

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, June 10, 2015 7:00 PM  
Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on June 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Alex presiding.

The following Councilmembers were present: Sharon Krogman, Dave Maurice, Phil Standfuss, and Al Strunc

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Aloha Ridler, Charles Ridler, Police Chief Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Strunc seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as listed below with one date change and two spelling changes to the May 13, 2015 meeting minutes. 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 13, 2015
- Building Permit – Fence – Casey Lippert
- Approve Liquor License for Firemen’s Keg Shoot on July 12, 2015

**Open Forum**

Aloha Ridler – Aloha informed the Councilmembers that she has been having a water issue for over two years and nothing has been about it. Aloha contacted John Blomme from Community Water Public Supply Unit to report the issue. Aloha stated that she has an oily substance in her water and that it is more visible in the hot water than the cold water. She stated that the substance is similar to baby oil. She has a cousin who is a chemist and will have him check her water quality. After the water is checked she will report the results back to the Councilmembers the results.

### **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 – Tri Valley starts up next week on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Dan should have their list off things needing improvements done within the week. Mostly what's left is a few floor tiles and some toe kick strips in some of the rooms. The Boilers are now hopefully off for the season. Dan will begin tearing them down and making some more of the improvements on the insurance checklist. Dan will also contact Great Plains natural gas and have them shut off the gas for boilers to prevent minimum charges over the summer.
- Water – The wells averaged 32,000 gal/day for the month of May. Dan has contacted Servocal Instruments to help get the water tower set up for when Coop starts using water. Once they help set it up Dan should be able to switch back and forth by myself from then on.
- Wastewater – The City of Danube had a plugged pump in the lift Station over Memorial weekend. It had a chunk of asphalt in it that eventually plugged it solid. The pump had to be pulled and taken apart to get it unplugged. Dan was here from 8pm-11pm on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Streets – RMK has replaced the sidewalk section in front of the school. Dan will be trying to spray weeds around town within the week. Dan also plans to start painting some of the curbs next week. Dan has tried to contact Monsons Excavating to do the water main break patch on Freedom and no one returns his calls. Dan contacted Duininck and they quoted \$2460.00. Would like to just have Duininck do the job. The City of Danube is on Gliedens list to do air patching this summer.  
*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to hire Duininck to patch the water main break on Freedom for \$2,460.00. The motion carried unanimously.*
- Vacation – Just another reminder that Dan will be gone June 24<sup>th</sup>-29th

### **Employee Report – City Clerk**

- Grant Writing Books Purchase Update – Dotty ordered the four books and the cost came to \$39.01. The original amount was \$61.95 that was approved. All four books have been received.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday – Being July 4<sup>th</sup> is on a Saturday and is a paid holiday does the holiday move to Monday to give the employees a paid day off?  
The Councilmembers discussed the issue and asked Dotty to contact surrounding cities, Renville County and/or State and follow how they handle the holidays when it falls on a weekend or a non business day.
- Water Meters – Dotty has continued to contact other towns and so far there is none out there that have tried to receive any grant money for putting in new meters. Dotty has talked with one individual that mentioned that they received a grant for their water tower and it was received from the Obama Revitalizing America Grant (or something to that extent they thought). Dotty is in the process of trying to find this grant and how to apply for it and if it is still a valid grant. So far everything Dotty has found hit a dead end but Dotty will continue the search for this possible grant for the water tower.
- MNDOT Research – Dotty was asked to contact MNDOT to see if the CCFE could possibly get a second entrance/exit on HWY 212 and/or get the speed zone extended out

past the CCFE turn. Dotty emailed Geri Vick about the entrance/exit and emailed John Hager about the speed zone area. Geri Vick from MNDOT called Dotty on Monday. Geri explained that the CCFE could possibly ask for a second entrance/exit on HWY 212. The entrance/exit would have to be located where there is a field approach. The field approach is located on the north side of HWY 212 between the third and fourth pole from the ball field. Geri said they could ask but could not say if they would receive it or not because MNDOT has already spent money on already giving them a right turning lane and adding a bypass lane. Both of these items were given for safety issues. Geri also informed Dotty that the City of Danube could contact Randy Lindstrom, traffic engineer, from MNDOT and ask that a speed study be conducted to see what speed 85 percentile of the public is traveling at in that area. Geri did say it may be best to wait until after CCFE has finished some more of the construction before asking for a speed study because the affects may not occur until after the addition of the warehouse and office building are completed.

- Special Meeting – Dotty scheduled the special meeting for July 8, 2015 at 6:00 pm to talk about Oak Street, however, Dotty received an email from Gordon Hansmeier, CCFE's attorney, asking that the meeting be moved to 7:00 pm because he will be at a jury trial in Alexandria. Would you prefer that the normal City Council meeting start at 6:00 pm and break at 7:00 pm to hold the special meeting and resume to the normal meeting after the end of the special meeting. Dotty figures if we break for the special meeting then hopefully the meeting will not go until late on July 8, 2015 especially since Fun Days will be occurring during that week.

The Councilmembers discussed the request and decided that the Special Meeting will be held at 7:00 pm and the regular City Council Meeting will follow the Special Meeting.

- CD Renewed – Dotty called the banks in the area for interest rates on May 27, 2015 regarding the CD that came due on May 26, 2015. Hometown Bank was .25% for 1 year; Minnwest Bank .25% for 1 year and .60% for 15 months; Dawson Coop was .85% for 1 year. Dotty invested the funds with Dawson Coop for 1 year.
- Renville County – Jeff Marlowe – Dotty received a call from Jeff Marlowe stating that he along with the person who is in charge of signs will be coming over to Danube to review the signs on County Road #1. While Jeff is in town he will also look at the location of where Danube asked if a crosswalk (intersection of County Road #1 and Oak Street) could be placed.
- Hiring Community Center Custodian – Joyce (HR Dept at the League of Minnesota Cities) – Dotty sent the League of Minnesota Cities asking if the City of Danube had to advertise the position of custodian needed at the Community Center. Joyce called Dotty on Tuesday, June 10, 2015 and informed Dotty that she felt that the City of Danube should advertise the position. Joyce stated that by not advertising the position available you leave the City of Danube more susceptible to any kind of discrimination. Joyce also thought that this position would qualify for Veterans preference in hiring. Dotty has a copy of the Minnesota Veterans Preference Act if anybody would like to review it. Joyce did suggest that you contact the City Attorney and see if he would advise the City to advertise the position or not.
- Property Tax Check – With the check from the county of \$109,108.27 can we take those funds to Edward Jones to invest in CDs since Minnwest Bank checking and savings account would exceed the \$250,000 FDIC limits? Also at that point then the City of Danube could work on moving the funds from Hometown Bank also that are getting really low interest.

Councilmember Strunc asked Dotty to email Sara Beavers (auditor for the City of Danube) asking her to verify that the monies invested into CDs at Edward Jones would be covered by FDIC the same as funds invested in CDs at the local banks.

*Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to deposit the property tax check of \$109,108.27 at Edward Jones in Olivia. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to withdraw the \$126,746.41 from Hometown Bank and deposit the funds at Edward Jones in Olivia. 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 May 2015 were higher to last year at the same time with 59 calls, 28 reports, 45 traffic stops, 18 citations, 32 mutual assists and 3 home security checks.

Additional business discussed:

- School Building Update - Schneider informed the Councilmembers that he has been helping Dan on moving some stuff out of the school.
- Memorial Day Program Assistance – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that he assisted with the Memorial Day program on May 25, 2015. Schneider also did some cleaning down at the school.
- Dog Issue Updates – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that 2 dogs were removed from the City (which included the potentially dangerous dog). The individuals agreed to pay damages.
- Blighted Property Update – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that there has been improvement on some of them and about a handful that have made no improvements. Councilmember asked why we are waiting before anything is done to those that have not done anything about their blighted property. Schneider thought there would be about 6 capitations given out if he were to issue them. Councilmember did not want Schneider to wait until Fun Days before issuing citations. Schneider reported that there are 3 individuals that are repeat offenders. Councilmember Strunc stated that he is in favor with being flexible with those who are making effort to fix the issues but not those who have done nothing and are repeat offenders every year on the same issues. Citations will be issued to the repeat offenders who have made no attempt on addressing issues from the blighted property letters.
- POST License Renewals – Schneider informed that he renewed his POST License online.
- Fun Days Planning – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that the schedule is complete and that he will be getting barricades from the City of Olivia again. Dan Kaufenberg will be getting the picnic tables. Mosquito spraying will start this weekend (June 12, 2015).
- Use of Force Training Completed by Full Dept (6-13-15) – Schneider reported that the police department will be attending the Use of Force Training on June 13, 2015.
- MCPA Twins Cards Program – Schneider reported that he received the Twin cards to pass out to the kids.
- First Response Information – Schneider reported that the 44 training was on May 28, 2015. The First Responders are having some issues with getting their certification cards.

Email changes have been the main issue. Ridgewater will assist with getting the certification up to date if they continue to have problems with it online.

### **School Building Updates**

Councilmember Strunc reported that he asked Dotty to do some research on the fence that was removed at the school because a Danube resident contacted the City to see if they would be interested in selling the fence. Dotty reported that she researched the information online and the fence is approximately 216 linear feet and approximately 43 poles. The cost for new fence and poles was approximately \$1,654.68. The Councilmembers discussed the fence and decided that they would sell the fence and poles for \$500.00 and \$400.00 if there are no poles. Councilmember Strunc informed the Councilmembers the air conditioner in the lunch room was not working. The air conditioner was already there prior to Tri-Valley. Strunc told Dan to contact Goblirsch to fix the air conditioner if it is worth fixing and if not to put in a new air conditioner. Councilmember Strunc has not heard at this time if the air conditioner was repaired or replaced.

### **Community Center Updates**

Councilmember Maurice reported that the dishwasher started working on its own so a repair person was not called to look at it. If the dishwasher starts acting up again at that time they will call to have it looked at. Councilmembers reviewed the advertisement to be placed in the paper and gave a deadline for applicants of June 30, 2015. Councilmember Maurice and Councilmember Krogman will get together on July 1, 2015 to review the applications and decide which applicants to interview for the position and to make the decision on whom to hire.

### **Unfinished Business**

*Ordinance #83 – Sidewalk Improvement Districts – REA Sidewalk* – Councilmember Maurice reported that he and Councilmember Standfuss went around town reviewing sidewalks and found that there are about 12 to 20 spots that could get away with grinding instead of replacing the sidewalks. The Councilmembers discussed the issue and asked Dotty to contact Renville to see who had done the grinding on their sidewalks.

*Ordinance #103 – Establishing Fees Fire Department Services* – Mayor Alex reported that he talked to Fire Chief Wersal and he asked the City to approve the amendment and in about 6 months from now that the fees may change due to the shared services.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to pass Ordinance #103 – Establishing Fees for Emergency Fire Department services.* The motion carried unanimously.

*Water Tower* – Dotty reported that she had nothing new to report on the water tower but included in on the agenda to see if the Council would like to move forward on the issue. Councilmember Maurice reminded the Councilmembers that City Engineer Lee Elfering recommended building a new water tower than to refurbish the existing. The Councilmembers discussed the water tower issue. The Councilmembers decided to have Lee Elfering put together the specifications together for restoring the current water tower and building a new water tower and then obtain actual bids for the Councilmembers to make a decision on how to move forward on the water tower issue. Mayor Alex and Councilmember Maurice will review the email that will be sent to Lee regarding the water tower.

**Financial Reports**

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list and receipts list from May 14, 2015 thru June 10, 2015.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Strunc seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$21,709.78 (checks) and \$8,354.96 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.*

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2015.  
The Councilmembers reviewed the reconciled bank statement for May 2015.

**New Business** - None

**Future Business**

**Correspondence**

The Councilmembers received the following informational material in their packets:

1. League of Minnesota Cities Letter – Dues Schedule
2. MAOSC – Membership Benefits Handout

**Adjournment**

*There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

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Gene Alex, Mayor

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Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk