**Dawson City Council**

**February 4th, 2025**

**5:30 p.m.**

Councilpersons present: David Hansen, Jake Bothun, Vince Adelman, Dean Petersen and Jeff Olson. Others present: Mayor JT Schacherer, City Manager Jill Kemen, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins, City Clerk Kristin Daline, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Dave Hickey, Ben Bothun, Lowell Tyler, Randy Stafford and Dave Pederson.

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

Councilman Petersen motioned to approve the agenda with addition of 13A, Peddler Permit request for Bright Haven Farms with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Petersen and Councilman Bothun. Motion passed.

Councilman Bothun motioned to approve consent agenda items 4, January 21st Council Minutes, 5, Dawson Bowl Liquor Renewal, 6, JMHS Raffle Permit request, 7, Hilltop Bar & Grill Liquor Renewal and 12, January 2025 financials with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Petersen and Councilman Bothun. Motion passed.

Rebecca Kurtz, with Ehlers introduced herself and discussed the memorandum that was provided in the council packet on the Dawson Duplex Development Bond process. City staff & SWMNHP goal is to complete the project without impacting the cities tax levy. With the preliminary numbers used, Rebecca is anticipating an annual gap of $10,000 that would hit the city’s tax levy. There may be some wiggle room to slightly increase rent on some of the units, this will be reevaluated after the bids come in. Other factors include, proforma and cash flow to debt, payment in lieu of taxes. The units will be owned by the EDA. The bond council and Ehlers do believe the project should be tax exempt and are working with the county and state to finalize determining the exemption. Next steps is the bond process. The city needs to have an authority to legally issue debt for project. Tax abatement is a way to issue a GO bond with lower a interest rate and then examine what the potential impact would be to the city with the bids. The bonds would sold the end of March, early April. Rebecca will then present back to council an updated impact to the city. If everything goes as intended, money will be given to the city to move forward in mid-April. If bids don’t come in as expected the project would readdressed. Rebecca doesn’t believe any final commitment towards the project should happen until the tax situation is confirmed.

10 Minute Public Forum

Mayor Schacherer opened the 10-minute public forum at 5:55 pm, hearing nothing it was closed.

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Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collin’s Report

The city crew has been working on little projects. Widseth is working on the manhole rehab project, located off of Chestnut and 7th and one behind the post office. With the cost of mobilization, Jeff and Kurt are also looking at a couple more man holes that need attention. Jeff is working to see if the city will qualify for PFA funding for the project. It is unknown at this point if the manhole project will get done without the assistance from PFA. The above ground committee will meet tomorrow to talk about equipment. There are trees by the river that need to be taken down as the ice stays fit to do so. There are also trees in the campground by the pool that need to come down as well.

City Manager Jill Kemen’s Report

Jill was asked by the County Commissioners to give an EDA update. The duplex project was presented, Tyler Franzky starting in March and his responsibilities to EDA. Cities obligated to help anyone in the county that is looking for money starting or expanding businesses or new housing.

Old Business

Engineer discussion. Widseth will be the engineer for the Duplex project, which was part of Phase 2. Jeff will not be billing for the duplex project. Kurt said there are a lot of things coming down the pipe with effluent limits and various other things in the water/wastewater departments that the he will need assistance on. Councilman Bothun would like Kurt and Nathan to make the decision on what engineer they want to work with. Kurt has been in contact with Ryan, from Moore Engineering. Kurt has not heard anything from Bolton & Menk. Councilman Bothun motioned to move forward with Moore as the city engineer for upcoming water/wastewater projects with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Hansen and Councilman Bothun. Against: Councilman Adelman and Councilman Olson. Motioned carried.

The council interviewed Lowell Tyler and Randy Stafford; candidates interested in the vacant council seat with questions individually. After the interviews, council voted and Randy Stafford was chosen. Councilman Petersen motioned to approve Randy Stafford to fill the vacant council seat with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Petersen and Councilman Bothun. Motion passed.

Randy will be sworn in at the next council meeting.

New Business

A peddler’s permit request from Bright Haven Farms was presented. After discussing the intent of the permit, and issues with the owner in the past Councilman Hansen motioned to decline the permit request and suggested they contact someone in the area that is in charge of farmer’s

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markets or vendor shows with a second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Petersen and Councilman Bothun. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous Announcements

The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. There will be an Above Ground Committee Meeting, Wednesday, February 5th at 9am. A Funding Committee meeting will be set up to talk about gravel streets. The Dawson Fire annual township supper will be February 10th at 5:30 pm.

With nothing more to discuss, Mayor Schacherer adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm.

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 Kristin Daline, City Clerk JT Schacherer, Mayor