

DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2015 7:00 PM
Danube City Council Chambers

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on November 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Alex presiding.

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

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Harold Lambert, Suzie Lueck, Lee Nere, Mary Lee Black, Rod Black, Sandy Frank, Gene Frank, City Engineer Lee Elfering, Police Chief Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve the Agenda with the additions of Water Tower Update – Lee Elfering under Unfinished Business and Assessments under New Business. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Standfuss 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 October 14, 2015
- Minutes of Special Meeting of October 21, 2015
- Bar Door Open Tuesday, December 15, 2015 – Birthday Party
- Bar Door Open Saturday, December 26, 2015 – Christmas Party
- Building Permit – 204 E HWY 212 – Shop Addition – Danube Auto Works

Open Forum

Danube Historical Society – Water Tower Park (Land given was restricted?) – Letters are enclosed in the packets from Rod and Mary Lee Black – Rob Black reported that the Danube Historical Society had concerns on the drilling that occurred at the Water Tower Park. Rod informed the Councilmembers that the park would not exist if it wasn't for the Danube Historical Society and Danube Legion members that did all the work to clean up that area. Suzie Lueck reported that they hold concerts in the summer in the band stand and are not sure if they should continue to book for the summer of 2016 due to the water tower issue. Mayor Alex reported that the City has not yet determined whether to build a new water tower or rehabilitation the

current one and asked Lee Elfering, City Engineer, if he would comment on the drilling that occurred. Lee Elfering stated that the company was to wait for the areas to be marked before drilling and he contacted the company as soon as he was made aware of them drilling and stopped them from drilling a second spot in the Water Tower Park. Lee also pointed out that there are two (2) locations that the City is looking at drilling for soil borings. The reason for the drilling is when the City puts out bids for building a new water tower and rehabilitation of the current water tower the soiling borings are necessary for the bids of a new water tower. Councilmember Strunc pointed out that the area that the City is looking at is currently owned by Jeff Sindelir. There is a bump out to the south on Jeff Sindelir's property that the City is looking at a possibility. Councilmember Strunc spoke with Jeff Sindelir regarding this area and that Jeff would be willing to sell that area to the City for a reasonable amount. Councilmember Strunc did point out that no decision has been made yet on to build new or rehab the current water tower at this time and ultimately the Council will make the best decision for the City of Danube and keep the Historical Society in the loop. Mary Lee Black had concerns about the park being a mess with the construction that maybe the concerts should be cancelled for the summer of 2016. Councilmember Maurice suggested that maybe if there is construction or other issues that maybe the Danube Historical Society could hold the concerts down at the other park on a temporary basis during the water tower being addressed. The City is willing to help accommodate them with use of the park or school if the water tower interferes with their concerts. Rod thanked the Councilmembers for hearing them out regarding this issue. Mary Lee asked Dotty if she found out when the property was given from the Muellers and any information about the restrictions to the property in which the Danube Historical Society is using. Mayor Alex informed Mary Lee and the others present that the property in which the Historical Society questioned as being restricted was not stated as so on the deed that was recorded at the Renville County Recorder's Office. Dotty did inform the Historical Society also that she looked back at the 2006 minutes in which the property was given and nothing was stated as far as any restrictions on the property.

Harold Lambert – Garage Height and Fence – Harold asked the Councilmembers if there is a height limit on a garage. He is looking at building a garage large enough to put a dump truck in. Dotty informed the Councilmembers the building ordinance does not give a height restriction. Harold is also looking at putting a fence up about 8 feet tall around his property. Dotty informed the Councilmembers that the surrounding residents would have to be notified and given the option to voice concerns about the fence prior to the Council approving the fence. Mayor Alex told Harold the best thing to do is fill out a building permit.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for October 2015 were lower to last year at the same time with 45 calls, 25 reports, 27 traffic stops, 7 citations, 21 mutual assists and 2 home security checks. Schneider reported on multiple thefts from the post office. Not much information is available because the thefts involve juveniles. Any residents missing mail from August to October should report it to Police Chief Schneider.

Additional business discussed:

- School Building Update – Tri-Valley was done on November 6th, Stacey will be in the school until mid December and then Tri-Valley will be closed from mid December 2015 till February 2016. Jr. High Basketball started November 2nd. The boilers were turned on November 5th. The RCW play will be held at the school on November 19th, 20th and 21st.

- High School Football Game Assists – Schneider reported that there was 5 home games that the first responders assisted with down at the football field during the games.
- State Court Transitions – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that citations need to go thru the LTGD software. The State Court has mandated this to start as of July 2016.
- Squad Car Maintenance Update – Schneider reported that the squad car received two (2) new tires and was winterized from Danube Auto Works.
- Part-time Office Hiring Process – Schneider reported that he has hired Tony Boddie and interviewed Mark Brant for part-time police officer. He will be hiring Mark Brant for a part-time officer position.
- Fire Prevention Week Assist (10-09) – Schneider reported that he assisted the Renville Fire Department with the K-3 fire prevention week education classes. Schneider did have a call so did miss part of one of the classes. Materials purchased for the classes are divided between the three fire departments.
- First Response Information – Schneider reported that at the end of the year the first response purchases their supplies. Schneider stated that he gets better prices by waiting till the end of the year. The first response will be having their training and meeting on the last Thursday in January 2016.
- Blighted Property – Councilmember Strunc inquired about the blighted properties in Danube. Councilmember Strunc asked that he continue on with talking to them and not wait until next spring about the properties. Schneider did report that one property did get cleaned by their neighbor and the resident thought they were complaint but then the stuff started to build up again. Schneider will speak with some properties owners regarding the blighted property ordinance.
- Attorney General on Lawyer Bill – Councilmember Maurice inquired why the Attorney General was contacted regarding a DWI. Schneider reported that is because the DWI involved drugs.

Employee Evaluation

Because Police Chief Schneider was not able to attend the October 21, 2015 special meeting for employee evaluations due to being on a call the Councilmembers decided to hold his employee evaluation and the part-time officers' evaluation at the November 18, 2015 meeting.

Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to award Les Schneider the following raise: \$1.00/per hour increase to \$26.36/per hour; Marcel Krueger the following raise: \$0.82/per hour increase to \$15.00/per hour; Matt Vastaas the following raise: \$4.00/per hour increase to \$16.00/per hour; Anthony Boddie the following raise: \$4.00/per hour increase to \$15.00/per hour; hiring wage for part-time police officers raised to \$15.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Report – Public Works Director

In the council packets, Councilmembers received a monthly report for Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg. The report is below

- School – Dan has contacted Chappell Central about tuning the burners on the boilers. We are on their list. The boilers are running well so far. They are cutting out when they are supposed to now after installing new operator last year. That should help save fuel over the season. Dan will be doing some repairs in the bathroom for Little Lambs. Some ceiling tiles need to be replaced and a urinal is not working properly. Tri-Valley is done

with kids for the year. Dan will be in contacts with Stacy on whether anything to the building needs to be addressed over the winter and who will be responsible.

- Water – The wells averaged 32,000 gal/day for the month of October. There have been no issues to report in either well house. Dan will be doing some final hydrant flushing's before the season is over.
- Waste Water – The lift station averaged 34,000 gal/day for the month of October. Dan did a secondary pond discharge. Samples were taken to MVTL in New Ulm. All tests were within reporting limits for MPCA. Dan had Minnesota Pump Works which is formally Dakota Pump do the annual inspection on the pumps in the lift station. Everything checked out ok except for a wear ring on one of the pumps. We replaced that with a wear ring Dan had already had on hand. Dan also have William Young Co. coming to do a calibration on the flow meter
- Snow Plow – The Snow Plow and skid loader bucket have been repaired By Schmoll's. Dan also had them build a cage unit for putting up xmas decorations.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- West Central Sanitation Contract Amendment – Dotty contacted West Central Sanitation as requested by the City Council on getting the contract amended with putting Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority as the disposal destination when the Renville County Landfill closes. Don Williamson, President, worked with Dotty and his company and sent out a letter with the amendment for the City of Danube to approve. Attached is the letter dated October 19, 2015 with the change listed.
Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to accept the amendment to the contract with West Central Sanitation changing the waste disposal site when the Renville County Landfill closes to Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority. The motion carried unanimously.
- Sub-Committee Meeting – Dotty was contacted by Geri Vick from MNDOT about setting up a meeting of to discuss a second access off of HWY 212. Geri stated that they were contacted with concerns by Senator Lyle Koenen and Representative Tim Miller. Geri stated that they only wanted a small group of people at the meeting and for it not to be a public open meeting. Due to this only the Sub-Committee that was formed was contacted about setting up a meeting date for the discussion. The Sub-Committee meeting date is set for Monday, December 14, 2015 from 2 pm – 3 pm in the Council Chambers.
- City Office Closed – The Danube City Office will be closed on Thursday, November 26, 2015 for Thanksgiving Day.

School Building Updates – None

Community Center Updates

Mayor Alex reported that he has put about 5 volunteer hours in at the Community Center helping the custodian redo the floors on the north side of the hall. Mayor Alex reported that there needs to be two people at the Community Center when the floors are being refinished. Mayor Alex said he would be willing to help do the rest of the floors but would like to get paid for the work. He reported that it is a lot of hard work and would like to get something for his time. Councilmember Strunc told Mayor Alex to turn in a bill (like what contract labor would do) after the work is done for the City of Danube to pay.

Unfinished Business

Utility Schedule – The Councilmembers reviewed the follow-up information breaking down the rates and usage of resident and business water and sewer accounts. After some in depth discussion the Councilmembers made a motion regarding 2016 utility rates.

Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to increase the following utilities: water base rate \$5.00 per quarter to \$43.73; water usage over 5,000 gallons \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons; sewer base rate \$5.00 per quarter to \$27.93; sewer usage over 5,000 gallons \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.71 per 1,000 gallons. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list and receipts list from October 15, 2015 thru November 17, 2015.

Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$19,901.64 (checks) and \$8,455.74 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from October 13, 2015 thru November 16, 2015.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2015.

The Councilmembers reviewed the reconciled bank statement for October 2015.

New Business

City of Danube Auditor for 2015 – *Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to accept the audit proposal from Dennis E. Oberloh, LTD with the condition the audit is not to exceed \$4,100.00 for the year 2015. The motion carried unanimously.*

Future Business - None

Correspondence

The Councilmembers received the following informational material in their packets:

1. Renville County Assessor – Local Boards of Appeal & Equalization Letter
2. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon of Renville County Invite, Tuesday, November 24th
3. Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority Letter
4. MUNIFACTS.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Gene Alex, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk