

Dawson City Council Minutes
April 16th, 2024
5:30 pm

Councilpersons present: Charlie Prestholdt, JT Schacherer, Vince Adelman, Jeff Olson, David Hansen and Jake Bothun. Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Jill Kemen, City Clerk Kristin Daline, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Jim Michels.

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 a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Councilman Prestholdt motioned to approve the April 2nd, 2024 Council Minutes with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor Councilman Bothun, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

10 Minute Public Forum

Mayor Tensen opened the 10-minute public forum at 5:31pm. Jim Michels would like more information on why the sidewalks are placed where they are. Kemen explained that the sidewalks were put in according to the safe routes to school map that was approved back in 2013. The city couldn't afford to put sidewalks everywhere. Additional sidewalks on the south side of Pine were put in because of a petition that went around. Sidewalks will be on the agenda for the May 7th, 2024 council meeting. Hearing nothing else, Mayor Tensen closed the 10-minute public forum at 5:37 pm.

Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collin's Report

Meter installation at water treatment plant is complete. During installation, a bad check valve was discovered. This will need to be fixed.

City Manager Jill Kemen's Report

The Dawson duplex grant application will be submitted by April 26th, with an April 30th deadline. The County board approved \$83,765 in kind money from the county, and tax abatement for 20 years, at 100% which covers the length of the bond taken out. New valuations for duplex land supplied to Rebecca with Ehlers from Lisa Strand at the County. Still hoping to receive more funds, but not expecting to receive more.

Kemen gave an update on the City Manager search. Employment Plus received 6 applications and have narrowed it down to two. Council will be interviewing the candidates at a special council meeting next Wednesday if the candidates are available.

Keith Knutson is running the concession stands this year. There have been issues with bathrooms out in the park. If this continues to be a problem, the city will ask the school to take responsibility for how it is left after games and provide janitorial service there.

The city would like to thank the group of people or individual who picked up the sticks in Veterans Park over the weekend.

Kemen would like to thank Ben Bothun, County Commissioner and Jake Sieg from the County for the work put in for the Dawson Duplex Grant.

New Business

Council minutes from July of 2023 were provided about the Spring Clean-up. The city voted to no longer have city wide clean-up for 2024, and the charge was taken off the bill in January. The council discussed options on how the service can still be available to residents. Councilman Olson said that anyone can drop off items Monday through Friday during working hours. Madison currently has a one day drop off which is run by the city. Olsons provide the roll offs. Councilman Schacherer suggests Olson Sanitation taking it over instead of paying overtime to the city crew. Olson Sanitation is looking at a date the end of August, drop off being at Olson Sanitation. On motion by Councilman Schacherer with a second from Councilman Prestholdt to move forward with having Olson Sanitation provide a day for residents in August. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Ordinances and Resolutions

A resolution authorizing application for Grant Navigation support for the city was presented. The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) provides the program to apply for up to \$5,000. The last time the city requested \$1,000 from the LMC was awarded the grant. The city and EDA is asking for permission to apply for the remaining \$4,000. This money will be used to pay for the grant writing and Ehlers for work on the tax abatement. On motion from Councilman Schacherer with a second from Councilman Hansen to apply for the remaining grant funds. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

An updated resolution showing support for the Dawson Duplex project was presented with a dollar amount change. The original resolution was presented at the April 2nd meeting asking for \$1.2 million. The change is to ask for up to \$1.5 million with new verbiage going into the grant to change from the EDA to City of Dawson. The city will find out in August if they have been awarded the grant. On motion from Councilman Prestholdt with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

A resolution authorizing tax abatement for the Dawson Duplex project was presented. The City has submitted an application with Minnesota Housing. The city supports the tax abatement for the project if awarded at 100%. The city will retain the taxes for the property value and the difference would be deferred for 20 years. On motion from Councilman Schacherer with a second from Councilman Adelman to move forward with the tax abatement if the grant is awarded. Voting in favor, Councilman Olson, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against: None. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous Announcements

The next city council meeting will be Tuesday, May 7th at 5:30 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Kristin Daline, City Clerk

Randy Tensen, Mayor