

DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 7:00 PM
Danube City Community Center

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on June 9, 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: DeeAnne Newville, Roger Manthee, Jillian Hansen – US Solar, Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Police Chief Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting with the additions of Bar Door Open in case of weather on Saturday, July 10th under Consent Agenda and Joint Fire Services under Correspondence. 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 with the correction on the Special Council Meeting minutes of to make sure a new problem isn't being created. 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 May 12, 2021
- Minutes of Special Meeting of May 26, 2021
- Bar Door Open – Saturday, June 26, 2021 – Baptism
- Bar Door Open – Saturday, July 10, 2021 – Fun Days

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 boilers are now off for the season. They will be drained down and cleaned. Then they will need to be inspected again by the state boiler inspector. The burners will need to be serviced by Chappell Central to ensure they are clean and running proper and efficiently.
- Water – Back in May there was a small water main break on 2nd ST S. just off HWY 212. Bonnema Excavating was here to dig and repair the line. Gravel was ordered from Haney's Construction to fill the hole. The wells averaged 58,000 gal/day for the month of May. The numbers were higher due to Farmward filling their tanks. I will be flushing hydrants soon.
- Sanitary – The lift station is in need of a cleaning. Lauritsen Septic who we've been using in the past is no longer doing it due to retirement. I've been reaching out to find new companies to take this on. The cost of the cleanings will likely go up due to other companies being further away.
- Streets – I began patching some potholes that are in the driveline on some streets. I will be also addressing some of the broken-up spots around town where the asphalt has lifted up.
- School – Councilmember Krogman spoke to the Councilmembers about removing the planter in front of the school by the flag pole. She found out from Rod Black it is an upside-down bell and there is no attachment to it. The Depot would take the planter. The Councilmembers were in favor of moving the planter to the Depot.
- Watermain and Sewermain Meeting – Mayor Alex reported that Councilmember Standfuss, Dan Kaufenberg, Jeremy Moore, Jay Koester, the contractor and himself met down by HWY 212 and 5th Street to review the time schedule of the project. Dotty shared a copy of the timeline for the Councilmembers to look at. Mayor Alex also reported he got a copy of the tiling in Danube from a farmer and will get those to Dan.

Jeremy was not present for the Council meeting.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for May 2021 were lower compared to last year at the same time with 47 calls, 24 reports, 27 traffic stops, 12 citations, 22 mutual assists and 3 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – Tri-Valley starts with students on June 14, and we continue working with them.
- Use of Force Policies and Training – The first full department UOF training was held on June 6, including all the physical changes that had to be added to the required training. The hands-on and restraints trained on have completely changed from previous years, as required by the new State legislation put on Police Departments in Minnesota.

Councilmember Standfuss asked Schneider how many officers were trained. Schneider responded he trained eight (8) and had one (1) resign prior to training.

- Codification Updates – The dog licensing is continuing, and I have advised residents of late fees and getting this completed. Blighted properties that have not complied have been issued citations per updated Codification.
- Renville County Chief's Meeting – The six City police Chiefs and the County Sheriff and Chief Deputy met in Olivia on May 26 at 1:30pm for approximately three hours. This is the first meeting we have had in over a year, and many policy and procedural issues were discussed. The main problem covered for area law enforcement is the lack of potential officers to hire in the area. Our Police Dept. is the only area department not having an officer shortage at this time.
- First Response Update – The Danube First Response had 44-plan training on May 27 through Ridgewater College. Training consisted of patient assessment, burn treatment, fractures/splinting and OB emergencies.

Councilmember Standfuss asked how many dog licenses have been issued to date.

Schneider thought it was around 80 and the total will be around 90-95 total licenses.

Dotty thought it was just under 80 currently issued. Mayor Alex asked what the timeline was for the licensing. Schneider explained that in total it is 90 days before he can issue a citation per the Codification ordinance. Mayor Alex also asked how many houses in town have more than 2 dogs. Schneider reported he knows of one (1) that he has been fighting with in court but he has heard it is two (2).

Employee Report – City Clerk

- Land Update – Nothing new to report.
- Completed Items – Dotty has filed PERA and Payroll Taxes for the month.
- Office Closed & Vacation – The Office will be closed on Monday, July 5th for observance of July 4th.

School Building Updates

Councilmember Krogman reported that Sandy from Tri-Valley applied for a grant for the doors down at the school and they were awarded the grant. Sandy will be going through Nationwide for the doors and working with Dan. Councilmember Krogman also reported that there were some fire code violations that need to be addressed. They are minor issues like sign on the door with address and flood lights not working. Schneider reported that he was asked to be at the school when the Fire Marshall came down to go through the school. Mayor Alex reported that on Tuesday at 9:30am they will be having a short meeting down at the school with Mayor Alex, Councilmember Krogman and Dan to go through the list given by the Fire Marshall.

Community Center Updates

Dotty asked that the Councilmembers be willing to make a motion to allow Dotty to just follow any Executive Orders if something happens instead of waiting for Council meetings to make changes at the Community Center.

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve allowing the City Clerk to follow the executive orders relating to capacity limits for the Community Center renting instead of bringing it to the Council meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Renville Sibley Coop Storm Shelter Grant – Mayor Alex asked Dotty if she would read the letter from the attorney. Dotty asked that one of the Councilmembers to read it if they wished to read it out loud. Mayor Alex summarized the email to those present at the meeting. Mayor Alex reported that the grant that was proposed to help with the shelter, we can't use that for private corporations, those funds can't be used for that purpose without benefiting everyone in the town of Danube. So our hands are tied at this point. Legally unless we can find a different grant to do. Dotty clarified that it's not the grant it's the taxpayer funds side of it that the Councilmembers agreed to take on, which is the over \$30,000. DeeAnne informed the Councilmembers that they just met with the County two (2) days ago and they said actually the way we have this written up is exactly what FEMA is looking for. They give extra credit for entering into a private public partnership to provide a saferoom and community shelter. Councilmember Krogman commented on the primary use of the structure according to the attorney email. DeeAnne also commented that the County said this was exactly what they are looking for it's a structure that is there for another use. Schneider reported that the County Emergency Manager told him that the City would have to own the building in order to apply for the grant and use public funds. Councilmember Krogman stated that is essentially what the attorney is also saying we can't use public taxpayer money for a privately owned business. DeeAnne said that the County referenced that the 25% could come out of budgeted funds so there are rules on where it can and can't come from. DeeAnne asked that the Councilmembers look further into it. Mayor Alex asked DeeAnne to go and talk to Jordan with the Renville County EDA if there was a way for the City to stay out of participating but still get the grant for you. DeeAnne informed Mayor Alex that it is FEMA not through the County. Dotty commented that when she spoke to Mike Hennen, he recommended contacting FEMA and talking to them directly to get all the information regarding if the City could apply, collect the funds and hand them over to a private business. Mayor Alex commented that Renville EDA may have other grants out there that Renville Sibley could apply for. Councilmember asked who Renville Sibley met with from the County. DeeAnne responded that it was Mike Hennen and Samantha Best. Councilmember Krogman suggested maybe they need to go back and speak with them as the City is being told they cannot do it. Dotty said she would be willing to try and get a hold of FEMA and ask them if the City could apply and get funds for a private business. Dotty informed the Councilmembers the problem is you only submit an application of interest not knowing any of the information or rules of the grant but she is willing to try, she can't guarantee she will get the answers but at least try to see if they can apply for it and the rules of the grant. Mayor Alex commented that back at the October meeting they didn't run it past the attorney and it coming up all of sudden neither. The best they can do is check into it and no decision can be made at this time but to address the motion from October 14, 2020.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to rescind the motion from October 14, 2020 of participating in the Hazard Mitigation Grant for a storm shelter. The motion carried unanimously.

DeeAnne mentioned that she thinks that they should do what they were trying to do last week and get everyone in a room together to see if there is any way they can do this. Mayor Alex responded there has been lots of things that have held us up. DeeAnne extended an invite to the Councilmembers and staff for on June 24, 2021 to the annual meeting for Renville Sibley Cooperative.

US Solar Garden – Jillian Hansen from US Solar spoke with the Councilmembers about the papers that she provided to them regarding subscribing to the solar garden with the remaining percentage the City of Danube has available. The Councilmembers discussed the solar garden subscription and benefits with Jillian.

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve subscribing the remaining 40% of the 120% of the current electricity usage into US Solar upon the attorney reviewing and approving the US Solar Sunscription Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from May 13, 2021 thru June 9, 2021.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$35,241.17 (checks) and \$7,990.57 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

Dotty spoke with the Councilmembers regarding not all bills have been received for May and would like to have permission to pay those bills when they come in. The Councilmembers asked that Dotty send an email to the Councilmembers who the bills are for, what they are for and the amount of them. Dotty did think it was just the Attorney bill and possibly one other bill.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from May 11, 2021 thru June 3, 2021.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2021.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliation for May.

Councilmember Standfuss asked about the Farmward Coop's usage and the affect it has on the water tower. Dan reported that they have 4 or 5 meters out there that he reads. Dan also reported that the water tower is maintaining but the pumps are constantly running.

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.

Correspondence

Joint Fire Services

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Gene Alex, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk