

Dawson City Council Minutes
December 2nd, 2025
6:00 pm
Truth & Taxation

Councilpersons present: Jeff Olson, Vince Adelman, Jake Bothun, David Hansen, Randy Stafford and Dean Petersen. Others present: Mayor JT Schacherer, City Manager Jill Kemen, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins, City Clerk Kristin Daline, Deputy City Clerk/EDA Director Tyler Franzky, John Roiger, Duane Hastad, Chelsie Pehrson, Colin Lee, Nathan Grengs, Mark & Lindy Saboe, Betty Adelman, Pat Lindblad, Diane Bergeson, Jim Michels, Deb Farmen, James Werner City Attorney Rick Stulz and Dave Hickey.

Mayor Schacherer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and everyone repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Stafford motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Olson, Adelman, Bothun, Petersen, Hansen and Stafford. Motion passed.

Councilman Petersen motioned to approve consent agenda item 4, November 18th, 2025 council minutes with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Olson, Adelman, Bothun, Petersen, Hansen and Stafford. Motion passed.

10 Minute Public Forum

Mayor Schacherer opened the 10-minute public forum at 6:01 pm public forum, hearing nothing, the 10-minute public forum was closed.

Ag zoning discussion

Neighbors on West Ash Street were in attendance seeking answers from the council about the fence that was installed on ag land behind their homes within the city limits. The group provided before and after pictures. After much discussion which included comments from City Attorney Rick Stulz, Tyler and Jill, it was determined that the zoning process was done correctly. Stulz mentioned to the group, and the council that if they would like the zoning permit change. This cannot be retroactive and would only change the process going forward.

Reports of officers, boards and committees

The minutes from the employee volunteer committee meeting were included in the packet. No discussion on the meeting.

Public Works Superintended Kurt Collins' report

The water plant renovation is complete and both filters are up and running. Snow removal has been going well. The city crew is very satisfied with the new snow plow.

City Manager Jill Kemen & Tyler Franzky's report

The down payment for True North for the solar project will be paid within the next week or two.

New Business

The 2026 budget was hand delivered to council and made accessible to the public at the meeting. The levy increase was proposed at 3.5%, down from 12% from the preliminary. Councilman Olson motioned to approve the 2026 budget with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Olson, Bothun, Petersen, Hansen and Stafford. Against: Adelman. Motion passed.

The True North Solar invoice was included for information only. 70% paid by the state and the remaining 30% will need to be applied for reimbursement through federal tax credits. If not granted, the city will work with Otter Tail for a rebate.

Ordinances & Resolutions

The 1st reading of Ordinance No. 329 for the water/sewer ordinance was presented. No discussion.

The Summary for ordinance No. 329 was presented.

A resolution designating the city of Dawson as the authorized signer and authorizing execution of the grant contract agreement for the Greater MN Small Cities housing aid grant program was presented. Councilman Stafford motioned to approve the resolution with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Olson, Adelman, Bothun, Petersen, Hansen and Stafford. Motion passed.

A resolution amending the previously approved preliminary 2026 levy which had an incorrect time printed was presented. Councilman Stafford motioned to approved the resolution amending the previously approved preliminary 2026 levy with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Olson, Adelman, Bothun, Petersen, Hansen and Stafford. Motion passed.

A resolution approving the 2026 tax levy was presented. Councilman Stafford motioned to approve the resolution for the 2026 tax levy with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Olson, Adelman, Bothun, Petersen, Hansen and Stafford. Motion passed.

Presentation of Claims


The November 2025 financials were presented. Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the financials with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Olson, Adelman, Bothun, Petersen, Hansen and Stafford. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous announcements

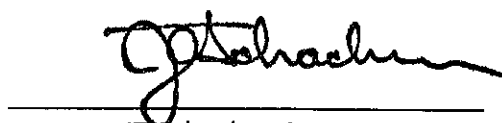
The next city council meeting is Tuesday, December 16th at 5:30 pm. Tyler thanked Jill for all her help with the budget as this Jill's last city council meeting as City Manager. David Hansen commended the city crew for their efforts.

Hearing nothing else, Mayor Schacherer adjourned the meeting at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Daline, City Clerk



JT Schacher, Mayor