

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

Councilpersons present: Jake Bothun, David Hansen, Vince Adelman, JT Schacherer and Charlie Prestholdt. Absent: Councilman Olson. Others present: City Manager Jill Kemen, City Clerk Kristin Daline, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collins and Fire Chief Brian Hersom. Absent: Mayor Randy Tensen.

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

Councilman Prestholdt motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Councilman Hansen. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the consent agenda item 4, January 2nd, 2024 council meeting minutes and item 12, December financials and quarterly reports with a second from Councilman Schacherer. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

10 Minute Public Forum

Councilman Schacherer opened the 10-minute public forum at 5:32 pm. Hearing nothing, Councilman Schacherer closed the 10-minute public forum at 5:33 pm.

Reports of officers, boards and committees.

Councilman Bothun spoke on behalf of the Employer/Volunteer committee meeting that was held at the Fire Hall. Discussed were new lockers to organize personal equipment, possibly purchasing a new pumper truck in 2026 and new Fire Hall. With equipment getting bigger, the group discussed new fire hall cost and locations. The Livestock Systems building to the North was talked about. Councilman Hansen recommended to move forward with purchasing new lockers, which will be discussed later in the meeting. Jill had a brief conversation with Attorney Rick Stulz about assessing township properties to collect money for fire calls. Jill also mentioned the City had received a letter from Progressive Insurance stating they do not pay fire departments that are volunteer. Discussion on City Manager wage taking in account fee for Employment Plus and insurance. This will also be discussed further into the meeting.

Public Works Superintendent Kurt Collin's Report.

The latest snow event went well with no breakdowns. The guys will be pushing back corners on and off and will be clearing the safe walk to school sidewalks again in the morning.

City Manager Jill Kemen's Report.

\$1.3 million will be coming out of the checking account for bond payments in February, with \$170,000 remaining. The city will receive state funds the end of May, beginning of June along

with taxes. Jill spoke with City Attorney Rick Stulz about the Fire Department putting funds from the equipment fund in to a CD with 5% interest.

New Business

Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the Fire Department to move forward with the purchase of the Heiman lockers using money from the truck fund with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Discussion on the agreement with Employment Plus for new City Manager search. Questions asked by the Council were, 1. What if we do not like any of the candidates presented. 2. How much does the city owe if no one is hired. 3. Will Council still do interviewing, and 4. Can Employment Plus give guidance as to what a starting wage would be. Councilman Hansen motioned to approve the agreement pending clarification on payment to Employment Plus if the city does not find a satisfactory candidate with a second from Councilman Prestholdt. Jill will get in contact with Employment Plus to answer the above questions from the Council. Voting in favor, Councilman Bothun, Councilman Prestholdt, Councilman Adelman, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Hansen. Absent: Councilman Olson. Motion passed.

Councilman Schacherer closed the Council Meeting at 6:00 pm for the Virtual Public Hearing at on the wastewater variance with the MPCA.

Available through Zoom was Ian Babson, Variance Coordinator with the MPCA, Paul Kimman, MPCA, Ashley Wahl, MPCA, Tracy Ekola, MPCA, Larry VanHout and Jeff Kuhn with Widseth.

Ian presented a slide show for Dawson on chloride and phosphorus limits and action items that Dawson needs to address within the next 5 years. Currently, Dawson is well above the limits. The MPCA provided an action tree that Ian went over prior with Jill and Kurt that gives a loose schedule to activities to meet minimum levels of threshold. This will be based on the future efforts of meeting the limits. In the first year, the top ten industrial/commercial users will be sampled first, followed by residential loads (softeners).

Chloride options for Dawson to be considered:

1. Centralized lime softening system estimated at \$8 million
2. Reverse osmosis, cost estimated at \$2.7 million.
3. Treating chloride at the wastewater plant-reverse osmosis and evaporation, estimated at \$23 million.

The MPCA is recommending a 15-year term for the variance, with an interim limit eligibility re-evaluated by the MPCA every 5 years.

Develop and implement chloride investigation and minimization plan based on the chloride

action tree. If the numbers are not sufficient, the City can reapply for the variance. The MPCA will review annual progress reports on actions taken and reductions made.

Councilman Schacherer closed the public hearing at 6:37 pm and opened the Council Meeting.

Miscellaneous Announcements

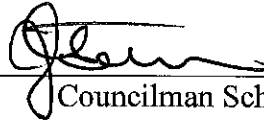
The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 6th at 5:30 pm. Councilman Schacherer, Councilman Prestholdt and Jill will be absent for that meeting. The Recreation and Growth meeting will be scheduled at a later date. The Dawson Fire Department annual meeting is Monday, February 12th at 5:30 pm.

With nothing more to discuss, Councilman Adelman motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Councilman Bothun. Voting in favor Councilman Adelman, Councilman Hansen, Councilman Schacherer and Councilman Bothun. Absent: Councilman Olson and Councilman Prestholdt. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.



Kristin Daline, City Clerk



Councilman Schacherer