

DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:00 PM
Danube City Community Center

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on April 14, 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, Sharon Krogman and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Cullen Kobayashi, Kevin Braun, City Attorney Aaron Walton, 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 Krogman seconded a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Garza 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 March 10, 2021
- Building Permit – 202 4th Street – Fence

Special Agenda Item – Public Hearing Conditional Use Permit – USS Danube Solar Inc.

City Attorney Aaron Walton introduced the topic for the Conditional Use Permit for a solar garden located on the West side of County Road 1 north of the railroad tracks. Cullen Kobayashi spoke with the Councilmembers about the solar garden. The solar garden would be located on 7.37 acres on a parcel owned by Kevin Braun. The project will be enough to power approximately 225 homes and will go across the street to the substation with Xcel Energy. There will be approximately about 2,673 modules, slightly smaller than the one located on Hwy 212 East of town. Cullen went through the plans for the construction with the Councilmembers. Mayor Alex asked about the

road that would be going in if the City would be responsible for that. Cullen said they would take care of the road and all maintenance of it. Dotty asked Aaron if USS Danube Solar would need a building permit. Aaron informed the Councilmembers that they would not need one because the Conditional Use Permit is a land use so they wouldn't need a building permit. Aaron informed the Councilmembers that this was a public hearing about the permit and informed them they should ask if there is any public comments or if the staff received any written comments or other comments. Dotty informed the Councilmembers that she has received nothing by mail, phone, email or in person regarding the permit. Kevin Braun mentioned that he has been working with the company for four (4) years on the project. They have been good to work with just takes time to get through all the permits. Aaron is the one who prepared the Conditional Use Permit document. He asked that the Councilmembers close the public hearing and reopen the regular Council meeting to make a decision on the permit. The Councilmembers discussed time frame of contract and emergency services issues.

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember BentleyGarza seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was closed at 7:14 p.m.

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Standfuss to approve the Conditional Use Permit for USS Danube Solar Inc. The motion carried unanimously

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 – The new air compressor and dryer unit have been installed by Chappell Central. The Lobby ceiling is complete. All tiles and lights have been replaced. Boilers will start going down to half days with warmer temps and then off when weather permits.
- Water – The wells averaged 42,000 gal/day for the month of March. Averages were higher due to Farmward filling there tanks earlier this year.
- Sanitary – The lift station averaged 41,000 gal/day for the month of March. That is within average for the month.
- Storm – There has alray been some backup issues with the storm lines. I had Lauritsen come Jet out Railroad Ave. since every catch basin was backed up from 4th ST. to CO RD 1. The clean out was full of sand. There was also an issue on East Maple. Same spot as last year.
- Wheel Loader – I have the as built price list from RDO Equipment. I will include it in my report. Dan reviewed the quote with the Councilmembers.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza to approve the purchase of a 2021 John Deere 524P for \$147,000.00 with warranties of Comprehensive 84 months 4000 hours for \$8,039.00 and Power Train and Hydraulics 84 months 4000 hours for \$5,059.00 and a blade for approximately \$13,000.00 from RDO Equipment Co in Marshall Minnesota. The motion carried unanimously

Mayor Alex informed the Councilmembers that Danube received certificate of commendation from MN Pollution Control Agency for the period of 2020.

Jeremy presented to the Councilmembers the specifications for the sanitary sewer and watermain crossing for 5th Street to Coop development under US HWY 212.

Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion approving the plans for the sanitary sewer and watermain crossing presented by Moore Engineering. The motion carried unanimously

Jeremy also spoke to the Councilmembers about needing approval to advertise for bids for the sanitary sewer and watermain crossing project.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion approving Moore Engineering to advertise for bids for the sanitary sewer and watermain crossing. 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 March 2021 were higher compared to last year at the same time with 32 calls, 21 reports, 22 traffic stops, 10 citations, 23 mutual assists and 2 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- *School Building Updates* – Lloyd's Security completed the annual inspection of the school building's fire system on March 30. Tri-Valley waxed the floor in the cafeteria and hallways on April 3, and no one was in the school during the weekend while the floor dried. Tri-Valley's Covid-19 Screening Procedures and Preparedness Plan for 2021 have been received. Staff begins arriving May 10, and the students start on June 14. Their biggest concern this school year is limited recycling bin at the facility. A dumpster for recycling only was requested behind the school building. Dotty let Les know that the Councilmembers addressed this in the past and it would be up to Tri-Valley to contact West Central Sanitation about a recycling bin.
Mayor Alex asked about a getting a key for the fire alarm. Schneider informed the Councilmembers the key Mayor Alex is talking about is a test key not to shut off the fire alarm. To turn off the alarm you would need to access the breaker box. Schneider will get the fire department a key for 2 doors down at the school in case they need to access the school.
- *Use of Force Policies and Training* – The PD policy are up to date pending any additional changes by the State. UOF Instructor Rebecca Pieper completed Foundation Instructor Training on March 8-12 in Edina. This course gives her the UOF instructor certification for the next two years. Her firearm's instructor renewal course is scheduled this summer. This first full department UOF training is June 6, and I have continued searching for ammunition for the fall qualifications.

- JPA and Court Services Amendment Renewal – The resolution approving the joint powers agreement between the City of Danube and the State of Minnesota (DPS/BCA) to use the State’s criminal justice data communications network needs approval, documents attached. *Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion approving Resolution 6-2021 Joint Powers Agreement, signing the Court Data Subscriber Amendment and signing the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement.* The motion carried unanimously
- Operation Safety Net – Officer Rebecca Pieper has requested assisting the Minneapolis PD with the civil unrest coverage for the next couple of weeks. I have signed the mutual aid agreement and advised her that her rate of pay is determined in the statewide agreement.
- Blight Properties and Dog Licensing – Schneider will give an update on these items at the May and/or June meeting.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- Land Update – Nothing new to report.
- Transfer Funds – Dotty reported that the checking account is low on funds and will need to transfer funds to cover the bills. The Councilmembers reviewed the financials regarding where to take funds from.
Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion approving to close the Hometown Bank and withdraw \$100,000.00 from Edward Jones and put the funds in the general checking account. The motion carried unanimously
- Renville Sibley Coop Address - Dotty spoke with Scott Hable and we worked with a GIS Specialist and based on the information provided by Renville Sibley Coop it was determined that the best address would be **515 Highway 212 W, Danube, MN 56230**. The City can approve this address but not officially until the property is located in the City of Danube city limits.
- Completed Items – Dotty has filed PERA, Payroll Taxes for the month, filed Quarterly Payroll Reports and Sales Tax.
- Office Closed & Vacation – None
- Reminder - There is a Special Public Hearing Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 for the Renville Sibley Coop Annexation and Tax Abatement at 7pm in the Community Center.

School Building Updates

Dan reported that he finished the ceiling and completed the lighting. The painting and floors are left to do.

Community Center Updates - None

Unfinished Business - None

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from March 11, 2021 thru April 14, 2021.

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$50,700.99 (checks) and \$8,262.71 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from March 9, 2021 thru April 11, 2021.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2021.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliation for March.

New Business

League of MN Cities – Waiver on Tort Liability – The Councilmembers reviewed and discussed the insurance paperwork from the League of Minnesota Cities.

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the renewal of League of Minnesota Insurance waiving the monetary limit on tort liability. The motion carried unanimously.

Future Business

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

Correspondence

MN Dept. of Health – Sanitary Survey Report

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Gene Alex, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk