

Dawson City Council Minutes

August 6th, 2024

5:30 pm

Councilpersons present: Jake Bothun, David Hansen, Jeff Olson, Vince Adelman, JT Schacherer and Charlie Prestholdt. Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Jill Kemen, City Clerk Kristin Daline, City Engineer Jeff Kuhn, Liz Auch with Countryside Public Health, Melissa Streich with Western Minnesota Prairie Waters, Daryl Kanthak with Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co., city auditor, Colin Lee, Gloria Kassel, Duane Hastad, Dave Falness, David Pederson, Dave Hickey, Jim Michels and Emily Polzine.

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

Councilman Schacherer motioned to approve the agenda with changes of item 9 being moved before the 10-minute public forum and item 12-2 being moved to 11b with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Schacherer, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Bothun. Absent: none. Against: none. Motion passed.

Councilman Olson motioned to approve the consent agenda items 4, July 2nd Council Minutes and item 15, July financials and quarterly reports with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Schacherer, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Bothun. Absent: none. Against: none. Motion passed.

Countryside Public Health – Opioid Litigation

Liz Auch presented on the history of the opioid settlement funds, what the funds can be used for and the role of municipalities. There have been 3,000 lawsuits brought against opioid manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies that led to a multidistrict litigation. \$568 million has been directed to Minnesota with \$2,756,352 set aside for Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Chippewa, Swift and Yellow Medicine. Funds can be used for treatment and prevention. Curriculum for local public health in school districts have been designated and will be presented by Countryside Public Health. Municipalities will be meeting annually and provided with an update on the opioid settlement fund and seek guidance and feedback.

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters - Melissa Streich

Melissa Streich was present to talk about what Western Minnesota Prairie Waters has to offer. They have been focusing on the recruitment program to get people out to our rural area driven by local employers. There are 50 different online job boards which can be searched by city or key words. Prairie Waters receives a grant every year from Explore MN to advertise. Other information on the website includes a housing toolkit for new builds and empty buildings advertised for sale. Councilman Prestholdt motioned to renew the membership for 2025 for the city of Dawson with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Schacherer, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Bothun. Absent: none. Against: none. Motion passed.

started trimming on Pine Street working their way west. Park staff have been busy trying to keep up with mowing. Three new high service pumps have been installed at the water tower and are working very well. The water tower is now full. Weeds in seams of sidewalks and gutters will be addressed.

City Engineer, Jeff Kuhn gave an update on the phase 2 street project. The reclaimer will be here the week of the 19th to work on 14th street, Lincoln in front of AGP (will need to be milled) and 6th street from the tracks to HWY 212. There is also an area on Chestnut to finish and the new development. Ryan Contracting plans to stay in town until work is completed. Warranty work from last years' paving and concrete will be done this fall. There is a one-year warranty on work that has and will be completed in 2024. Asphalt between the railroad tracks will be built up. Olsen Plumbing has two more properties to complete and the state inspector will come in, followed by sealing up basements. The sewer at Hansen Dental needs to be done. Lining in the alley on the West side of main will also be done. Councilman Olson asked that the new development be leveled and brought back to black dirt so the city can seed. Seeding the boulevards will be done in September. Traffic signs need to be repositioned as some are leaning. The plan for 11th and Elm is to remove 10' of asphalt of the north portion, reshape and repave. Curb will also be replaced where settling happened. 11th curb will be replaced. A valley gutter on Chestnut will be installed. The dip on 14th and Walnut will also be addressed. Widseth will be sending someone here to knock on doors of 32 residences in Dawson with information about lead service lines. Widseth was able to gather a lot of information from the city with the meter project last year. This test is mandatory from the state, paid with grant money. Testing and possibly replaced, will be paid by the Department of Health. The football field/ball field road was discussed briefly. Currently it is not in the plan to repair. Kuhn gave two options, reclaim and pave a portion on the north side or bring back to gravel grade with a seal coat. Councilman Bothun would like to wait to make any decisions on the road until after the 2024 audit is presented.

City Manager Jill Kemen's Report

EDA has given out another deferred loan to help with blight. New London Striping will be quoting the striping and painting at the tennis and basketball courts.

There are open Council & Mayor seats for 2025. Filing ends August 13th @ 5:00 pm.

The primary election is August 13th here at city hall from 7am-8pm.

Kemen will start to work on the 2025 budget. This will be brought to the 2nd meeting in September. The city will be doing a water rate study. Jill and Kristin will meet with Ehlers towards the end of August.

This is the final rate study for the enterprise funds.

There is a box in the entryway for plastic bag recycling. Paige Bergeland is spearheading the project. If Bergeland gets a 1,000 pounds a park bench will be purchased.

A flyer was at council seats for 20% all Christmas lights to prepare for Light Your Way Gnome event in December.

There will be two meetings a month again starting in September on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

The city will be switching insurance agents from Minnwest Bank to FM Bank for property liability insurance. Ben Bothun will be the agent from FM Bank and the city will continue to do the paperwork for work comp.

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Miscellaneous Announcements

The next city council meeting will be Tuesday, September 3rd at 5:30 pm.

Chamber is having a block party on Wednesday, August 14th from 5-8 pm. Mainstreet will be blocked off from Chestnut to Pine and 6th to 5th streets on Chestnut. There will be food, vendors, music and activities for kids.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.



Kristin Daline, City Clerk



Randy Tensen, Mayor