

Dawson City Council Minutes
February 2, 2021
5:30 p.m.

The Dawson City Council met in regular session Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Dawson City Hall Council Chambers following social distancing guidelines and wearing masks. This meeting was also available by Zoom.

Councilpersons present: Charlie Prestholdt, Jeff Fish, Jeff Olson, Steve Tufto, Vince Adelman, Dean Petersen, Mayor Randy Tensen, City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson, City Clerk/Treasurer Jill Kemen, City Attorney Rick Stulz, Maintenance Superintendent Brent Powers, and Dave Hickey.

Others present via zoon: Jeff Kuhn with Widseth, Smith and Nolting

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

Councilman Tufto motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of 8a. Request for engineering services and 16a. Liquor license renewal for the Rusty Duck. Seconded by Councilman Olson. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

On motion by Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Fish to approve consent agenda number 4, approve January 5th, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes and number 20, January bills paid and 4th quarter financials 2020. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

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

The new flood gauge for Dawson was tabled until LqP Emergency Manager, Blain Johnson, could present in person.

Update to the personnel committee was Councilman Jeff Fish replacing Councilman Charlie Prestholdt. Minutes of the meeting were provided. No further discussion.

Minutes from the Water/Wastewater committee meeting were included with the packet. Councilman Olson said it was a good meeting. The Carlson Addition was a topic of conversation regarding infrastructure being installed to the platted development. His opinion was it needs to be done and now would be a good time. Councilman Tufto agreed saying it would be foolish not to proceed at this time. Maintenance Superintendent Powers said it would be beneficial to complete this because it would change the direction of the flow. This would send the flow out to where new lots would be. Councilman Olson said there was a valve installed years ago to continue with the project. He explained that fill from our current street project could be used to help raise the land up out of the flood plain. Mayor Tensen said extra fill could also be used as a base to get out to the gravel road for emergency use.

Jeff Kuhn presented a request for engineering services at the water treatment plant. He is looking for additional grant funding through PFA and additional agencies. The improvements needed at the treatment plant have served their useful life. He is looking for the request approval to continue the process. The deadline for this would be the end of March 2021. Included in the improvements would be replacing the meters with new, more efficient models more current with the times. Kuhn stated if we do or do not proceed it doesn't affect the grant. Wastewater improvements are currently being put on hold waiting for MPCA to come back with new limits for the city. It is currently under review status at the state. Powers stated that possible salt discharge would be an issue. He concluded saying that once the permit is renewed the city would have five years to bring it into compliance. On motion by Councilman Fish with a second by Councilman Petersen to approve the request for engineering services. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

City Manager Schuelke Sampson showed the council a colored replica of the elevated storage tank and the different color options. Price was discussed because adding an additional color to the tank would be an upcharge. Also discussed was the use of black paint on the tower. It was decided that a decal of a gnome or Blackjack Bunny would not work due to condensation and other weather issues. After viewing the replicas on motion by Councilman Olson to paint the elevated storage tank black with a safety yellow ring around the tank and the word Dawson in black. This was seconded by Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Fish, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

Road and Bridge committee minutes were included in the packet. Councilman Olson said the committee talked about standardizing widths of the streets for the second phase of the project. Kuhn stated that this measurement would be 35' vertical face. The exception to this would be 7th Street and Chestnut to have room for additional parking due to school events. Councilman Prestholdt has issues with the tar that was discussed at the committee meeting. He would like to see Schuelke-Sampson send a cover letter out again with a vote to check yes or no to tarring 1st and Pine. He feels this would solve any hard feelings that have been created. He would like the letter to go out in one week and the final votes due back to the city March 1. Councilman Olson disagrees. He said in his neighborhood they all talked about it and didn't want tar. Powers said it is policy to have the owners' petition the city for blacktop. More discussion was had. Councilman Adelman asked if there are any type of incentives to entice owners to want the tar. Councilman Olson said to follow policy. Have the development gather signatures and bring them to the city. City Attorney Stulz said his office could help if needed. Councilman Prestholdt told Schuelke-Sampson to disregard his previous request.

The liquor store committee also met. These minutes were again included in the packet. Mayor Tensen spoke about the meeting. The committee felt it wouldn't be fair to offer the job to someone, like they

had done, and not give her a chance to see what she can do with the store. If things don't turn around, then the city could look at selling the business. The city will continue to get a business appraisal to decide if they want to go that way with selling it. Councilman Adelman said it would only be right to give her a fair run. Schuelke-Sampson stated she has brought forth some good ideas. She also stated that a few part time applications have come in to help fill the open position.

Council Committee Assignments were changed from Councilman Prestholdt exiting the personnel committee and Councilman Fish accepting the personnel committee assignment. On motion by Councilman Olson to approve the change with a second from Councilman Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

Councilman Prestholdt presented his bids on the concession stand upgrade and maintenance. Bids were received from Larson Brothers for the cement \$2,615, Ken Sather Construction for materials \$8,922.12, Tom Bothun for labor \$3,000, and Paul Pillatzki Plumbing for restroom fixtures and installation of \$2,717.79. The Park Committee felt this was all fair pricing and are recommending to proceed with the updates. Councilman Prestholdt asked if there was funds in the Park department for proceeding. Schuelke-Sampson said that the city is doing the money shuffle right now covering other departments. Park would also need to cover the cost for resurfacing one of the tennis courts. Both projects together would be approximately \$52,000.00. Councilman Tufto asked about timeframe for this project. Councilman Prestholdt said ideally it would be done by Riverfest of 2021. Powers asked about sandblasting the floor and then painting it. This was done at the pool a few years ago with good results. Councilman Olson asked if this is done now, how much useful life does the concession stand/restrooms have left. He considered siding and shingles as general maintenance. Councilman Prestholdt feels it is structurally sound and his hope it would last quite some time. After discussion ended on motion by Councilman Olson to approve the bids and structure update with flooring not to exceed \$21,000. Second from Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

Schuelke-Sampson presented an assessment agreement between the city of Dawson and Lac qui Parle Assessors Office. Our current assessor, Beth Westby, will not be renewing her contract after this year. County Assessor, Lori Schwendemann, bid the assessing for the city to be done through the county for approximately \$13,750.00 per year. Additionally, every six years an extra fee of \$1,670.55 would need to be added in for the 105 exempt parcels that Dawson has. Schuelke-Sampson said with the increase in education needed, there are fewer independent assessors. At the same time, Schuelke-Sampson spoke to Schwendemann regarding the training of two council person for the board of equalization and appeal. The city is currently the only one in the county that has trained representatives. This service will also be moved to the county. On motion by Councilman Olson with a second from Councilman Prestholdt to

approve the contract through Lac qui Parle County Assessor's Office beginning in 2022. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

Mayor Tensen gave the housing update. Currently two developers responded to Schuelke-Sampson's email looking for proposals. She has received one proposal and is currently waiting on developer to get bids to put his pricing together. This has been tabled until next month to allow the second developer time to submit his proposal.

Dawson Bowl has completed the paperwork to renew the liquor license. On motion by Councilman Prestholdt to approve the liquor renewal with a second by Councilman Tufto. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

The Rusty Duck has completed the paperwork to renew the liquor license. On motion by Councilman Tufto with a second by Councilman Prestholdt to approve the liquor renewal. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

Jeremy Miller has requested a detachment from the city. He is citing his reason as no city services to his home. Attorney Stulz will go through his proposal with Schuelke-Sampson and present back to council their recommendations.

Maintenance Superintendent Brent Power's Report

- A. Wastewater Operator, Kurt Collins and Powers went to Alexandria to meet with the engineers and finalize options for the second phase of the infrastructure project.
- B. Powers stated his final day with the city will be Friday, February 5, 2021. He is retiring. Councilman Tufto thanked him for his years of service to the city, as did the other councilmen.
- C. Councilman Prestholdt asked again about the mill up of tar from the tennis court that will be refinished. Powers stated that Kuhn is aware of it and will be in contact with the subcontractors to complete the project.

City Manager Tami Schuelke-Sampson's Report

- A. EDA update. A copy of the most recent EDA minutes are at each councilman's seat. She has received a second quote for the mechanical portion of the armory project and has submitted it to the architects for review.
- B. Computer Commuter is for information only.
- C. The pay equity report has been submitted to the state and she is awaiting the results once the state review it.
- D. The small cities grant update is that the grant is considered marginally competitive. She is currently working with UMRDC employee, Kristi Fernholz, to make changes and resubmit the grant by the March deadline. There will be a public hearing regarding this at the March 2nd, 2021 council meeting.
- E. Rebecca Kurtz, with Ehlers, contacted Schuelke-Sampson and stated that three of Dawson's bonds can be refunded. This could save the city \$148,000 in interest after her fees are removed. The bonds are 2012 utility bond with savings of \$39,900, 2012 street bond with savings of \$60,800 and the pool bond with savings of \$47,000. Bonds would be refinanced for the same length of time. The interest rate will be 0.8%. On motion by Councilman Olson to refund the three bonds with a second by Councilman Petersen. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.
- F. Brent's retirement party is a come and go open house COVID style at the city hall on Friday, February 5th from 2 to 4 p.m.

Councilman Olson requested a road and bridge committee meeting to look at the possible ways to help tar the streets at 1st and Pine. He stated it would not be an ordinance change, rather a policy change for this project.

On motion by Councilman Tufto with a second from Councilman Petersen to adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Olson, Councilman Petersen, Councilman Prestholdt and Councilman Tufto. Voting against, none. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

