

Dawson City Council Minutes
February 16, 2016
5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Councilpersons present: Becky Bothun, Jeff Olson, Dave Lien, and J.T. Schacherer.

Councilpersons absent: Heather Myers.

Others present: Mayor Merlin Ellefson, City Manager Crystal Hansonl, City Clerk Treasurer Tami Schuelke-Sampson, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, Fire Chief Brian Hersom, Maintenance Worker Duane Kruger, Jack Fay from Ehlers Investment Partners LLC and Jim Prestholdt.

Declaring a quorum present Mayor Ellefson called the meeting to order and the group repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Ellefson asked for approval of the agenda with the addition of 8A which is the Dawson Bowl 3.2 and set-up license. On motion by Councilman Schacherer seconded by Councilman Lien to approve the agenda with the addition. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilman Schacherer to approve the January 5th Council minutes. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

Mayor Ellefson opened the 10 minute public forum. Fire Chief Brian Hersom invited Council to the February 29th Firemen's Township Supper. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. with the meal and meeting at 6:30 p.m. Assessments will be the same until the pumper truck is paid off. A new tanker was purchased and arrived in Dawson last week. The Fire Department hopes that this new tanker with repairs will cost them \$65,000 or less. Hearing no further comments Mayor Ellefson closed the public forum.

Mayor Ellefson explained that the Council will need to accept the resignation of Councilman Harker. On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilman Schacherer to accept Councilman Harker's resignation. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries. Crystal asked how the Council would like to proceed and JT said to advertise the opening for two weeks and appoint a person as soon as

possible. Jeff hopes that there will be more interest by citizens to be a Councilmember. On motion by Councilman Schacherer seconded by Councilman Olson to approve the resolution declaring a vacancy – City Council to appoint for the remainder of this year and a special election for two years. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

Mayor Ellefson welcomed Jack Fay from Ehlers Investment Partners, LLC. Jack introduced himself and handed out a simplified portfolio. Jack explained that the City has a conservative portfolio with the average maturity of 9 months and recommends that Dawson continue to invest in two years or shorter CD's due to the increase in interest rates for these. Revenue for 2015 is approximately \$10,000 with the fees being just over \$2,000. Merlin asked if there was any chance of increases in the rates, and Jack stated the short term rates are higher but the long term rates are the same as what they have been two years ago. Jack stated that safety, security and yield is what they practice and to invest in a conservative fashion. Merlin thanked Jack for his report and stated the income was around \$7,000 for 2015.

Mayor Ellefson opened discussion about the parking lot east of Sixth Street behind the downtown stores. The City has been plowing around items in the lot that are owned by business owners. Merlin stated The Rusty Duck has discussed expanding and to sell off the lots at a minimal cost. Jim Prestholdt stated he has two trailers parked behind his business that take up a 15 foot by 15 foot area. He stores them there because he has no room at his residence. His 15 employees park there also. Jeff stated that if the City sold the lots there would be no liability and maintenance. Crystal explained that we would still have to allow people to park there to shop the businesses on Main Street. Jeff asked if Jim would be willing to pay \$50 per lot and Jim said he would be foolish not to do that. Crystal explained that this opportunity would be open to all businesses and there would be a contractual agreement/purchase agreement written with public easement. Rick stated the lots are established so they would be sold by lot.

On motion by Councilman Schacherer seconded by Councilwoman Bothun to approve The Rusty Duck's liquor license renewal. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Schacherer seconded by Councilwoman Bothun to approve Dawson Bowl 3.2 license and set-up renewal. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

Police Chief Andy Stock was out on a call so Crystal suggested advancing to item 11.

On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilman Lien to grant an unpaid four month leave of absence for Police Officer Sabrina Skold to train for a position with the Minnesota State Highway Patrol. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Schacherer seconded by Councilman Lien to approve the resolution to support LGA increase. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

Crystal explained that the first reading of this ordinance is to include the rate for the out of city limits people that are graced in for water and wastewater services. On motion by Councilman Lien seconded by Councilman Schacherer to approve the first reading for water/sewer rate increase and base fee increase. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

JT started a discussion about residents that have the meter pulled still pay capital improvement fees. There was more discussion on different examples of this including resident that have combined parcels but have two hookups and only pay one set of capital improvement fees. Crystal explained that she had discussions with Rebecca via conference call and will bring the findings to a Water/Wastewater Committee meeting and then present it to Council.

Crystal explained the reason behind the special Fire Relief audit GASB 67/68. The fee for this has been put in this year's budget but not sure if it is needed. Surrounding communities are not having this audit completed and it may be safer to do it in 2017 for the bond in 2018 for the upcoming street project. JT stated he is OK with doing it because it maybe easier to start right away instead of playing catch up. There was more discussion about this and it was decided to put this on hold until a better understanding of what the audit is. On motion by Councilman

Lien seconded by Councilman Olson to table this until the June meeting. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

Police Chief Andy Stock and Police Office Joe Unzen joined the Council Meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Police Chief Andy explained that there was a grant for portable breath testers and Dawson was awarded three portable breath testers with a calibration kit. The total amount awarded was \$1,800 and was no cost to the City.

Crystal explained the siren and squad car camera grant that is available thru the USDA. At this time Crystal is asking for the go ahead to complete a preliminary application. There was discussion about the siren system and if a new one is needed or just to update the current siren. The grant can cover up to 55% of the cost. This is also for squad car cameras. The police do have one squad car camera but it does not work at all times. Crystal stated this is needed for their protection and Andy stated it simplifies court cases. Merlin stated he can see how it is a big benefit. On motion by Councilman Lien seconded by Councilman Schacherer to go forward with the preliminary application. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

Police Chief Andy stated he and Joe had to leave for a call and asked if they could skip to item 20E. Police Officer Joe Unzen introduced himself and the Council welcomed him. On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilman Schacherer for final approval of the 2016 budget. Voting in favor: Harker, Bothun, Olson, Lien, Myers and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: none. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilman Schacherer to approve the resolution to support a broadband vision for Minnesota. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

Mayor Ellefson explained there was a Park Board Committee meeting and they recommend moving forward with five campsites at Veterans Park. These campsites will be north of the BMX bike track and have water and sewer hookups. Crystal has put \$16,000 in the budget for these sites. There was then discussion about putting a dual purpose warming house, shelter house and restrooms in Veterans Park along with a dump site for people that are only going to

be staying a short time. In this discussion the condition of all the other restrooms, concession stands and shelter houses were also included. On motion by Councilman Schacherer seconded by Councilman Olson to approve the go ahead with the five campsites in Veterans Park. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

With the resignation of Councilman Harker there are vacancies on different committees he was assigned to and the City of Dawson Pioneerland Board representative. It was decided to fill the vacancies after someone is appointed. On motion by Councilman Lien seconded by Councilman Schacherer to appoint Councilman Olson as the Pioneerland Board Representative. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

On motion by Councilman Schacherer seconded by Councilman Lien to approve cancelling the first meeting in March due to Caucus. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

City Mtn Supt. Brent Powers' report.

1. Brent explained that everyone is staying busy repairing equipment.
2. The street crew has been doing great with snow removal in Brent's absence since he was on vacation the last couple snow falls.

Merlin asked Duane if he had anything to add and Duane did not. Merlin thanked him for his work for the City.

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City Manager Crystal's report.

1. Crystal informed Council that PJ accepted the Director of EDA position.
2. Crystal explained what is currently happening with Ditch #4 and an update on the public meeting. There was discussion about the County and the Ditch Authority and concern about who will end up paying for the updates to the Ditch.
3. Thank you notes from the Lac qui Parle EDA and Mary Quick were passed around to the Council. They are grateful that the City is supporting the Computer Commuter for the remainder of 2016.

4. Crystal has received a report from DSI that the Small Cities Grant is going very well for the residential properties but needs one more commercial property to apply.

On motion by Councilman Olson seconded by Councilwoman Bothun to approve the January bills paid and the fourth quarter financials. Voting in favor: Bothun, Olson, Lien, and Schacherer; voting against: none; absent: Myers. Motion carries.

Mayor Ellefson informed Council that the home at 1135 Pine Street will be burned down by the Fire Department. Fire Chief Brian Hersom explained the burn will be March 3rd. The hole will then be cleaned and a fence will be put around the hole for approximately a year until a new home will be built.

On motion by Councilman Lien seconded by Councilman Schacherer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

City Clerk Treasurer Tami Schuelke-Sampson

Mayor Merlin Ellefson