

Dawson City Council Minutes
June 2, 2020
5:30 PM

Councilpersons present: Councilman Jeff Olson, Councilman Jeff Fish, Councilman Charlie Prestholdt, Councilman Steve Tufto

Councilpersons present via teleconference: Councilman Al Tufto, Councilwoman Chessa Frahm

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Wanda Coon, Rod Coon, Frank Aabye, Dave Hickey

Others present via teleconference: City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen

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

On motion by Councilman S. Tufto with a second from Councilman Fish to approve the agenda with the addition of 7a. Peddler's Permit Application by Schommer's Concession & Catering LLC., 7b. Cerro Gordo 3.2 Liquor License Application and 16b. Charlie Prestholdt presenting. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Councilman Olson motioned to approve consent agenda items number 4 and 16. Approval of May 5, 2020 council meeting minutes and financial information May bills paid. Councilman Fish seconded the motion. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen opened the 10-minute public forum. Frank Aabye discussed his connection and friendship with Rod Coon. He believes vehicles are a problem on 5th Street. Stated Rod's willingness to help anyone in need and Council needs to support the small businesses.

Hearing nothing else, Mayor Tensen closed the public forum.

Mayor Tensen closed the regular council meeting at 5:35 PM and opened the public hearing on consent to zoning permit at 1258 Pine Street. Brian Koepp obtained enough signatures to build the garage. The closest property owner spoke with Councilman Prestholdt regarding the variance and was ok with it. Hearing nothing else, Mayor Tensen closed the public hearing at 5:36 PM and opened the regular council meeting.

Ratify the Resolution allowing outdoor seating areas for local restaurants and grills was motion for approval by Councilwoman Frahm with a second by Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

City Manager Schuelke-Sampson spoke about the need to become members of the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association to become a consortium member. Councilman Olson asked about the cost of the membership and consortium fees for random and accident testing. Schuelke-Sampson stated that this is how area cities handle their testing. She also stated that JMHS would no longer provide this service to the city without a company in place. On motion by Councilman S. Tufto with a second by Councilman Olson to approve the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association Membership and become a consortium member.

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Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

A peddler's permit was applied for by Jeff Schommer for Schommer's Concession & Catering LLC. This is for his food wagon. Councilman Prestholdt motioned to approve the peddler's permit with a second from Councilman Olson. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Cerro Gordo Softball has turned in all needed paperwork to apply for a 3.2 license during what would be Riverfest weekend in June. Councilman Prestholdt spoke about the state needing to ok tournaments being able to happen. Councilman Olson asked about the paperwork. This license application needed to be addressed at this meeting because there are no second scheduled meetings in June. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman A. Tufto to approve the 3.2 license. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

City Manager Schuelke-Sampson spoke about a request from COL (Ret) Wayne Moe made through his daughter to have a memorial erected within the city of Dawson. COL Moe was born and raised in Dawson and went on to fight in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. It was his wish to have something built to help beautify the city he remembers so fondly. His daughter would like to be involved in the design process and felt a water feature would be a wonderful thought. Schuelke-Sampson asked Councilman Prestholdt if he would want to reach out to her and find out her bequest. Councilman Prestholdt agreed to follow-up. Further discussion on this memorial was tabled until the July meeting.

On motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second by Councilman Fish to approve the consent to zooming permit at 1258 Pine Street. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Rod and Wanda Coon, owners of Rod's Auto Body on 5th Street, were present to discuss their property and the complaints that council members are receiving. Councilman Fish stated he has had several complaints about the sidewalk being blocked for days at a time. Coon's 5th Street sidewalk was part of the 5th Street overlay project done by the county. Councilman Fish said complaints state he works outside his building in front of his driveway and on the sidewalk. Wanda Coon stated that semis during harvest block her entrance to her home opposite the body shop, yet she never has complained. Rodney said he is working on emptying the lot behind his home to be able to park several of the trucks he moves on that property. Councilman Prestholdt also stated he has received complaints. Rod and Wanda Coon have made attempts to start cleaning things up around the body shop. Rod stated that when the trucks are dropped off, drivers do not know that they can't park at the end of the block. When he sees this happening, he does move the vehicles as soon as he can. Council did acknowledge that there has been work done to help render the situation, but they are asking for it to continue. Councilman Olson expressed to Rod that his work needs to stay inside his shop. There should not be work happening in the driveway or on the sidewalk. Council also acknowledged that having a small business like Rod's here is beneficial to the community and they want him to continue the work he does, just try to make a better presence outside his shop. Wanda Coon also said she is continually picking up garbage

that has blown into her yard from Canby Farmer's Grain which is south of their home. She stated Rod shouldn't be singled out and that the elevator could take better care of their stuff too. Mayor Tensen thanked Rod and Wanda for coming to address the council today. Councilman Prestholdt has spoken with Dennis Hullstrom regarding opening the swimming pool restrooms adjacent to the campground. With more long term campers, which are working in the area, staying at the campground it is important that have a place to shower and clean up. Dennis Hullstrom agreed to help keep it clean. Councilman Steve Tufto said people don't have to use it if they are not comfortable. Stating that we need to start opening things slowly. Kids are also starting to use the softball and baseball fields for practice. Schuelke-Sampson and Mayor Tensen shared that if the restroom opened, a sign would be posted for everyone to see. The sign would state the hours of when the bathroom is typically cleaned, use social distancing, and use at your own risk. On motion by Councilman Prestholdt to open the campground/swimming pool restrooms with a second by Councilman S. Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Councilman Prestholdt ask Maintenance Superintendent, Brent Powers, if he had a quote to winterize the Veterans Park Campground. Powers estimated it would cost \$750 - \$1,000 in heat tape and installation. In order to go ahead with winterizing, Powers felt there should be an agreement that the campers stay there for the winter. If some campers were to pull out, it wouldn't be worth the cost to keep the campground open in the winter. His suggestion would be to pay for four months or half the season upfront. It was decided to wait until closer to winter and have more conversations with AGP and the contracted employees to see if the interest is still there.

The swimming pool is currently not full of water. City manager, Schuelke-Sampson, stated that there are 5 applications for water safety instructors and 8 lifeguards. She then shared with the group the email she had recently received about logistics of how to open the pool with the CDC guidelines and gave examples of workgroups and sanitization. She also said her suggestion would be to hold off on opening on the concessions. Right now, public swimming pools are only allowed to do swimming lessons. Schuelke-Sampson said that a staff member, not lifeguard, needs to be hired to do the sanitizing and rule enforcement. Councilman Prestholdt said we need to find a solution to open the pool and get swimming lessons lined up. Councilman S. Tufto stated that he has been asked by several people if the pool was opening this summer. Councilman Fish is concerned with the same kids being there every day. With the size of the swimming pool, it is estimated that only approximately 20 swimmers would be allowed in at one time if social distancing requirements need to be met. More discussion was had on how to help alleviate some of the cleaning such as not opening the locker rooms and using the west side gate as an entrance. Councilman Fish said we need to maximize what we can do and accommodate staff while trying to limit swimmers so we can focus on opening. It was decided to fill the pool and start the process. Powers stated it would take approximately two weeks for the pool to be operational and get Countryside Public Health out to complete the inspection to get licensed.

The Lac qui Parle Agricultural Society has again requested a donation this year for the 2020 county fair. There was discussion on this as to if there would be a fair with COVID-19 happening and if midway ride companies would want to only work one fair if their rides hadn't been used prior this year. County Attorney Stulz said the

plan is to still allow the fair although it would look different this year and they still have yearly ongoing expenses like insurance for example. On motion by Councilman Fish with a second by Councilman Olson to approve the yearly donation request. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Lac qui Parle Historical Society annual report was included in the packet. This is for information only. Any questions can be directed to David Pederson.

Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers' Report

- A. Enclosed in the packet is a copy of the letter from the MN Department of Health. This letter is to begin the next phase of the wellhead protection plan and the second scorpion meeting to initiate this phase is on Tuesday, June 9th.
- B. Another company came to inspect the manhole that has been leaking on Diagonal Street. Their estimate to fix the leak is between \$3,500-\$4,000. A two-part mix will be used to hopefully seal the hole this time. Hydro-Klean, who has done some of the previous work, is going to be coming out another time to see if they can fix the problem. We still owe Hydro-Klean part of the previous bill because the company did pour concrete however, we do not owe the total because the job wasn't completed.
- C. The swimming pool will take approximately two weeks to open once the water is in and balanced, Countryside Public Health must come and inspect it.
- D. Powers has been working on getting things that aren't being used cleaned up. Some of these things still have value. His recommendation is to put the items individually on MNBid and see what we can get for them. On motion by Councilman Olson with second by Councilman S. Tufto to allow Powers to sell items on MNBid. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson's Report

- A. Apartment number 23 is currently empty. This apartment will be painted and have carpets cleaned before new renter moves in. No update was given on the revolving loan fund. The deadline has been extended because of the pandemic. Bids are for the four different scopes for the library and apartment building are due on June 4th.
- B. AGP will be adding a new spur to the track. Letter and plans mailed by AGP to property owners affected are enclosed in the packet.
- C. An approval letter from the Minnesota Department of Administration for State Historic Preservation Office was enclosed. The engineers are currently waiting to get approval from other entities before we can start the bid process for the street project. We are continuing to work on the steps for the next street project.
- D. There will be a pedestrian counter placed on the walking bridge at some point. Schuelke-Sampson has given the UMVRDC permission for this.

- E. The Computer Commuter is running again. The bus opened to the public on May 18th. Strict sanitization will be followed before entering and after exiting the bus.
- F. Schuelke-Sampson is currently working on putting a COVID-19 preparedness and re-opening plan in place to be able to open the doors soon. Anyone who contacts the office or knocks on the door/window are allowed into the office to perform city business.

Councilman Prestholdt wants Schuelke-Sampson and/or the office staff to keep calling to push the street project moving. He would like a call made once a week.

When prepping for the sidewalk under the driving bridge, Councilman Prestholdt stated there is some terrible graffiti. He is inquiring what is the best way is to have it removed before the sidewalk gets poured and more people start using it. Powers said it would be best to probably sandblast it off. Councilman Fish also mentioned it is a county bridge so it might be their decision what needs to be done.

Food for thought. Councilman Prestholdt was approached and wanted council to think about possibly having entertainment in Veterans Park next summer. He received positive feedback about the high school graduation ceremony.

Hearing nothing else, on motion by Councilman Fish with a second by Councilman S. Tufto to adjourn. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

City Manager

Mayor