

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 11, 2013 7:00 PM**  
**Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on September 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Gene Alex presiding.

The following Councilmembers were present: Sharon Krogman, Dave Maurice, Phil Standfuss, and Al Strunc.

Councilmembers absent: none

Others Present: Chief of Police Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Sara Wilson, Mr & Mrs Duane Standfuss and media.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of discussion on a digital sign on the Highway under new business. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as listed below. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Consent Agenda – please see notes to agenda items below**

*The following items are considered routine or non-controversial by the Council and will be approved with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member, city staff or citizen so requests, in which case the item (s) will be removed from the consent agenda and be considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

- Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 14, 2013
- Building Permit Application – 406 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

**Open Forum**

Mr & Mrs Duane Standfuss were present to discuss the letter they received regarding the plumbing of his sump pump. Standfuss wants to know what is going to be done with the water that comes down the street. He says the storm sewer drain over flows when there is over an inch of rain and it flows over into his yard. He wants the storm sewer drains cleaned off better/more often. The council said they'd talk to Kaufenberg about the issue and see what the solution is. They also told Standfuss that he needs to do what is requested in the letter that was sent to him and many other Danube residents. The council stressed they are trying to resolve the excessive

water flow issues in town, not punish people. Mayor Alex told Standfuss they'd talk to Kaufenberg and get back to him.

### **Employee Report – Chief of Police**

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for August 2013 were higher than last year at the same time with 62 calls, 44 reports, 82 traffic stops, 29 citations, 47 mutual assists and 4 home security checks.

Chief Schneider updated on the following:

- Activities have started back up at the school
- 911 addresses have been corrected in the County System
- Schneider has 2 cars that he will be forfeiting. One is an abandoned vehicle and one is a drug forfeiture.
- Schneider is sending in the annual POST Board mandatory reports for compliance.
- First Response is trying to get some equipment purchased by the end of the year.
- Local departments were asked to secure the Sacred Heart school for volley ball practice in light of the Granite Falls homicide case.
- The council asked Schneider about his proposed budget numbers.

### **Employee Report – Public Works Director**

In the council packets, councilmembers received a monthly report for Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg. The report is hereby attached.

The council reviewed the estimate from Midwest Boiler Repair for \$7,250. Paape hasn't furnished a quote yet. The previous quote from Minnesota Boiler for a new boiler was over \$49,000 and repairs were \$10,300.

*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the estimate from Midwest Boiler Repair for boiler repairs in the amount of \$7,250. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **School Building Updates** - none

### **Community Center Updates** - none

### **Financial Reports**

The following reports were reviewed and any questions are answered:

- Budget vs Actual Report (yellow)
- Receipts List (green)
- Claims List for Approval (pink)
- Cash Balance Report (purple)
- EDA Quarterly Report (blue)
- Vacation/Sick/Comp Time Quarterly Report

## **Unfinished Business**

### **2014 Budget & Proposed Tax Levy**

*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to pass resolution 05-2013 which set the proposed tax levy at \$175,585. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Sump Pumps* – discussed with public works report

*Utility Rates* – Councilmember Strunc asked the council to think about utility rates and the need to have funds set aside for unexpected repairs and future infrastructure improvements.

The clerk gave the council some utility rates for neighboring communities for comparison. Councilmember Strunc is in favor of raising rates. Councilmember Maurice is in favor of raising the maintenance fee on water and on sewer. Councilmember Maurice remembers rates being raised by a dime quite some time ago. But nothing else is recalled. Strunc thinks there are bigger future expenses coming with the water system, but not so much with the sewer system. Mayor Alex is also in favor of raising the rates. Maurice said his concern with the sewer is that the lagoons were supposed to have a 20 year life and they were put in in 1976. Chemicals have been used until now but Maurice wonders what will happen if it has to be dredged out.

Clerk Wilson will talk to Lee Elfering about some council concerns and report back at the next meeting.

## **Approval of Bills**

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$13,226.16. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **Minnesota Basic Code Review**

Clerk Wilson received a copy of the Minnesota Basic Code from American Legal Publishing. The City has 60 days to review it. The Basic Code provides a modern and comprehensive code of ordinances designed specifically for smaller cities. It has been put together by the League of Minnesota Cities and American Legal Publishing and reflects current state statutes and case law.

The Basic Code can be purchased for \$880 for 1 hard copy with a codification charge of \$20 per additional page if the City wants to add some of its own Ordinances. A copy on CD can be purchased for an additional \$75.

If the City were to have its current ordinances codified to bring them up to current standards, it would cost around \$10,000.

Some councilmembers will look at the Basic Code and Clerk Wilson will talk to City Attorney Aaron Walton.

**Digital Sign Land Request**

Mayor Alex and Councilmember Strunc told the council that Cal Lueck visited the EDA representing the Lions Club with a request for permission to use the land on the corner of highway 212 and county road 1 for a possible digital sign in the future.

The council thought this would be fine.

**Adjournment**

*There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Sara Wilson, City Clerk

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Gene Alex, Mayor

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Sara Wilson, City Clerk