Report

Jill gave an update in Kurt's absence. The first shipment of green sand for the water treatment plant media is being delivered on Wednesday. Nathan is working on the unknowns for the lead service line inventory that is due October 1st. PFAS paperwork is coming due. Kurt and Jill will work together on the paperwork. Johnson Jet Line came down and found the manhole which was located in the ditch. Josh Moen will be digging. A fire hydrant was hit out at Puris; Moen will also do the digging to fix. Kurt is still looking to trade mowers this fall. He is currently getting bids from Titan Machinery, Ziegler and Warren's Small Engine.

City Manager Jill Kemens' Report

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has increased the fee for water connections in 2026. The new fee will be \$15.22, up from \$9.72 in 2025. This is a one-time fee that residents see on their water bill in July and is not something the city has control over.

Trail's Edge Construction Report was enclosed in the packet. With many inquiries on the duplexes, Jill thought it would be beneficial if SWMHP provided an update. The report included pictures and a breakdown of each unit's progress. Jill and Kristin are working on picking out lighting. Odden & Zimbelman got the bid for the appliances, which will be stainless steel. We are very excited that we were able to keep it local. Also, Jared has been in contact with local contractors who will be bidding the landscaping. Currently six units are spoken for, and four are available. The \$500 security deposit goes towards rent.

A thank you card from the family of Jane Ellefson was enclosed.

2026 Preliminary Budget Review. Tyler Franzky, Deputy Clerk to present

Tyler provided a handout of the 2025-2026 budget percent change across specific departments breakdown for the council. The handout was reviewed which opened up discussion. Councilman Olson would like to move forward with purchasing a plow for the new payloader as our other

plows are not reliable. Councilman Adelman is concerned with the police department and feels there needs to be a deeper dive into the department.

New Business

Pay request #6, Rouge Construction was presented. Councilman Stafford motioned to approved the request with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor, Bothun, Adelman, Olson, Petersen and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed. Jill mentioned that the city is able to draw from MN Housing a total of three times for the project. This will be the first draw request.

City Attorney Rick Stulz provided a hazardous housing order for 424 9th Street, Dawson. This order starts the process to declare the property hazardous. There is a pending sale for the home. Significant repairs will need to be done within 20 days of approval of the order. Councilman Stafford motioned to approve moving forward with the hazardous housing order with a second from Councilman Olson. Voting in favor, Bothun, Olson, Adelman, Petersen and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed.

An invoice from Visu-Sewer was presented. Visu-Sewer came back to open one of the holes in the sewer lining for the library in December. The invoice was first sent to Ryan Contracting who said the contract with the city was closed. Jill recommends payment as they were here and did the work, the problem didn't show up until months later at the library. Councilman Olson motioned to approve the invoice with a second from Councilman Olson. Voting in favor, Bothun, Adelman, Petersen, Olson and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed.

Pay request #1, CC Steel was presented for the rehabilitation of the manholes. Voting in favor, Bothun, Adelman, Olson, Petersen and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed. Jill will submit to PFA for funding.

Tyler spoke on the UMVRDC solar grant contract. The grant covers 70% through the program with the remaining 30% as a tax credit. Otter Tail Power informally agrees that if the tax credit falls through, they would cover the 30%. The only drawback about the program is the city would need to front the cost. Tyler will start with the wastewater plant as this is the most expensive bill the city has. The solar panels will be set up on the east side of the pond, south facing. Councilman Olson motioned to move forward with getting bids for the project with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor, Bothun, Adelman, Olson, Petersen and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed.

An animal impound policy & agreement was presented. The Dawson Vet office reached out and wanted an updated agreement. Councilman Olson motioned to approve the policy and agreement with a second from Councilman Stafford. Voting in favor, Bothun, Olson, Adelman, Petersen and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed.

A letter from the Dawson Fire Relief Association was presented. They are requesting a \$100 increase to the benefit rate for retirement from the current \$2,000 to \$2,100 per year of service effective January 1st, 2025. Councilman Olson motioned to approve the request with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Bothun, Olson, Adelman, Petersen and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed.

The Dawson Trap Association has submitted paperwork for a raffle permit. Councilman Petersen motioned to approve the request with a second from Councilman Stafford. Voting in favor, Bothun, Adelman, Petersen, Olson and Stafford. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed.

Ordinances & Resolutions

A resolution approving the preliminary 2026 levy was presented. Tyler mentioned he feels it's important to continue budgeting into capital outlay as equipment and buildings will always have repairs, and Hackberry Street will need to be considered for improvements in the future. The plow for the payloader is not currently entered in the budget at \$25,000 due to hopes of funding in this fiscal year and new lights at the softball field is entered as \$70,000. Both of these items should be discussed further if the council would like to move forward. As mentioned earlier in the meeting during the budget discussion, the lights at the softball fields need attention as they are considered a safety hazard. The preliminary levy is currently at 12%. Keep in mind, the city can only go lower from this number. Councilman Olson motioned to approve the 2026 preliminary budget at 12% with a second from Councilman Stafford. Voting in favor, Bothun, Olson, Petersen and Stafford. Opposed: Adelman. Absent: Hansen. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous Announcements.

The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, September 16th at 5:30 pm.
With nothing more to discuss, Mayor Schacherer moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully,

Kristin Daline, City Clerk

JT Schacherer, Mayor