

Dawson City Council Minutes
September 1, 2020
5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Dawson City Hall Council Chambers following social distancing guidelines and wearing masks.

Councilpersons present: Councilman Jeff Fish, Councilman Charlie Prestholdt, Councilman Steve Tufto, Councilman Jeff Olson, Councilwoman Chessa Frahm and Councilman Al Tufto

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, City Attorney Rick Stulz, City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen, Blaine Green with Widseth Smith and Nolting, Steven Farmen, Dave Hickey, and Dean Petersen

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

Councilman S. Tufto motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of 7a. League of Minnesota Cities Liability Coverage Waiver, with a second from Councilman Olson. Voting in favor Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Olson, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against none. Motion passed.

On motion by Councilman S. Tufto with a second from Councilman Olson to approve the consent agenda items number 4 and 13, Approve August 18, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes and Financial Information August bills paid. Voting in favor Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Olson, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen opened the public forum. Steven Farmen spoke about the water tower running dry back in 2018. He had brought with him a copy of the minutes from a council meeting and the boil order notice from the West Central Tribune story. Councilman S. Tufto stated to Farmen that no one denied that the incident happened, however the council was trying to correct what were erroneous errors from Farmen's recollection of the event. Farmen also gave compliments to Brent Powers, Maintenance Superintendent, and Tami Schuelke-Sampson and her staff for the good jobs they are doing and the help Farmen has received in getting material to the councilmembers.

Councilman Prestholdt was approached by a homeowner in the Riverview Estates addition. The homeowner questioned why chloride was put down on the gravel and then the city came and bladed the road, thus removing the chloride. Powers stated that the road was rough and needed to be bladed, however the city put down a powder form of chloride after blading to help control the dust again. Councilman Prestholdt suggested Powers visit with the homeowner. Next Councilman Prestholdt addressed the 10 or so dead trees at the swimming pool park campground and said they need to be removed. Lastly, Councilman Prestholdt was asked by two different residents about the smoke testing and what the purpose of it was. Powers stated that they are testing to see if the seepage tile around houses or roof drains are hooked to the sanitary service line of the homeowners. This test finds the errors ahead of time to be corrected during the project.

Steven Farmen said the contractors are some of the nicest people he has spoken with and they look like they know what they are doing.

Dean Petersen inquired about the roads south of the river. Mayor Tensen stated that the hope was to start working on phase 2 of the project because the city is aware the roads are in disrepair.

Councilman S. Tufto said he has been approached about the extra traffic heading north on 6th Street from AGP. His thought since we are doing the project anyway to maybe make 7th Street a backup road for extra truck traffic.

He said the amount of trucks is fine now, however, in 60-90 days with harvest coming, there will be more trucks. Powers has spoken with the county engineer about restriping the street to only allow one vehicle at the stop sign on 6th Street at a time. The street is only made for one vehicle and adding stripes with a double turn arrow will help prevent two vehicles alongside of each other. City Manager, Schuelke-Sampson, spoke with AGP Manager, Marc McCormick. He stated that there will be a maximum of 6 trucks per hour leaving AGP. Mayor Tensen said let's wait to address the issue if it does become a problem.

Councilman S. Tufto feels that the city realistically needs to look at a crossing along Highway 212 and a sidewalk on the north side. With more people in the apartments, Dollar General now open, pool and park, he feels it is better to be proactive. Trucks come through the city at a fairly good speed and all it would take is the sun to be in the wrong spot to not be able to see a pedestrian. After discussion, Widseth Smith and Nolting will look at this and bring a cost estimate back to create a crossing and sidewalk.

Hearing nothing else, Mayor Tensen closed the public forum.

Councilman Prestholdt updated the mayor and council about the COL (RET) Wayne Moe Memorial project. Having passed away in 2015, one of his final wishes was to give back something to Dawson, where he was born and raised, along with his wife, to help beautify the city. Councilman Prestholdt, Lisa Lund, Sean Deuth, and Jill Kemen came together to help make this project happen. COL Moe's daughter, Laurie Moe Buckhout, has given the group a budget of \$50,000 and asked them to bring back ideas to her. Using zoom, Ms. Buckhout made several choices. There will be a black granite memorial bench with her parents' wedding picture engraved in it along with dates and a wording about giving back to the city that gave to them. Also included will be a carving by Jordan Dahl. This will be a cross and eagle with the words In God We Trust. A water feature will anchor both the bench and carving. This will be a glass water wall measuring 6 ft by 6 ft with LED lighting. These three features will go next to the existing memorial. The Dawson VFW and Dawson Legion have given their blessings on the project as well as the Riverfest Committee to have an unveiling ceremony on the Friday of Riverfest 2021 after the presentation of the gnome. The Moe family will be in attending and Deuth is working to get a general present at the ceremony. Councilman Prestholdt said he is humbled and blessed and proud of this gift that the Moe family is giving Dawson.

The first reading of the water/sewer ordinance changes was held. Schuelke-Sampson said the change to this ordinance is the capital improvement fee amounts presently at \$21.00 per month to \$62.00 per month. This is the change based on Ehlers estimate from August 14 meeting to help wrap around our current debt. There will likely be another increase for phase 2 of the project with both water and sewer base fees seeing an increase to help with achieving what is needed for grant funding. On motion by Councilman Olson to approve the first reading of the water/sewer ordinance changes with a second by Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Olson, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Schuelke-Sampson asked council to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability. This is something done every year. Motion by Councilman Olson to not waive the monetary limits with a second from Councilman S. Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Olson, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against none. Motion passed.

The Dawson EDA met in a joint meeting with Madison EDA on August 19, 2020. The new CEDA representative, Zach Bubany, was introduced to the group. He will provide a work plan with the brainstorming discussed at a later date.

Attorney Rick Stulz spoke about the push from Madison EDA and private businesses to support the possibility of a dairy farm coming to the local area in Hamlin Township. The feeling is that this dairy will be good for local economies. There will be a joint ad in the paper with Madison and Dawson EDAs and Madison and Dawson Development Corporations all approving the ad. A public meeting is set for September 10 in Madison at the Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds. This will be a come and go style to answer questions.

Prairie 5 Rides along with the Upper Minnesota Regional Development Commission have established the Regional Transportation Commission Council (RTCC) to coordinate transportation in the 6W area. Currently they are working on by-laws for the new council. This will fall under the Prairie 5 umbrella. The RTCC will work on obtaining a grant for operation. This new transit service will make things easier and help reduce barriers to the programs riders and providers depend on.

A quote for \$3,500.00 was provided by Olson Sanitation for the tear down and removal of the garage on 414 2nd Street. The garage was totaled due to a fire. The quote does not include cement pad removal. Lac qui Parle Family Services will provide \$1,000.00 towards the removal project. Discussion was had about the complaints the city has received along with the taxes that are past due. Mayor Tensen said we could assess the remaining balance of \$2,500.00 to the homeowner's taxes. Powers stated that it is a nice lot approximately 75' x 140' with a good location that will have new water and sewer lines in the case the home is sold and a new house would ever be built there. Currently there is an acknowledgement against the taxes simply stating the taxpayer knows the taxes are delinquent and agrees to pay off the taxes when the home is sold. On motion by Councilman A. Tufto to accept the Olson Sanitation bid to remove the garage and access the remaining \$2,500.00 to the taxpayer's taxes with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against none. Councilman Olson abstained. Motion passed.

Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers' Report

The valve exerciser has been ordered. It should be here in approximately two weeks. Canby has agreed to let Dawson borrow theirs in the meantime.

The leaking manhole is still leaking. HydroKlean came to attempt to repair again but didn't bring enough chemical to seal the leak. There is another company willing to come and make the repair, but Powers feels he is going to give the first company one more chance to repair it. If the repair isn't made, there is still a bill that will be owed because they did do some fixing on other items when here.

The well located next to Roger Nelson's home on 2nd Street (well #6) has received the approval to be fixed from the MNDNR and the MNDOH. Thein Well is aware of the approval and will repair the well before the snow flies.

Tami Schuelke-Sampson Report

Schuelke-Sampson turned the floor over to Blaine Green with Widseth Smith and Nolting for a project update. Trees are being removed on the boulevard to make way for new lines. Grinding of the pavement has begun and will be hauled off site to be recycled/reused further down the project line if the pavement meets codes. Temporary water lines will be set up with flushing and cleaning before a bacteria test will be run. Once the test is passed, sanitary water mains will start next week. Green stated that the contractors seem to have all their ducks in a row and can answer any questions that have come up. Storm sewers will start later this week. A sink hole was found when grinding the pavement off around ditch 4. The pipe separated and previous fix failed. The reclaim machine slightly fell into the sink hole. WSN is coordinating with the storm sewer and water divisions to fix the problem. Green stated this was a lucky find before a car did sink in it.

The Dawson city website link is working with help from Kristin Daline, Utility Billing/Office Assistant. This will be a weekly update for the whole city and any general questions. More information will be added as needed. Everything appears to be looking good and continuing to roll forward.

Schuelke-Sampson said there are items at your chair for information only. These items included a letter from Steven Farnen and the Lac qui Parle Computer Commuter update.

Motion by Councilman Olson to adjourn the meeting with a second by Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Olson, Councilwoman Frahm, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman A. Tufto. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor