

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 9, 2018 7:00 PM**  
**Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on May 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Alex presiding.

The following Councilmembers were present: Cathy Malvin, Dave Maurice and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: Sharon Krogman

Others Present: Pastor Keith Mercer, Rod Black, Eric Jensen, Al Schochenmaier, Stan Malecek, Police Chief Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition to Building Permit – Amendment – Prairie Meats under Consent Agenda, Fire Department and Blighted Property under Old/Unfinished Business and Shed ordinance Variance under Future Business. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Maurice 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 Special Meeting of April 11, 2018
- Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 11, 2018
- Building Permit – 400 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street – Shed, Lean-To, Fence and Cement Patio
- Building Permit – 402 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street – Storage/Concession Stand/Restroom
- Building Permit – Prairie Meats Amendment to Existing Building Permit

**Open Forum**

Pastor Keith Mercer – Regarding having three (3) dogs – Pastor Keith spoke with the Councilmembers about being able to keep his three (3) dogs in town. Pastor Keith asked the Councilmembers for a variance to allow him to keep his two (2) Shih Tzu and one (1) Labrador. The Councilmembers discussed the request but decided it was best to deny the variance to prevent other residents from coming forward and asking for a variance also.

Historical Society – Members from the Historical Society spoke with the Councilmembers regarding the building they are looking at constructing by the Depot. One of the concerns was the construction insurance and the Councilmembers said that the City would carry the insurance for a starting point of \$65,000.00 and the Historical Society would need to let Dotty know if the amount is more than that. The Historical Society also had concerns about putting in a bathroom and the grade of the land. The Councilmembers asked that they speak with the Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg and the City Engineer Lee Elfering. The Historical Society also inquired about the Danube Legion Memorial and the setbacks. The Councilmembers encouraged the Historical Society to speak with Renville County regarding it because County Road 1 is the County's and they should make sure to follow their setbacks regarding the placement of the memorial.

### **Employee Report – Chief of Police**

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for April 2018 were higher compared to last year at the same time with 53 calls, 32 reports, 29 traffic stops, 12 citations, 34 mutual assists and 2 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – Schneider reported that the school is being used daily. JO volleyball finished last week and youth baseball used the gym but is now done. Tri-Valley has been hiring new employees so Schneider has been in and out helping them with that.
- Ordinance #74 Enforcement (May 15) – Schneider reported that May 15<sup>th</sup> will be the enforcement date for licensing the dogs. Schneider has been dealing with barking complaints.
- Training Updates – Schneider reported that he did go to the League of MN Cities training on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and received 6 credits for attending the classes.
- Firearms Instructor Certification (Pieper) – Schneider reported that Rebecca Pieper completed her Use of Force course; however the Firearms course is not being held due to a lack of attendance so Rebecca Pieper will be looking at getting into a different one to get the training.
- First Response Information – Schneider reported that the First Responders will be having a meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Schneider also reported that he will be placing an order for some medical equipment to be purchased for the items that have been used this year.
- Dump Site – Councilmember Standfuss reported that now that Darrell Mattson is no longer helping the City to have the part-time police officers lock up the gate at the brush site at night so Dan does not have to come back to lock it up. Schneider said that the police officers could lock the brush site at nights and on Saturdays.
- Truck Parking – Councilmember Standfuss also informed the Councilmembers that semi trucks are parking on side streets that are not truck routes and the trucks are sometimes loaded and the streets are not made for that kind of weight. Schneider said he will keep an eye out and talk to the truck drivers about where to park their trucks.
- 4 Wheelers – Councilmember Standfuss also voiced concerns about 4 wheelers going around town with children 5 and under on the back of the 4 wheeler and no helmets. Schneider will also watch for this and address the issue.
- Blighted Property – Councilmember Maurice asked Schneider if he was handling the blighted properties. Schneider said he will be handling the blighted properties.

Councilmember Maurice gave Schneider a list of properties that he saw that need to be addressed. The Councilmembers also discussed other properties that they were aware of.

### Employee Report – Public Works Director

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

- Streets – Midwest Asphalt is available to air patching this year. The cost will be \$2800 per load/day. We have a lot of larger spots that are in need. I would like to have them here for 5 days instead of 3. There are also a few spots that are broken up and crumbling that I will also be getting a quote from Caldwell Asphalt to dig out and replace. Since there has been no sealcoating done in last 15 years the city streets overall are getting very cracked up and alligated. Air patching is like doing sealcoating but in smaller spots. It's tough to decide where to start and where to stop when the whole block needs it. The city needs to have a plan in place to address the overall problem for the future. This is something to talk with the engineer about.

The Councilmembers discussed the streets and decided to have Dan talk with the City Engineer Lee Elfering regarding Maple Street because that street is too bad to do air patching to anymore.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to approve Midwest Asphalt to do air patching from 3 up to 5 days at a cost of \$2,800.00 per day but not doing any work on Maple Street. The motion carried unanimously.*

- Wastewater – I received one quote from R&H Painting to do manhole rehab. They charge \$400 a vertical foot. The manholes I'm looking at doing range from 7' to 16' deep. Overall average would be about \$4500 per manhole. This is the company that completely waterproofs the manhole and gives a 10-year warranty on their work. No one else will warranty that long. The cost on the last manholes we did was \$2200. I am still waiting on more quotes from other companies. With the frost coming out the liftstation pumping totals have doubled recently and are slowly coming down. I contacted Serbus gravel for riprap around the ponds. The price is \$28 per ton. I would like to have 3 loads brought in which would be around 56 ton for \$1600.00.

The Councilmembers discussed the manholes and decided to take no action at this time on rehabbing any.

*Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve Serbus Gravel to haul loads of riprap to the ponds at a cost of \$28.00 per ton as needed. The motion carried unanimously.*

- Water – I have been flushing hydrants the last couple of weeks. The Wells averaged 25,000 for the month of April.
- School – The boilers are off at the school for the season. When new coil is in Chappell Central will be installing in gym entrance.
- Mosquito Spray – I contacted Farmward and they were able to get the spray we use in our fogger. The price was about the same as what we were paying. I had them order 55 gallons since it was already preapproved.
- TDS - Internet – TDS came and installed the new internet hookup at the cityshop/police office. I also talked with them about their building not being in code for their roof drain and sump pump. They were going to address the problem.

- Future Areas of Need – Streets - water mains - storm sewer, water meters, sanitary, mower, snow removal equipment, and pickup. These are all area that will need to be addressed for update or replacement.
- Crack Sealing – Dan would like \$1,500 for crack sealing from Midwest Asphalt for Second Street East. This is beyond that air patching yet to be done.  
*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to approve Midwest Asphalt to crack seal Second Street East for \$1,500.00. The motion carried unanimously.*
- Overhead Door – Councilmember Maurice reported Dan will contact Square One Building to bring paint chips over to match the color and get it fixed.
- Lawn mower – Councilmember Maurice reported that Dan is working on getting bids for a lawn mower.

### **Employee Report – City Clerk**

- Vacant Lot - Update – Dotty has no new information. Next month this item will be put on the agenda to discuss possibly allowing the property to be reclassified as Commercial instead of Residential.
- Vacation – Dotty will be taking Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> off.
- Auto Owners Insurance Follow-up – Dotty spoke with Americana Insurance and the refund was due to a double coverage on the boiler down at the school.
- Completed Items – Dotty has filed the monthly payroll taxes.

### **School Building Updates**

Mayor Alex reported that Al Strunc visited with Emily Olinger, other than that there was nothing else to report.

### **Community Center Updates**

Councilmember Malvin gave an update on the custodian position at the Community Center. After interviewing the two individuals that applied Councilmember Malvin and Krogman would recommend hiring Joey Jensen as the custodian for the Community Center.

*Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to hire Joey Jensen as the custodian at the Community Center at \$18.00 per hour. The motion carried unanimously*

### **Unfinished Business**

Vacant Lot – Just a reminder that the Council will be discussing the vacant lot that is for sale.

Fire Department Letter – The Councilmembers received a letter from the Fire Chief Brian Block at the beginning of the meeting.

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you tonight but I have asked Mayor Alex to read this in my absence. Recently the Danube Fire Department sent out letters to our surrounding townships asking for donations to help fund our Rescue Department. We have had two of the townships show interest so far, being Henryville and Troy. Each of these townships is questioning what the City of Danube is willing to contribute. Between the two townships there is a possibility of a

\$4,000.00 donation. With some funding from the City, we could get these two townships to commit, and would hopefully help persuade other townships to follow. I am asking that you please put some time and thought into this and help support our Fire Department. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. – Brian Block, Danube Fire Chief

The Councilmembers discussed the letter and made a motion regarding the letter.

*Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to move \$5,000.00 into the Fire Department Capital Outlay.* The motion carried unanimously

Blighted Property – The Councilmembers discussed this under the Employee Report - Chief of Police.

### **Financial Reports**

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from April 12, 2018 thru May 08, 2018.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$36,038.98 (checks) and \$10,777.34 (electronic fund transfers).* The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from April 10, 2018 thru May 7, 2018.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2018.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliations for April 2018.

### **New Business**

ReneSola Power Holdings – Solar Garden – Eric Jensen spoke with the Councilmembers about taking part in a Community Solar Garden. Eric reviewed information about how the garden works and what benefit the City would receive from the garden. The Councilmembers at the end of the presentation asked for more specific numbers for the City of Danube for the June meeting for the Council to make a decision at that time.

*Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve signing the release for Xcel Energy to provide the information to Renesola and providing any other financial information that Rensola needs from the City.* The motion carried unanimously.

Renville County Assessment Agreement – The Councilmembers reviewed the Assessment Agreement from Renville County.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to approve signing the Assessment Agreement with Renville County.* The motion carried unanimously.

Shed Ordinance Variance – 305 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Councilmember Standfuss spoke with the Councilmembers regarding a shed that he is looking at putting on his property. After reviewing the information it was determined that Councilmember Standfuss did not need a variance for the shed he was looking at putting on his property.

**Future Business** – None

**Correspondence**

Volunteer Fire Relief Association Investment Report Card  
Xcel Energy – Pole Attachment FAQ

*There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

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Gene Alex, Mayor

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Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk