

Dawson City Council
September 19th, 2023
5:30 pm

Councilpersons present: JT Schacherer, Vince Adelman, Jeff Olson, David Hansen, Jake Bothun and Charlie Prestholdt. Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Jill Kemen, City Clerk Kristin Daline, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins, Public Works Supervisor Colin Lee, Emily Polzine, Tony Aafedt, Duane Hastad, David Peterson and Burt Faehn.

Mayor Tensen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and everyone repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Olson motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Councilman Adelman. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Bothun and Councilman Schacherer. Absent: none. Against: None. Motion passed.

Councilman Olson motioned to approve September 5th Council Minutes with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Bothun and Councilman Schacherer. Absent: none. Against: None. Motion passed.

10 Minute Public Forum

Duane Hastad inquired about what the City tree policy is. Jill stated that homeowners may plant trees in their property 10' off the street and 6' off the sidewalk. The phase 1 tree grant still has money available for all homeowners in phase 1 on a first come first serve basis.

Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collin's Report

The water tower was inspected and went well. Dillion's Lawn Care is back in town. They will finish the North side of town this week and move on to South of the river. The electrical has started on main street. Councilman Hansen spoke up about the lack of work that is being done with the project. Driveways and manholes need to be attended to. Frontier has poles on Chestnut that need to be removed. The line for Frontier was bored under main street a month ago. Jill had sent Jeff an email this morning asking for an update on pavement, concrete, plumbing for main street businesses, driveways needing pavement and reseeding. Jeff is planning to come to the next Council meeting and will try and get Mike with Ryan Contracting here as well. Jeff said that the State has not approved the plumbing for main street yet. AGP finished their lines on Thursday last week. BNSF is in town now working on the 5th Street crossing and should be finished tomorrow. The DNR and BNSF were also contacted about the buildup of logs in the river. A crane is in town to remove them, and the city crew will haul them away. Barga was in town last week crack sealing on Hackberry and streets part of the 2012 project. Barga will return next year for seal coating. Kurt was happy with the job they did.

Old Business

Realtor, Ben Bothun has gotten inquiries on the liquor store. The question of how many off-sale liquor license applications would be approved at the time of sale is one Bothun keeps getting asked. Bothun is looking for some guidance from the Council to tell a potential buyer. The funding committee discussed offering one liquor license to a new business for two years, and then reassessing after that time. The committee felt this would be a good way to help get the new owners established. After discussion, Council agreed with the committee.

There is still money available to homeowners in phase 1 that would like to plant trees. The grant program has been advertised in the paper, on the electric sign and on our website. Jill has

called homeowners who had reserved trees at the start of the program, but are now no longer interested. The program reimburses the homeowner \$140 a tree, with a max of two trees. If the city can't find anyone who wants to replace trees, the remaining money will go towards replacing trees in city parks.

Continued discussion from last meeting on the increase in demo costs. The County would be willing to increase reimbursement for demo if the city is willing to pay more. The city budgets for two demos a year. Councilman Hanson motioned to increase the budget for demo costs from \$3,500 to \$4,500 for 2024 with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Bothun and Councilman Schacherer. Abstain: Councilman Olson. Absent: none. Against: None. Motion passed.

New Business

Pay estimate #13 from Ryan Contracting was tabled from last meeting for clarification of the original versus revised number on the estimate. Jill explained that the revised number includes all of the change orders that have occurred since the start of the project. By not agreeing to approve the pay estimate, it puts the city in a bind to get money from PFA to make payments which needs to be submitted before the 15th of the month. Councilman Bothun asked if the city has any leverage on payment since contractually, the project is on time. The water and sewer portion on this pay estimate will get rolled into next months payment with funds from PFA. On motion from Councilman Schacherer with a second from Councilman Olson to pay the pay estimate to Ryan Contracting. Voting in favor, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Olson, Councilman Bothun and Councilman Schacherer. Absent: none. Against: Councilman Adelman. Motion passed.

An invoice was included in the packet from BNSF which was tabled from last meeting. The invoice includes more material for the railroad track renovations. Voting in favor, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Olson, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Bothun and Councilman Adelman. Absent: none. Against: Councilman Schacherer. Motion passed.

Plans for the softball irrigation project was included in the packet. Councilman Bothun has been in contact with JJ Schuelke and the city crew about the project. Plans show new irrigation on the West field. The Varsity plays on the East field, and the field would not be ready by Spring. The West field will be sprayed dead, and tilled. Larson Brothers will come and level the field, donating their time and equipment. The school is aware that they may not be able to have a JV and Varsity game on the same day. Funds will be coming from donations; no city funds will go in to the project. On going discussion on who will pay the water for the fields. On motion from Councilman Prestholdt with a second from Councilman Schacherer to move forward with the sprinkler system project. Voting in favor, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Olson, Councilman Bothun and Councilman Schacherer. Absent: none. Against: none. Motion passed.

The 2024 preliminary levy was discussed. The funding committee proposed an increase in the levy of 9%, \$118,000 more than 2023. The levy can only go down from the proposed, and will be voting on again at the first meeting in December at 6:00 pm. Some key items for 2024 will be the Earned Sick and Safe Time which will apply to all part-time seasonal and temporary employees who have worked over 80 hours. The police department has hired Nick Vorvick, increasing the Police Department budget. Wages across the board will need to be addressed, as Dawson has the lowest wages in the area. Bond payments will be

increasing, pool repairs and trading mowers. An employee is nearing retirement. Jill would like to see someone hired to job shadow. Jill will have better numbers after health insurance rates come in, wages are looked at and getting a cost to trade mowers.

Dawson-Boyd Trap has applied for a raffle permit. On motion from Councilman Bothun to approve the permit with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Olson, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman and Councilman Schacherer. Absent: none. Against: None. Motion passed.

Ordinances and Resolutions

The first reading of the Cannabis ordinance was read. The second reading will be at the first meeting in October.

The first reading of the Cannabis summary was read. The second reading will be at the first meeting in October.

A Resolution to adopt the 2024 Preliminary Levy was included in the packet. On motion from Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Hansen to approve the preliminary 2024 levy. Voting in favor, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Olson, Councilman Bothun and Councilman Schacherer. Absent: none. Against: none. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous Announcements

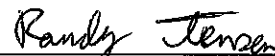
The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, October 3rd at 5:30 pm. City engineer, Jeff Kuhn will be present.

With nothing more to discuss, Councilman Olson moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Schacherer, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Bothun. Absent: None. Against: None. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.



Kristin Daline, City Clerk



Randy Tensen, Mayor