

Dawson City Council Minutes  
May 5, 2020  
5:30 PM

Councilpersons present: Councilman Jeff Olson, Councilman Jeff Fish

Councilpersons present via teleconference: Councilman Charlie Prestholdt, Councilman Al Tufto, Councilman Steve Tufto, Councilwoman Chessa Frahm

Others present: Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers

Others present via teleconference: City Attorney Rick Stulz, City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen

Mayor Tensen called the meeting to order and everyone repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion by Councilman Prestholdt with a second from Councilman A. Tufto to approve the agenda with the addition of 7a. Resolution to Vacate as part of the 2020 Dawson-Boyd Public School Project. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Councilman Fish motioned to approve consent agenda items number 4 and 14. Approval of April 7, 2020 council meeting minutes and financial information April bills paid and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financials for 2020. Councilman A. Tufto seconded the motion. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen opened the 10-minute public forum. Hearing nothing, Mayor Tensen closed the public forum.

City Manager Schuelke-Sampson discussed the conversations she had with surrounding cities regarding opening the city pool, park, campground and restrooms. The concession stand will not open this year due to no one submitting a bid. According to the recommendations, an open public restroom would need to be thoroughly cleaned every hour. Schuelke-Sampson stated the City received 7 lifeguard applications with 5 of these applications also applying for water safety instructor positions. The City also received one manager only application. Some cities are preparing their pools with the hope of opening. Changes to opening could include no concessions, no locker rooms and possibly using outdoor entrances only to avoid shared spaces. Schuelke-Sampson is also waiting on guidance and updates from Countryside Public Health. The pool revenue last year was \$22,500 with expenses costing \$55,024. Pool chemicals purchased in May and June were \$3,725. Councilman Prestholdt suggested to wait and see until after Governor Walz announces more guidance on May 18th once the stay at home order has expired. Councilman A. Tufto agreed with Councilman Prestholdt. Mayor Tensen said the mayoral website he visits suggests most cities are waiting to see what happens. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Fish to table the amenities opening until next meeting once the governor provides more direction. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Council Minutes

May 5, 2020

Page 2

On motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman S. Tufto to approve the addition to the union contract to include SWAT training. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

A resolution was presented by Dawson-Boyd Schools to vacate all part of 8<sup>th</sup> Street located south of Locust Street and north of Walnut Street, all of Walnut Street located between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets and part of the improved alleyway between Locust Street and north of Walnut Street for the 2020 Dawson-Boyd School project. Maintenance Superintendent Powers stated that the City is looking at abandoning the water and sewer lines under these streets. Motion by Councilman Olson to approve the resolution brought by Dawson-Boyd Schools with a second by Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Councilman Prestholdt reached out to Sam Muntean, County Engineer, regarding the sidewalk project under the driving bridge connecting the two parks that Farmers for Dawson wishes to have done. Councilman Prestholdt stated that Muntean said the bridge was constructed with a sidewalk in mind. Farmers for Dawson was given the approval to go ahead with the sidewalk project keeping in mind it needs to be ADA compliant. An approval letter was included in the council packet.

Schuelke-Sampson received a letter from Mitch Enderson, with Lac qui Parle County Watershed, regarding signage to install as part of the Lac qui Parle Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies project. The signage would include a WRAPS overview, history of how the rock rapids came to be, flood elevations etc. Farmers for Dawson will be putting signage up in Veteran's Park containing history of the flood, so a better location for the watershed sign would be by the shelter house next to the rock rapids. Councilwoman Frahm stated this would be rolling signage with information panels on it. There is no cost to the City for this sign and could be a welcomed, informative addition. On motion by Councilman Prestholdt to allow the new sign to be placed by the rock rapids with a second from Councilman A. Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Denise Schilling submitted two quotes for demolition of the house she owns at 321 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This property is next to the home she currently occupies. The quotes were Larson Brothers for \$7,500 and Pehrson Excavating for \$8,045. Schuelke-Sampson stated that Fire Chief, Brian Hersom, would like to look at the house as a possible burn for training. This would depend on how close the other structures are in location to the property. Schuelke-Sampson stated that there is a past due utility bill on this house. She would be ok with paying \$2,475 less the past due bill. On motion by Councilman S. Tufto with a second by Councilman A. Tufto to approve the City's third for reimbursement on the demolition less what is past due. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto,

Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Council Minutes

May 5, 2020

Page 3

The Dawson Public Library has started curbside pick-up. Pick-up happens on the north side of the building only, to help protect the residents that live in the apartments. Dawson is the only city in the area offering curbside pickup. Users stay in their vehicle and the material is brought out to them so the only people entering the building are the librarians. Information about the logistics of this are included in the packet.

#### Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers' Report

- A. Powers reported that Hydro-Klean, the company hired to fix the manhole leaking, came for a fourth time. This leak still did not seal. Powers was told by the company to call someone else to fix it. He was given a name of someone from another city to reach out to in North Mankato. The bill that was received was more than the estimate with the problem still happening. All the chemical that was used to seal the leak ran out and employees had to dig out the chemicals downstream because it was causing problems. Powers did show our engineering, Jeff Kuhn, the bill as well to get his opinion. Councilman S. Tufto said that companies often put change orders down on bills to cover some costs and often remove the charge if not paid. After further discussion, on motion by Councilman Olson with a second by Councilman Fish to not pay the bill until the problem is fixed. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.
- B. The wellhead protection for phase 1 needs to be approved before the phase 2, 2021 Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project Priority List, can be submitted. The report is approximately 50 pages long. Councilwoman Frahm requested a copy of this report. Schuelke-Sampson will email her on Wednesday. Motion made by Councilwoman Frahm to approve the wellhead protection for phase 1 with a second by Councilman Fish. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.
- C. Powers will hold off on ordering porta-potties for the parks until he gets the approval at the next meeting.
- D. Six campers at Veteran's Park Campground have inquired about staying at the campground all winter. Powers feels this could be accomplished to accommodate them; however things would need to be changed to do so. The water lines are deep enough, but the lines coming to the water meters would need to be insulated. There would also be a significant cost in electricity with most campers running electric heaters. Mayor Tensen suggested looking at the electric bill from fall to winter and making the campers pay the difference to make up the costs. Councilman Prestholdt said it would be helpful to have an estimate to look at the costs to help determine if the campground would be financially economical to stay open. This subject was tabled until the next meeting to provide more information for council to make an informed decision.

City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson's Report

- A. The armory building had to rebid their roof project. Only one sub-contractor bid came in during the initial bidding round. After discussion with Collaborative Design and in line with the Minnesota Historical Society, it was decided to break the bidding into sub-contractor work with the City of Dawson being the general contractor. Collaborative Design stated that most of the inquires for the work were done by local contractors. A mandatory walk through to view the project will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Bidding will open May 14<sup>th</sup> and commence on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at which time the bids will be open.

Pioneerland Library Systems gave the go ahead to purchase a security system for the library building. These cameras were installed by Mike Pederson with Blue Sky Security. The system will be paid for out of the endowment funds. Schuelke-Sampson spoke with the library committee members and Mayor Tensen and received the go ahead to use these funds. The police chief will be the only one allowed access to the data.

- B. The 2021 Drinking Water Revolving Fund Priority List Project has been submitted. Some of the project highlights are replace the 1957 well casing that has a hole in it, dehumidifier, backwash airblower, looping the water distribution system, upgrading the media at the water plant, water meters, and a generator if power is lost amongst other improvements.

The city engineers review the comments and addressed them making changes to the water tower information and have resubmitted for review. Minnesota Department of Health has sent us an approval letter on the water main for the improvement project. Money is staying on budget and the city will look for grants and stimulus money now available due to the pandemic to keep the project moving forward. The city's project is shovel ready to go within the next 6 months which could be a benefit when looking for additional funding. The public hearing still needs to be addressed. Different ideas have been brought up suggesting the use of the park or football field to keep social distancing in mind. Possibly have a rotating open house public hearing only allowing so many people into the city hall at one time. Schuelke-Sampson will be sitting in on a meeting about other ideas to help construct a proactive public hearing without upsetting citizens and allowing all to be heard.

- C. City-wide cleanup is Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. All items need to be on the curb by 6:00 am. Jeff Olson stated that the pickup of items will be done by May 20<sup>th</sup>. If items are not paid for ahead of time that need to be, they will not be picked up. Anything left after the May 20<sup>th</sup> deadline will be policed and allowed 10 days for homeowners to dispose of it themselves or move it off the

boulevard. If this does not happen, Olson Sanitation will be contacted, and pickup will be arranged at the expense of the owner. The city office will add these said expenses to the homeowners' water bill. Councilman S. Tufto agreed that there needed to be a deadline or

Council Minutes

May 5, 2020

Page 5

people will just leave things on their curb indefinitely. Mayor Tensen stated that clean up is done to help make our city look presentable and well cared for.

- D. Schuelke-Sampson was informed that AGP will begin construction on the new railroad spur the middle of May with hopes to have it finished by the end of July.

With nothing else on the agenda, on motion by Councilman Fish with a second by Councilman Olson to adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor Councilman Olson, Councilman Fish, Councilman S. Tufto, Councilman A. Tufto, Councilwoman Frahm, and Councilman Prestholdt. Voting against none. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

---

Mayor

City Clerk