

Dawson City Council Minutes  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Dawson City Hall Council Chambers following social distancing guidelines. The meeting was also available via Zoom.

Councilpersons present: Jeff Fish, Jeff Olson, Vince Adelman, Dean Petersen, and Charlie Prestholdt. Absent: Steve Tufto.

Also Present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen, Utility Billing/Office Clerk Kristin Daline, Maintenance Superintendent Kurt Collins, Jeff Kuhn with Widseth, Steven Farmen, Lee Gunderson and Dave Hickey, Kevin Brent, Tony Aafedt, Burt Faehn, Geraldine Turner, Daryl Kanthak with Muelbrook & Taulbert, Pat & Gary Steinke, Brandon Gosson and Jim Prestholdt.

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

Councilman Olson motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Councilman Fish with a second from Councilman Petersen to approve consent agenda item 4, approve July 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes and number 12, July bills paid and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financials. Voting in favor: Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Petersen to approve July 27<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing Minutes. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Jeff Kuhn with Widseth asked if the Council would consider holding off on the adoption of a resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids. Council tabled until September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Tensen opened the 10-minute public forum. Tony Aafedt, a resident that lives on Pine Street addressed the Council. He is very concerned about the City not having sidewalks put in the plans for Phase 2. Tony stated that Pine Street has always had heavy traffic, and cars park on both sides of the road so you have to stop to let cars pass. The current plan has the sidewalk stopping at 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Keven Brent, who also lives on Pine Street has concerns about sidewalks as well. He said that it would be very detrimental for the City to not have this included in the future plans. There are many families that live on Pine, West of 12<sup>th</sup>, and he doesn't want anyone to get hurt. Gary Steinke said that he would like to see 12<sup>th</sup> Street upgraded from the typical residential grade to truck grade. Gary stated that there is farm equipment that uses 12<sup>th</sup> to get to the South side of Dawson. He also asked why Riverview Estates was left out of the street improvement project. Kemen stated that Riverview Estates has always been gravel. Residents in that development were sent letters with detailed costs of the street improvement. Only one resident was in favor of the improvements. Kevin Brent asked that the City not remove trees for the ease of the project. Burt Faehn can't believe they aren't replacing the sidewalks on Pine Street. He also has maple trees along his boulevard that are 61 inches from the street that he doesn't want to come down.

## New Business

Mayor Tensen welcomed Daryl Kanthak with Muelbrook & Taubert. Daryl introduced himself and stated that the firm has been performing the City audits for over 30 years. The City obtained a qualified opinion which is the best it can receive. The Fire Relief Association has an audit of their own. Some key financial highlights for 2020 are an increase in funds due to Covid and the flood money. The Campground/Park fund had an increase due to having Veteran's converted to year round camping, and the Liquor store is profitable for the first time in many years. The City office is responsible for making adjustments and the report is available at the City Office for anyone wishing to review it. The City is at 9.8 months of reserves. On motion by Councilman Fish and a second from Councilman Petersen to approve 2020 audit findings and adjustments. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Jeff Kuhn, City Engineer with Widseth Smith and Nolting, gave a brief update of the street project. The contractor has two weeks left of underground work to be done on Maple Street from 7th-9th Street. They will be working on the storm sewer on North 1<sup>st</sup> Street and North Park. The curbing crew will be in Dawson on Thursday to begin curbing on streets North of Hwy 212, along with some driveways and small pieces. Kemen asked Kuhn to make sure that Jody Bjornberg's driveway was at the top of the list. Councilman Olson asked, what is the projected completion date for the project? Kuhn said they are still looking at an October completion for Phase 1.

A discussion was had in regards to 14<sup>th</sup> Street N of Walnut. Councilman Adelman and Councilman Prestholdt said that they had a conversation with Scott Ochsendorf with JMHS about property lines. A map was provided to Kuhn and was asked if the street has been vacated or not. Kuhn said that he would look into it to have it possibly included in the project.

Kuhn presented pay estimate #8 with Kuechle Underground for \$590,070.98. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by councilman Petersen to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> pay estimate to Kuechle Underground. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Kuhn next presented pay estimate #10 from Maguire Iron for \$59,850.00. The tower is complete and painting is finished. In two weeks they will begin to fill the tank and put it into operation. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Fish to approve the 10<sup>th</sup> pay estimate to Kuechle Underground. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kemen spoke on behalf of Duane Hastad who was unable to attend the meeting. Duane would like to be able to supply trees to the City of Dawson through Heather Floral. He had some questions for the Council. 1. Would the trees be boulevard or lawn trees? Lawn trees. 2. When would trees be needed? Bare root trees are only available in the early Spring. 3. Bare root or potted trees? Bare root trees are around \$50/tree and potted trees range from \$85-\$95. 4. How will they be

distributed, City garage or Heather Nursery? City garage. Suggested tree varieties were Sugar Maple, Red Bud, Japanese Lilac and a Golden Harvest Linden. Discussion was had on cost share between the City and residents, and other options to pay for trees. This was just talking points, and not a guarantee that the City will offer this to residents. Councilman Fish mentioned going through Chessa Frahm with the Soil and Water Conservation office to get saplings. Mayor Tensen said that there is a considerable difference between saplings and the trees Hastad is suggesting. Kemen thought it would be best to bring this to a Road & Bridge Committee meeting for further discussion. Councilman Prestholdt feels bad that with the street improvements the City is not giving any trees back to the homeowner. Councilman Adelman feels it would be good PR for the City to give back. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Fish to bring to a Road and Bridge Committee Meeting. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Adding sidewalks on Pine and Chestnut Streets West of 12<sup>th</sup> Street was discussed. The sidewalks included in phase 2 are the safe routes to school sidewalks that the City will be maintaining in the winter. Kuhn estimates adding sidewalks on both sides of the road on Pine Street from 12th-15th would be around \$150,000. Councilman Adelman suggested doing at least one side of Pine Street. Kuhn suggested either assessing property owner's on Pine and Chestnut that are not included in the safe routes to school or it being a City expense. Resident Kevin Brent said that the neighbors don't have any issues with snow removal, and that he takes his blower down the block. Councilman Prestholdt asked Kuhn to come up with numbers for the sidewalks. Kuhn said that the Council can take another look at the safe routes to school, have another Public Hearing if the City plans to assess property owners or include in City cost. Kurt Collins suggested widening the road, having parking on one side of the road and having a bike lane on the other side. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Petersen to bring to a Road and Bridge committee meeting. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

The Park committee meeting minutes were included in the packet. Councilman Prestholdt gave an overview of the meeting, mentioning that the Fire Department would like to put a shelter between the two softball fields. The Fire Department is working on getting quotes for the project. Hailey Gritmaker would like some updates done to the sand volleyball court. Councilman Prestholdt said Hailey was fine with waiting on this project and would look into getting some grant money.

The Water/Wastewater committee meeting minutes were included in the packet. Kuhn gave a brief update of the meeting with LPRW who would like the City to go in on a new Water treatment facility with them, and the City to purchase water through them. Larry with Widseth is putting together numbers for the Council to discuss further action.

The Road & Bridge committee meeting minutes were included in the packet. Kemen said that North 1<sup>st</sup> Street and North Park was discussed about upgrading the streets for truck traffic. On motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second by Councilman Olson to approve the change order for the two Streets. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed. A

Teams meeting was held to discuss the railroad crossings on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. BNSF has agreed to complete maintenance on the track this year and offer an estimate for revamping.

The Police Commission meeting minutes were included in the packet. Councilman Fish stated that Chief Stock would like to hire another part-time police officer. Stock said the contract with the City of Boyd will be raised from \$16,310 to \$16,500 in 2022. Through grants, Stock has saved the City a lot of money over the years so he would like to have \$10,000 budgeted the next three years to build a garage off the current City building for squad cars, and the ability to do search warrants. On motion by Councilman Fish with a second by Councilman Petersen to add \$10,000 into the Police budget for the next three years. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

The Planning and Zoning committee meeting minutes were included in the packet. Kemen stated that this was a meeting called by John Nevins about Scott and Mary Quick's garage. No actions were taken at the meeting.

The Finance committee meeting minutes were included in the packet. Kemen shared that this meeting was held before the Public Hearing for street improvements Phase 2 to present the numbers to the committee. An increase in the capital improvement storm sewer will be \$22.20. A brief discussion was had about how to utilize the money from the American Rescue Funds the City received. A later meeting will be conducted to provide recommendation to the full council.

A letter from the MDH was in the packet stating that Dawson has been approved for PFA funding for water and sewer improvements, Phase 2.

A certificate to the City of Dawson was included in the packet recognizing Dawson's public water systems that have consistently adjusted the fluoride concentration in drinking water for the past 50 years.

A letter from the LacquiParle fair board was included in the packet thanking the City of Dawson for the donation of \$2,000 for the 2021 Fair in September.

#### Old Business

The estimate from Bothun Insulation and Larson Brothers was presented again for the tennis court improvement. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Fish to award the bid to Larson Brother's to replace with concrete. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

The football field road was on the agenda but no update given.

Trees were also listed, but was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Kurt Collins, Maintenance Superintendent will be attending a meeting in Madison to discuss the drought monitor. He said that Madison is currently asking residents to water every other day. The pool umbrella is out of service indefinitely. The heater at the pool has quit working and a new one has been ordered. Council agreed to wait to install the new heater until next year. The railings on the slide will have to be replaced by next year. It is rusty and will not pass inspection.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kemen gave a quick housing update. Kemen is communicating with Bobbie Bohlen with HME and Rebecca Kurtz with Ehlers about financing and TIF options. The City prefers to put in the infrastructure, and assess the property owner. The pool will be closing for the season on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The City received \$74,000 in ARPA funds. Kemen had a pamphlet from the RDC that has a list of projects and businesses they have supported in the last year. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

Hearing nothing else, on motion by Councilman Petersen with a second by Councilman Prestholdt to adjourn. Voting in favor Councilman Petersen, Councilman Fish, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Tufto. Against: None. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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Utility Billing/Office Clerk

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Mayor