

DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 7:00 PM
Danube City Community Center

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Alex presiding. The meeting then was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center.

The following Councilmembers were present: Ryan Bentley, Sharon Krogman and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: Carrie Garza

Others Present: Jason Murray – David Drown Associates, Inc, DeeAnne Newville - REA, Jeremy Boots – Moore Engineering, Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Les Schneider Sr., Police Chief Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting with the addition of Gambling Permit for the Danube Fireman's Relief Association for March 20th under the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman 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 January 13, 2021
- Building Permit – Farmward – Grain Bin
- Building Permit – 202 4th Street – Egress Windows
- Gambling Permit – Danube Fireman's Relief Association – March 20th

Open Forum - None

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 – Except for painting the Tri-Valley list is almost complete. I will be ordering ceiling tiles for main lobby to finish ceiling. After ceiling is complete Joey will be redoing the floors in the lobby and seating area. Chappell Central was in to fix a leaking unit vent heater in one of the classrooms. I also had them quote out replacing the air compressor and dryer unit in the boiler room. They are both old and nearing the end. The dryer has not been performing as it should as we are getting a lot of moisture in lines which is taking out thermostats. The quote came back at \$4799.86.

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve replacing the air compressor and dryer unit in the boiler room from Chappell Central for \$4,799.86. The motion carried unanimously.

- Water – The City had a water main break on February 4th. I spotted it almost instantly and it was taken care of that same day. With the power out on the 6th the generator did start and run well house #3 with no issue. Still waiting for Xcel to switch voltage over yet though. One of the water tower heaters thermostats fried out and is not working. Sullivan's Electric has been called to fix the heater. Would also like to look into possibility of getting natural gas heaters in tower if possible. The ones that were installed are undersized and very inefficient as they are electric. The wells averaged 35,000 gal/day for the month of January.

The Councilmembers discussed what other surroundings town may have in the water towers for heaters. Jeremy said he would ask Hector what they use electric or LP and what is available for options.

- Sanitary – The lift station averaged 28,000 gal/day for the month of January. Waiting to hear from Moore on sanitary updates.
- XMAS Lights – Xmas lights were taken down by Les and Myself on Feb 1st.
- Wheel Loader – Still waiting on info from RDO Equipment about John Deere pricing.
- Light on Generators – Councilmember Standfuss brought up installing lights on the generators in town so that way when power goes out it would be easier to see that the generators are running when driving by them. Dan will look into possibilities of lights.

Jeremy informed the Councilmembers that him and Dan are working through the information from Johnson Jet-Line. Jeremy commented that there were more issues than he was expecting. Both him and Dan are going to continue to work through the information. From what he has seen a majority of the sanitary needs to be replaced. Jeremy commented that the City of Danube would be looking at an eighteen (18) or nineteen (19) million-dollar project to replace the mains. The Councilmembers discussed the service lines for the residents who have issues in their lines and how to notify them along with encouraging them to work together with a company to get a better deal. The next step is to work on the preliminary report for Rural Water Development. Once the report is started then Jeremy would like to do a special meeting in March or April to go over the report with the Councilmembers.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for January 2021 were lower compared to last year at the same time with 31 calls, 19 reports, 18 traffic stops, 6 citations, 17 mutual assists and 1 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – The school gym has become very busy with the RCW One-Act Play finishing last week. The last JH girls BB game was on February 8, and the JH boys start next week. JO VB has started in the gym, going through March. Little Lambs new director is getting updates weekly on the gym use. We have a family birthday party reserved in the gym on February 28, which is the first private event in a year.
- POST Board Annual Mandates – The law enforcement agency policy and training compliance, as well as the alleged misconduct forms have been sent in for calendar year 2020, with a deadline of March 1, 2012.
- County EOC Covid-19 Update – The County EOC held a meeting on February 3, with the information sent to the Mayor, City Clerk, and the Fire Chief. The vaccination process was the main topic this month. I received my second dose of the Pfizer-Biotech Covid-19 Vaccine on Jan. 20.
- MN Office of the State Auditor Report – The State Auditor forfeiture report for 2020 was sent in, with a Feb. 5 deadline.
- PD & Public Works Cell Phones – Both Dan and my cellular phones (Apple 6S), are over five years old and have been replaced with two Apple SC Phones. These cellphones were free of charge because of the age of our current phones. The Defender cases cost \$37 a piece on the govt. bid, down from the \$50 normal price. The price for the Verizon service remains the same.
- First Response Update – The Danube First Response team has training on Feb
- The MRWA Water/Wastewater Conference – The 2021 MRWA Conference in St. Cloud is scheduled for August. This is the year that I attend for certification credits.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- Land Update – Nothing new to report.
- CD Rates – Dotty spoke with John from Edward Jones for the current CD rates available. A three (3) month CD is 0.05%, one (1) year is 0.05% and a two (2) year is 0.15%.
- 2020 Audit Review - The 2020 audit will be reviewed at the March 10, 2021 Council meeting.
- Rural and Urban Service Districts - Dotty has not heard back yet from Aaron regarding Codification for Establishing Rural & Urban Service Districts. Marc Iverson did tell Dotty that the current ratio is 1 to 17. Dotty did hand out Ordinance 2021-01 that Aaron got to her for them to go over at a later meeting.
- Completed Items – Dotty has filed PERA and Payroll Taxes for the month.
- Office Closed & Vacation – The Office will be closed Monday, February 15th for President's Day.

- Roll Offs – Dotty has had calls from garbage companies about bringing in roll offs and Dotty asked that she be allowed to send the contract to the City Attorney to review and get his legal opinion on whether or not they can or if it is West Central Sanitation only. The Councilmembers gave permission to have the City Attorney review the contract.

School Building Updates

Dan reported that he got some ceiling tile in. Councilmember Krogman asked about the corkboard in the classroom that had some stuff leaking. Dan reported he put silicone all around it and painted over all of it. If that doesn't work, he will have to remove the corkboard. Dotty reported that she received the water bill back for Tri-Valley because the post office couldn't forward the bill. The City Councilmembers agreed to remove the late fees being the bill just got returned to the City.

Community Center Updates - None

Unfinished Business

David Drown Associates, Inc – Jason Murray – Jason Murray spoke with the Councilmembers about tax abatement, business subsidy criteria and a schedule of activities. Jason provided an example of what the tax abatement looks like for the Councilmembers to see what it looks like using the REA as the example. The Councilmembers discussed the timeline needed if they were to go forward with tax abatement. Jason said that they would not need much time but the notice for the public meeting has to be posted 11 days prior to the meeting. DeeAnne Neville commented that the REA was having an issue with the application with MNDOT. MNDOT wanted to know how the utilities will get to the property. The Councilmembers asked Jeremy Boots to work with the REA for the request Matt from MNDOT is asking for. DeeAnne also made the Councilmembers aware that Mayor Alex has been bending over backwards to help the REA to get stuff done. DeeAnne commented that the storm shelter that the REA is putting in could be listed as a Community benefit when discussing the REA. Jason asked the Councilmembers for permission to move forward at the next Council meeting in March that they call for the following hearings: Public Hearing for Business Subsidy Policy; Public Hearing for the Economic Development Tax Abatement Plan; Public Hearing for subsidy provided to RS Cooperative Power. The Councilmembers discussed this and Councilmember Krogman voiced concerns about moving forward without the application for annexation nor the property purchased at this time. The Councilmembers further discussed it and decided to wait before moving forward with calling the hearings at the March meeting.

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from January 13, 2021 thru February 10, 2021.

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$38,906.24 (checks) and \$8,440.42 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from January 12, 2021 thru February 8, 2021.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2020 and 2021.

There was no Bank Reconciliation for January as the City Clerk is waiting for the figures from the auditor.

New Business

Danube Fire Relief Assoc Approval Increase in Benefits – The Councilmembers reviewed the Minutes from the Danube Fire Relief Assoc meeting held on February 6, 2020 increasing the benefits effective January 21, 2021.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve the 2021 increase in annual benefit for the Danube Fire Relief Assoc. The motion carried with Mayor Alex, Councilmember Standfuss and Councilmember Krogman voting in favor and Councilmember Ryan Bentley abstaining.

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the Officers of the Danube Fire Relief Assoc. The motion carried with Mayor Alex, Councilmember Standfuss and Councilmember Krogman voting in favor and Councilmember Ryan Bentley abstaining.

Future Business - None

Correspondence - None

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Gene Alex, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk