

Dawson City Council Minutes

January 17, 2017

5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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

Councilpersons absent: None.

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, Interim City Clerk Treasurer Kristi Kvaal, Payroll/Utility Clerk Jill Kemen, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Liquor Store Manager Garney Jager, Michelle Miller, Chris Lehne and Maurice Schacherer.

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

On motion by Councilman Prestholdt seconded by Councilman Lien to approve the January 3 Council Meeting Minutes. Voting in favor: S. Tufto, Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries.

Mayor Tensen opened the 10 minute public forum. Hearing no comment, Mayor Tensen closed the public forum.

Mayor Tensen then addressed the issue of the Conditional Use Permit Request for 913 Pine Street. City Attorney Rick Stulz updated the Council on the history of the permit request by property owner Rudy Garcia. The decision to grant the Conditional Use Permit was tabled until the January meeting to allow Mr. Garcia time to negotiate the purchase of the former Country Bargains building on Hwy 212. Garcia indicated that he has contacted the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission in Appleton (UMVRDC) for help with funding, and was told they could give him up to \$17,000 to purchase the building. He also stated that he has plans to meet with Pamela Ellison, LQP EDA Director, for further financial assistance. He explained that initially he had secured funding through the Development Center in Marshall; but due to the amount of time it took the owners to empty out the building, the funds were no longer available, since money is dispersed on a first-come first-served basis. He also indicated that his credit rating is not favorably enough to secure a loan locally through the Dawson Co-op Credit Union.

Attorney Stulz inquired as to whether or not the building is currently available to rent, to which Garcia replied yes, it has been cleaned out. Garcia has been in contact with current owner Darryl Rasmussen to discuss a possible rental arrangement, and is waiting for Rasmussen to get back to him on the subject of a possible rent-to-own agreement. Councilman Prestholdt commended Garcia for being a wonderful member of the community, pointing out his volunteer work with the Boy Scouts. He stated that the Council would like to work out a solution whereby Garcia could continue to pursue his livelihood, while at the same time address the safety concerns posed by his neighbors. Garcia stated that he is trying to work with all parties involved. He currently has money down to purchase the Hwy 212 property, and does not want to lose his investment. Councilman Olson asked neighbor Chris Lehne whether there have been any recent issues with Garcia operating his business at his home, to which Lehne replied, no, he seems to be following the rules.

Mayor Tensen asked Attorney Stulz what options the Council has concerning this matter. Stulz stated that the Council ultimately needs to decide whether or not to grant the Conditional Use Permit. If granted, the permit is permanent. If denied, Garcia could apply for a temporary permit. Garcia then asked if he could continue his business working out of his garage and driveway. Stulz stated that the City does require a permit, so he would need to reapply and ascertain the required signatures again. Michelle Miller stated that she does not have a problem with him conducting his business, but would rather see him located on Hwy 212. On motion by Councilman Lien seconded by Councilman S. Tufto to deny the Conditional Use Permit for 913 Pine Street. Voting in favor: S. Tufto, Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries.

Attorney Stulz updated the Council on the National Bank Building located on Sixth Street. He stated that if the building is deemed hazardous, it will need to be fixed up or taken down. He has sent a letter to the current owner concerning the property. Discussion focused on the current condition of the building, improvements that have been made, and potential buyers. Stulz will follow up at a future meeting with his findings.

Mayor Tensen reported that the Liquor Committee met and agreed with Garney's recommendation to reduce hours at the store. On motion by Councilman Lien seconded by Councilman A. Tufto to close the Dawson Municipal Liquor Store at 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the winter months of January to April. Voting in favor: S. Tufto, Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries. During the wind down process, a portion of Garney's wages will also be taken out of the Park Department.

Mayor Tensen stated that the Personnel Committee met to discuss the current City Office staffing arrangement and to make recommendations to Council. On motion by Councilman Prestholdt seconded by Councilman A. Tufto to remove the "Interim" from Tami Schuelke-Sampson's title and appoint her the City Manager. Voting in favor: S. Tufto, Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman A. Tufto seconded by Councilman Olson to remove the “Interim” from Kristi Kvaal’s title and appoint her the City Clerk Treasurer. Voting in favor: S. Tufto, Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Prestholdt seconded by Councilman Olson to approve a 5% increase in the City Manager’s wage and include a \$50/month cell phone allowance. Voting in favor: S. Tufto, Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilwoman Bothun to approve the Casey’s 3.2 Beer License Renewal. Voting in favor: S. Tufto, Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries.

Councilwoman Bothun stated that she would like to review the current committee assignments and indicated that she would like to be removed from the Park Committee due to conflicts with her work schedule. Discussion was had concerning the committee members and whether there should be a change in the current assignments. It was agreed to revisit the issue at a future meeting.

On motion by Councilman S. Tufto seconded by Councilman A. Tufto to approve the Heather Nursery Proposal for Hanging Baskets. Voting in favor: S. Tufto, Bothun, Olson, Lien, A. Tufto and Prestholdt; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Prestholdt seconded by Councilman Lien to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

City Clerk Treasurer Kristi Kvaal

Mayor Randy Tensen