

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:30 PM
Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on May 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Alex presiding.

The following Councilmembers were present: Carrie Garza, Sharon Krogman, Cathy Malvin and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Jeff Freitag, Les Schneider Sr., Michelle Mortensen, Aaron Harms, Joel Mathiowetz, 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 addition of Fire Department under New Business. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Krogman 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 April 17, 2019
- Bar Door Open – Saturday, June 15th – Wedding

Closed Meeting

Mayor Alex asked for the City Council to go to a closed meeting at 7:02 pm for the purpose of talking about an employee issue that has come to attention.

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to close the meeting at 7:02 pm pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, subd. 3(b) to discuss a pending Minnesota Department of Veteran's Affairs Petition OAH 21-3100-35915 with our attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to reopen the meeting at 7:23 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Forum

Les Schneider Sr. – Schneider stated that the he hopes the Council feels changes should be made for the better not the worse. He commented that the reason he was told the stop sign put up at the intersection of Oak Street and 4th Street was because of a bus stop but there is no bus stop there but it is over by the park on the other side not at that intersection. The traffic being impeded by the stop sign isn't fair. He asked the Council to reconsider the stop sign but instead make Oak Street the main street and the other streets yield to Oak Street (other than Main Street). Schneider also asked about comp time and why it was changed. The Council informed Schneider it changed due to federal rules changing on how to report the comp time hours and the amount they can have on the books. Schneider inquired about the tax levy amount and the Council clarified the amount that was turned into the County for the tax levy. The Council also explained the reasons for the increases. Schneider also brought to the Council's attention concerns about young kids driving golf carts around town and carelessly. Schneider also informed the Council that he is working on getting the creamery building repaired.

Jim Mason – Dotty informed the Councilmembers that Jim Mason was suppose to come to the Council meeting to discuss his dumpster. At a prior meeting the Councilmembers reviewed the dumpsters in Danube and it was discovered that Jim Mason had a dumpster that the City was not billing for and added a fee for the dumpster in which covers the landfill fees. Dotty explained to Jim that is what he was being charged for and he showed Dotty the bill he received from West Central Sanitation for the dumpster. Dotty explained to Jim that was the rent for the dumpster in which he was paying West Central Sanitation and that the City receives a bill from RRRSWA for the disposal of the garbage. Jim stated he has never paid the City for garbage in the past and is not about to. He did give a check and stated that the payment was for the Water and Sewer. The Council has never allowed someone in the past to state where the payment is to go. The Councilmembers discussed it and decided to let him apply the payment to his Water and Sewer portion of the bill and contact West Central Sanitation to suspend all garbage service until further notice along with sending Jim a letter from the City explaining that his garbage service will be suspended until his bill is paid. Mayor Alex and Councilmember Krogman will review the letter to Jim Mason regarding this issue.

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 – I talked with Jim at Sullivans and he thought changing out the panels was not worth the money. He said it is very costly because the panels have to be specially made to fit the holes in the wall. Or the walls need to be busted out and repaired. As long as there are no issues his thought was to leave it alone. The city could have them go through each panel and take off the covers to inspect the fuses to make sure they match the size of the wire coming. They could also look for hot spots in the connections. The boilers have been drained and cleaned out for the season and will need an inspection over the summer months.
The Councilmembers discussed the fuse panel and decided to have Les Schneider Sr. check on if the insurance company required the fuse panels be replaced or just updated and bring it back to the next Council meeting in June.

- Water – Will be ordering Chlorine, Fluoride, and Poly from Hawkins Chemical. The wells averaged 30,000 gal/day for the month of April. There was a leak on the line for the bathrooms at the park. I was able to dig up and fix myself.
- Waste Water – I talked with MPCA about getting a compliance schedule for meeting our phosphorus limit. They are going to be working with me and the City on giving us a timeline on when we can get it done. The way it looks right now is the City will need to add Alum or some other chemical in the ponds to bring phosphorus totals down before a discharge. The problem is getting the chemical out into the ponds evenly. Usually a small boat is required to disperse and mix the chemical into the water. Also, will a small boat landing need to be installed to launch the boat. I talked with the rep at Hawkins Chemical and he thought it would be about \$3000.00 for Alum every time we had to do a discharge. Depending on our levels at the time. The City will need to purchase a phosphorus tester so I am able to keep up on levels without sending samples to MVTL. Another reason to look at getting our I&I problem fixed to cut down on our inflow and allow for more holding time in the ponds. The liftstation averaged
- Streets – I contacted Duininck's about the bad areas in town. They will be out to look at them and give estimate to fix. Caldwell Asphalt who we've used in the past is downsizing this year and eventually closing shop. The Councilmembers decided to do nothing at this time but instead bring the information back to the June meeting with estimates.
- Picnic Tables – Does the City want picnic tables from the County again for Fun Days? The County is now charging \$20 per table. The City usually gets 8-10 tables every year. The Councilmembers decided to not get any picnic tables from Renville County but instead use the old picnic tables done by the tennis courts for Fun Days. The Councilmembers also asked Dotty to contact Joey Jensen at JJ's Bar and Grill and let him know he would be responsible to get his own picnic tables if he wanted any for the beer garden for Fun Days.
- Payloader – Councilmember Standfuss he talked with Olivia and talked with the sales person that they went through. Olivia is not doing a lease but instead bought it on state bids. The cost was around \$90,000-\$100,000. Councilmember Standfuss will pass on the contact information to Dan and have him talk with them about what he is looking for and bring back some prices to a future meeting.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for April 2019 were lower compared to last year at the same time with 45 calls, 27 reports, 22 traffic stops, 8 citations, 26 mutual assists and 3 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – Schneider reported the school is fairly busy. Schneider talked with the floor company that was down doing work for Tri-Valley and they are available if the floors are looking at being done.
- Dog Licensing Update – Schneider reported that he has been contacted by a few residents that haven't been able to get here because of the Monday thru Thursday office hours and he will get them licensed before the deadline by May 15th.

- *Blighted Property Update* – Schneider reported that he talked with 28 properties before last meeting and he hasn't inspected all of them but he has seen quite a bit of improvement and they have until end of May to get the stuff done. Schneider stated that by next Council meeting if there are still properties that have not cleaned up citations will have been issued and be in the courts.
- *FEMA Update* – Schneider reported that he will be having a telephone conference on May 13th at 10am from the 2018 flooding. Schneider thinks that 75% of the cost spent on the repairs will be received from FEMA for the flooding, which should be approximately \$19,000.00. May 10th at 9am there is another meeting being held for this year's flooding in which Schneider will be attending.
- *Use of Force Training (May 11)* – Schneider reported that the full department will be attending the Use of Force Training being instructed by Rebecca Pieper and ammunition will be purchased for the training on May 11th.
- *Countywide Chiefs' Meeting (April 23)* – Schneider reported that attended the Countywide training. About six (6) police departments and the Sheriff's department attended the meeting.
- *First Response Information* – Schneider reported that the First Response has had 5 calls in the past month. Schneider also reported that EMS week is in two (2) weeks and has already sent in the information to the newspaper.
- *Golf Cart Ordinance* – Councilmember Standfuss asked about the golf cart ordinance. Schneider reported that he spoke with Aaron Walton (City Attorney) and he doesn't have everything yet hoping in the next couple of weeks to get the codification done. Schneider will contact Aaron again to have him send us what he has so we can get it published and start enforcement of the Ordinance. Schneider has not talked to Bruce yet regarding the stickers for the golf carts.
- *Semi's* – Councilmember Malvin mentioned the semi is back on 3rd Street and wondered if he has spoken with him again since the last time. Schneider said he did speak with him and he is allowed to park on 3rd Street as long as he is not loaded. Schneider also spoke with the other semi driver about not using Oak Street.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- *Land Update* – Nothing new to report.
- *Copier Contract* – Dotty was contacted by Marco about the copier we currently have and the price will be going up and they were suppose to send a quote by email for cost for current copier verses a newer copier but at this time Dotty has received nothing. They are looking at going up about 20 plus dollars per month for the current copier.
- *Completed Items* – Payroll taxes paid for the month along with PERA.
- *Office Closed* – The Danube City Office will be closed on Monday, May 27th for Memorial Day.

School Building Updates

Dotty was contacted by Stacy at Tri-Valley regarding the floors in the gym. Dotty was asked to wait until Mayor Alex and Councilmember Krogman went down to the school and looked at it before contacting Stacy but Dotty did not receive an update yet. The Councilmembers discussed the floors and asked Dotty to email Stacy and let her know to budget to do the floors and try and get them done as soon as their fiscal year switches over for budget purposes.

Community Center Updates

Dotty informed the Councilmembers that Joey has been busy painting the walls in the Community Center.

Unfinished Business

Michelle Mortensen – Michelle Mortensen was present to discuss the Renville County West and City of Danube Facility Use Agreement for the school building in Danube. The City Attorney, Aaron Walton, reviewed the agreement and had a concern about the use of the words priority and exclusive. Dotty did speak with Michelle prior to the meeting and Michelle had a new agreement with the word exclusive changed to priority under number 1 and number 3. Michelle did ask that one thing that the Renville County West Board would like is a breakdown of what the money went for down at the school.

Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve signing the agreement with Renville County West with the changes of exclusive to priority. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from April 17, 2019 thru May 8, 2019.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$26,579.91 (checks) and \$6,908.53 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from April 9, 2019 thru May 6, 2019.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2019.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliations for April 2019.

The Councilmembers reviewed the 1st Quarter Breakdown for the School, Water, Sewer and Garbage Financials.

New Business

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

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

SW MN USSOLAR – Solar Garden – Aaron Harms and Joel Mathiowetz spoke with the Councilmembers about taking part in a Community Solar Garden located just southeast of Danube. They also reviewed information about how the garden works and what benefit the City would receive from the garden. The Councilmembers discussed the solar garden and asked Dotty to contact surrounding towns and see what percentages they subscribed to a solar garden. The Council will discuss the solar garden at the June meeting.

Fire Department – Brian Block, Fire Chief, gave Dotty a letter to give to the Councilmembers. The letter stated:

Dear members of the Danube City Council,

The Danube Volunteer Fire Department would like to inform you of our recent happenings. We as a department are trying to get a Fema grant for a new tanker tender truck. Our current unit

#434 “flame truck” is an unreliable and unsafe truck to operate, that is leaking water from the tank. With a lot of your fire calls being mutual aid to our surrounding fire departments for water assistance in a rural situation, the need for a new truck is a huge priority for us. We are also looking to apply for a second FEMA grant to replace our outdated air packs and turn out gear that do not meet NFPA 1500 standards. These are our most important items of personal protective equipment. We need these to be safe and operate at our best to protect our community and the surrounding area.

We have hired a grant writer to assist us in increasing our chances of being awarded one or both of the before stated grants. Since we did not budget this for the fiscal year 2019, we paid for this from our smelt fry account at no cost to the City. We will be budgeting the \$1,500 for this in the upcoming years. The hired grant writer will be in touch with our city clerk to get information to make sure the application is written to the best of their ability.

We also purchased a cordless ram and attachment kit to be used for our rescue department. This ram is used alongside of our cordless spreader/cutter tool, that the Fireman’s Relief bought last year, for auto and farm machinery rescues. This tool came at the cost of approx \$6,800. The money to pay for this is to come from our rescue capital outlay. That money was donated to us by the townships and the City of Danube. We wrote a letter and sent it out to the residents of the area asking for financial support to extend our abilities as a Fire and Rescue Department. We received donations totaling over \$3,500 from private parties in our fire district and from surrounding communities. The Fireman’s Relief will be writing a check to the City for the total amount of donations received to be put in to our Rescue Capital Outlay.

Sincerely,

Danube Fire Dept. Chief

Brian Block

The Councilmembers discussed the letter from Brian Block, Fire Chief.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the Fire Department to purchase a cordless ram and attachment kit from Fire Safety USA for the Rescue Department using the funds from Capital Outlay raised from the townships. The motion carried unanimously.

Future Business

The subscription into a Solar Garden is to be discussed at the June meeting.

Correspondence

League of MN Cities – Local Government Workshop

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Gene Alex, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk