

Dawson City Council Minutes
April 16, 2019
5:30 PM

The Dawson City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

Councilpersons present: Councilman Jeff Olson, Councilman Al Tufto, Councilman Steven Tufto, Councilman Jeff Fish and Councilman Charlie Prestholdt.

Councilperson absent: Councilman Dave Lien.

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Attorney Rick Stulz, City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen, City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, Liquor Store Manager Garney Jager, Sheriff Alan Anderson, Police Chief Andy Stock, SHIP Anna Snyder, WSN Jeff Kuhn, WSN Larry VanHout, Fire Chief Brian Hersom, County Commissioner Ben Bothun, Donn and Sue Mork, Pat Lindblad, Jim and Missy Heinrich, Dick Pollei, Bob and Sue Lund, Loren and Gloria Kassel, Charlie Dale, Terry and Jeri Popma, Lewis Miller, Linda Boraas, Glenn Carlson, Terry Overlander, Nic Blascyk, Patrick Nelson, Ross Schaefer, Dean Petersen and Gerald and Joy Thompson.

Declaring a quorum present, 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 the modification of moving number 5 - 10 minute public forum and number 6 – SHIP walking route grant in reverse order. On a motion made by Councilman A. Tufto with a second by Councilman Fish to approve the agenda with the modification. Voting in favor Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman A. Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: none. Absent Councilman Lien. Motion passed.

Anna Snyder, Statewide Heath Improvement Partnership, presented a grant opportunity for the City of Dawson. The Gnome Trail is new signage to be used to help people track their walking miles, as well as pointing out destinations within the City such as the farmer's market and grocery store. Along with this new Gnome Trail, there will also be signage on the current walking path and the new Johnson Loop which will be located by Johnson Memorial Health Services. The signage includes 2 large signs and 13 small signs along the path/trail. Each sign will have a gnome on it with different colored hats to depict the different areas of town and sponsors. Councilman Prestholdt asked what the cost to the City is. Snyder said that SHIP covers all the signs but they look for in-kind donations such as labor to put up the signs on current poles. Mayor Tensen thanked her for her time.

Mayor Tensen then closed the council meeting and opened the public hearing for wastewater system improvements at 5:35 pm.

Jeff Kuhn and Lan VanHout with Widseth, Smith, and Nolting Assoc. Inc., our engineers, presented a slide show of the City's water and wastewater buildings and deficiencies which were used to draft the open facility plan approval submitted to the State of Minnesota. WSN is looking for the City to approve a resolution adopting facility plan for wastewater system. Part of the requirement to pursue grant money from Public MPCA for this project, is to present recommendations to the public. Within the wastewater facility there are several deficiencies. Some of these include the fine screens, cement, electric panels,

Council Minutes

April 16, 2019

Page 2

clay pipe, worn out or outdated equipment, aerators, pumps and meters. If the City wants to do things right when fixing the streets, it is important to take care of the underground infrastructure first. Underground improvements and system improvements are estimated to cost \$12,329,500.

When addressing the City water system, it is reported that the current wells are in good shape. Needing further attention or replacement are the control panels, noise, filters, no backup, chemicals not separated, and ventilation. The water tower is undersized for our community and is in a poor location. Currently, our tower holds 150,000 gallons and the City should have a tower that holds 250,000 gallons. The improvements and upgrades to the water system are estimated to cost \$12,818,600. The different grant and low interest loans available to the City can be through PFA, USDA Rural Development, and SC Development Grant. The reason Dawson has more opportunity to receiving funding compared to 2012 is because the City debt has increased and our industry has decreased. WSN is going through the steps identifying the underground needs first and then the street needs. All needs will be looked at during this project. It will be a multi-year and ideally once and done with the rest of the town.

Councilman Prestholdt asked about Ash Street and the flooding issues. Ash Street is considered to be in the floodway. There is no feasible way to raise the street and the engineers are forced to abide by all rules. WSN is looking at alternate emergency routes and what other options the City has. Jim Heinrich said he was told by the Army Corp of Engineering that since there is flooding, emergency money is now available to fix the road. He also said he feels that adding a single lane emergency route is just a band aid and there is too many people living in that development of town. Councilman Prestholdt asked Kuhn that a report back to the City be made. Councilman S. Tufto agreed to be in charge of keeping it a top fix priority. Kuhn was asked about the deteriorating streets. His suggestion was to not stick a lot of money into the streets and use millings to patch. The money WSN is applying for is 2020 money. Hearing nothing else, the public hearing was closed at 6:22 pm. and the council meeting opened.

On a motion made by Councilman Prestholdt with a second from Councilman A. Tufto to approve the resolution adopting facility plan for the wastewater system. Voting in favor Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman A. Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: none. Absent Councilman Lien. Motion passed.

Sheriff Alan Anderson, addressed the council. He handed out 2018 call information within Lac qui Parle County and the Dawson-Boyd Police Departments. The sheriff's department has added a narcotics/tracking dog, Argo to the team. His handler is Deputy Berman. The police department is welcome to use the dog when necessary. September of 2018 showed the highest call volume with December 2018 the lowest call volume. The West Central SWAT team was called to action 4 times in 2018 with one of them in Lac qui Parle County. The current county jail per diem is \$155.00 approximately. Councilman Prestholdt thanked Sheriff Anderson for coming and appreciated the information he supplied.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources met with Schuelke-Sampson, Powers, and representatives from AGP about bringing an observation well to the City of Dawson. Dawson currently has 3 well and AGP just drilled their 5th well. DNR said funds are available for an observation well within the City of Dawson

Council Minutes

April 16, 2019

Page 3

on public property. AGP will pay for the transmitter because of the new well they just drilled. The DNR will read and verify the numbers from the aquifer. Brent Powers said this is a good thing for the City to help with accuracy. There will be no cost to the City of Dawson for this well, just a signature on the contract and to provide the land the well will be on. On motion by Councilman Fish to sign the contract with the DNR for the observation well with a second from Councilman S. Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman A. Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: none. Absent Councilman Lien. Motion passed.

The liquor store is in the final phase of the wind down process. If nothing changes, the store will close June 1st. Councilman A. Tufto said he feels the liquor store is doing fine. No one is showing up for the public hearing against the liquor store staying open. On a motion made by Councilman A. Tufto with a second by Councilman Prestholdt to rescind the wind down of the liquor store motion previously passed. Voting in favor Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman A. Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: none. Absent Councilman Lien. Motion passed.

Ehlers requirement of securities has changed. Approval is needed for the update along with a new resolution. On a motion made by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Fish to approve the post issuance compliance policy update. Voting in favor Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman A. Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: none. Absent Councilman Lien. Motion passed.

The 2019 Riverfest celebration requested a donation. Councilman Prestholdt asked City Manager, Schuelke-Sampson, what the City has done in the past. Schuelke-Sampson answered nothing ever however the City did contribute to the Lac qui Parle County Fairboard. Councilman Olson said the City hasn't given to anything and he recommends not to start. No action was taken on this donation request.

March 2017 was the last time there was an increase in the water bills. At that time the water and sewer rates didn't change, only the base fees and capital improvement fees. Water/Wastewater is an enterprise fund that needs to maintain a positive balance. On a motion made by Council Olson with a second from Councilman Fish to increase the water and sewer rates 5 cents per hundred gallons and 10% for flow, BOD, and TSS. Voting in favor Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman A. Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: none. Absent Councilman Lien. Motion passed.

The awnings on the east side of 6th Street were discussed.

Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers' Report

Councilman Fish praised the job the city crew did with the last snow storm. With the wet, heavy snow he said they did a great job.

City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson's Report

Council Minutes

April 16, 2019

Page 4

Schuelke-Sampson stated she is having complaints about the blight property at 876 Pine Street. Discussion was had about having the property deemed hazardous because of the condition of the house.

Police will start enforcing the City blight ordinance after the snow melts but before the city-wide cleanup.

The help wanted for pool staff will run for 2 more weeks and in area papers. The new deadline to turn in applications is May 3.

No one applied for the long-term part time office assistant job. If you know of anyone, please encourage them to apply. The office job is 30-32 hours per week with no health insurance benefits.

Councilman Olson suggested to have more committee meetings before things are brought to council. He would like to see quarterly meeting scheduled at noon, with lunch, for committees. Councilman S. Tufto suggested the second meeting per month to be used as a work session because of all the projects in the future.

Hearing nothing further on a motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman S. Tufto to adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman A. Tufto and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: none. Absent Councilman Lien. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor