

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

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on March 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, Carrie Garza and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: Sharon Krogman

Others Present: Ryan Breitbach, Chery Johnson, Jeff Johnson, Cindy Mertens, Sara Oberloh, Roger Manthee, Harley Haug, Gene Alex Jr., Jason Murray – David Drown Associates, Inc, 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 Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Bentley 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 February 10, 2021
- Building Permit – 204 Main Street – Family Room, Bedroom, Bathroom, Basement & Roof
- Building Permit – 205 6th Street – Deck

Financial Review with Sara Oberloh – Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd.

City Auditor Sara Oberloh from Oberloh and Oberloh, Ltd. was present to go over the 2020 audit report and answered questions. The audit report is available for viewing in the City-Clerk's Office or on the website www.cityofdanube.com.

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the 2020 audit report as presented by Sara Oberloh of Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd. The motion carried unanimously

Open Forum

Renville Sibley Coop – Annexation – Dotty informed the Councilmembers as what the City Attorney Aaron Walton needed them to do regarding annexing in the property for the Renville Sibley Coop. Dotty informed the Councilmembers they need to acknowledge receiving the petition for annexation and set a meeting date for the public hearing, the earliest the Council can hold a Special Meeting for the public hearing is Wednesday, April 21st because of publication rules. Cindy Mertens asked to speak with the Councilmembers. Cindy read a statement on behalf of the Renville Sibley Coop. Renville Sibley was asking for a public hearing for annexation into the City of Danube with the full fifteen (15) years of tax abatement and a public hearing on the tax abatement. Cindy spoke about the history of Renville Sibley and things they are looking to include at the new site. Renville Sibley would like it if both the annexation and tax abatement could be held at the same meeting. Renville Sibley also would like the City of Danube to move forward on the water and sewer connection to the new site. Cindy inquired about an address for Renville Sibley and Dotty said she will work with Scott Hable to get an address for the Renville Sibley Coop. Jason Murray attended the meeting via phone. Jason reviewed the paperwork in which he needed the Councilmembers to make motions on to move forward with the tax abatement for Renville Sibley Coop. The Councilmembers discussed the water and sewer expenses and how it should affect the tax abatement amount. Councilmember Standfuss stated he thought it should come off of the total of the tax abatement. The Councilmembers further discussed the water and sewer and tax abatement figures.

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to direct staff to direct to provide a public notice for up to fifteen (15) years for \$968,912 in tax abatement with the extension of sewer and water totally \$225,000 for public notice and formal hearing on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at the Community Center. The motion carried unanimously

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion receiving petition to annexation from Renville Sibley Coop and setting a Public Hearing Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at approximately 7pm in the Community Center. The motion carried unanimously

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2-2021 Resolution Calling a Public Hearing on the Proposed Adoption of Business Subsidy Criteria for the City of Danube to be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at approximately 7pm in the Community Center. The motion carried unanimously

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve Resolution 3-2021 Resolution Calling a Public Hearing on the Approval of Tax Abatement for Renville Sibley Coop to be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at approximately 7pm in the Community Center. The motion carried unanimously

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve Resolution 4-2021 Resolution Calling a Public Hearing on the Proposed Adoption of Business Subsidy to Renville Sibley Coop to be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at approximately 7pm in the Community Center. The motion carried unanimously

Haug Family – Splitting Property – Chery Haug spoke with the Councilmembers about the property located on the West end of Danube that belongs to the Haug family at 804 Oak Street. They are in the process of splitting the house from the farm land and asked the Councilmembers to work with them before transferring the entire property into the Urban Service District. The Councilmembers are willing to work with the Haug family while they are working on the Rural Service District Ordinance. Dotty informed the Councilmembers that City Attorney, Aaron Walton did inform her that the City of Danube could say platted and unplatted properties when defining the Rural Service Districts in the Ordinance. The Haug family asked the Councilmembers take consideration also in leaving the current tax rates in place when approving the Ordinance.

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 – Chappell Central has ordered the air compressor and drier and will install when available. Joey has completed the painting in the cafeteria and the hallway. The ceiling grid and lights are up in the lobby. Just need to install the tiles in the grid and it will be complete. Next, I'm going to have Joey paint the lobby area so then the floors can be cleaned and waxed. I've had quite a few heating valves and thermostats go bad lately. I will be ordering more from State Supply.
- Water – The wells averaged 32,000 gal/day for the month of February. That is within average for the month. There are no known issues with Water Dept. at this time. More Chlorine and poly will be ordered from Hawkins Chemical.
- Sanitary – The lift station averaged 30,000 gal/day for the month of February. That is within average for the month. There are no issues in the Sanitary Dept. at this time.
- Wheel Loader – I received a quote from RDO Equipment for a 524P and a544P loader. I will include a copy with report. I will also include some loan-lease options to look over. Dan will sit down with them to get a more accurate estimate as the current one he received had everything included. The Councilmembers also asked him to ask about a repair/maintenance contract.
- Vacation – I will be taking vacation May 1st – 17th.
- Well House #2 – Dan asked the Councilmembers what their thoughts are about either capping the line or place a fire hydrant. Jeremy stated that the cost could be added onto the project and the City should wait and include it on the project.

Jeremy presented to the Councilmembers two (2) task orders that need approval. The first task order was for the 2021 Renville Sibley Coop water and sanitary sewer extension project. The Councilmembers reviewed Task Order No. 4.

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion approving Task Order No. 4 for Moore Engineering to move forward with the 2021 Renville Sibley Coop water and sanitary sewer extension project. The motion carried unanimously

The second task order was for the 2021 RD Preliminary Engineering Report for the water, wastewater and storm water project. Jeremy reminded the Councilmembers that Dan has a copy of the report that was completed by Johnson Jet-line.

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion approving Task Order No. 3 for Moore Engineering to start preparing the 2021 RD Preliminary Engineering Report. The motion carried unanimously

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for February 2021 were higher compared to last year at the same time with 33 calls, 24 reports, 21 traffic stops, 9 citations, 25 mutual assists and 1 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – The last JH girls BB was on February 8, and the JH boys play games here through March 26. JO VB uses the gym through March. A family birthday party was in the gym on February 28. Flora Township held their annual meeting and election in the school lobby on March 9. The Tri-Valley Director returned to working in the building the end of February, and communication is occurring on a regular basis.
- MN Legislature changes to deadly force laws – March 1, 2021, changes in the state law regulating the authorized use of deadly force by peace officers went into effect. Additional policies and training were added to the requirements by the state. Our department has implemented the policies necessary, and all changes have been implemented to our UOF training lesson plans that will be used by the full dept. on June 6.
- County EOC Covid-19 Update – The County EOC held a meeting on March 3, discussing the positive cases from community spread that has occurred in Olivia. The vaccination process was also mentioned, with Renville County receiving additional doses because of efficient distribution.
- PD & Public Works Cell Phones – Both Dan and my cellular phones were placed into service on Feb. 16, with a cost of \$210.26 for transferring service and chargers.
- First Response update – The Danube First Response team trained on Feb. 25, covering all mandated OSHA requirements and the two-year CPR recertification.

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%.

- Vosika Bill - \$920.00 total bill and the playground group is asking that the bill be divided between the City, playground account and Danube Area Athletic Club. This would breakdown to the following: City \$300.00, \$310.00 each Capital Outlay and Danube Area Athletic Club. Prior years the City has paid around \$270.00 to \$285.00.00 for the portable toilets over winter at the park.

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve paying \$300.00 from City Funds, \$310.00 from the Park Capital Outlay and the remaining \$310.00 be paid for by the Danube Area Athletic Club to Vosika Portable Toilet Rental and Sewer Service. The motion carried unanimously

- Completed Items – Dotty has filed PERA and Payroll Taxes for the month.
- Office Closed & Vacation – None

School Building Updates

Dan reported that he got the ceiling tile in, just needs to finish the cut pieces on the edges. Joey will paint next then get the floor done at the school.

Community Center Updates

The Councilmembers discussed reopening the Community Center for renting along with setting the new limits for the size of gatherings allowed.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion approving reopening the Community Center for renting and increasing the Community Center limit to fifty (50) people and renting the entire hall for the cost of half the hall due to COVID-19. The motion carried unanimously

Unfinished Business - None

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from February 16, 2021 thru March 10, 2021.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$106,617.88 (checks) and \$10,055.09 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from February 9, 2021 thru March 8, 2021.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2021.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliation for January and February 2021.

New Business - None

Future Business

Rural and Urban Service Districts Ordinance – This will be addressed at a future meeting once the Haug family has the properties split.

USS Danube Solar LLC – The Councilmembers reviewed the conditional use permit application from USS Danube Solar LLC and discussed holding a public hearing regarding it at the Wednesday, April 14, 2021 as a special agenda item.

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion receiving the application for a Conditional Use Permit from USS Danube Solar for a solar garden and setting a Public Hearing Special Agenda Item on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at approximately 7pm in the Community Center. The motion carried unanimously

Correspondence - None

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Bentley 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