

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:00 PM  
Danube City Community Center**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on June 10, 2020 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: Carrie Garza, Sharon Krogman, Cathy Malvin and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Joey Jensen, Diane Pfarr, Jeff Freitag, Nancy Standfuss, Jeremy Boots – Moore Engineering, Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Police Chief Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Standfuss 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 May 13, 2020
- Minutes of Special Meeting of June 1, 2020
- Building Permit – 101 East Maple Street – Patio
- Building Permit – 101 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Privacy Fence

**Open Forum**

**Joey Jensen and Diane Pfarr** – Joey spoke with the Councilmembers about since Danube Fun Days was cancelled that if JJ's Bar and Grill and Main Street Café could do something on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. JJ's Bar and Grill will do all the alcohol and Main Street Café would do all the food. The thought is to block off part of the road and do a DJ and food from about 8pm to 12:00 midnight. The Councilmembers discussed different concerns such as social distancing, hand sanitizing, bathrooms, space and road use by the Renville County. Joey mentioned that he had other ideas but it has come to his attention other people have made other plans for on

Saturday also that he wished not to discuss. Dotty asked since Codification Danube has added Special Events and Street Dances and a permit is required but Danube Fun Days was excluded because it was a town celebration does she need to contact the attorney to find out if this is okay and if there was anything we need to be aware of.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve JJ's Bar and Grill and Main Street Café to hold a special outdoor celebration (due to not having Fun Days) on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 8pm to 12:00 midnight with them following all COVID-19 procedure rules along with checking with the Aaron Walton, City Attorney and Jeff Marlowe from Renville County for road use and a call vote of all Councilmembers. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Nancy Standfuss – Yellowstone Trail Alliance Signs** – Nancy spoke with the Councilmembers about the progress of the Yellowstone Trail Alliance. She spoke about working on making a map allowing business to advertise on them. The area is from Buffalo Lake to Ortonville. An event they are looking at is socialability run which is an anti-car run that possibly could be held on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The Yellowstone Trail is asking towns along the Yellowstone Trail to put signs up on both sides of their towns to highlight the trial. The cost per sign is \$30 and they are asking for the Cities to purchase the signs. Nancy said the City would need to talk to MNDOT regarding putting up the signs. Mayor Alex asked if they could just put up the signs on the City Limits poles. Dan did mention that there is already 2 signs below the Danube sign. On Friday the Yellowstone Trail is having a Zoom meeting and everyone is welcome to pop in and join. Nancy will send Dotty the link on how to get the permit through MNDOT. The Councilmembers discussed the signs and asked Dotty to contact MNDOT to find out what the cost is to put up a sign on a post on the north side of the road on the east side of town and a sign on the south side of the road on the west side of town.

### **Employee Report – Public Works Director**

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

- Water – I would like to purchase 2 dehumidifiers for the well houses. These will help with condensation and premature rusting of pipes and equipment. The cost will be \$200.00 each. The wells averaged 42,000 gal/day for the month of May. Usage was higher than normal due to Farmward filling their tanks.
- Sanitary – A second pond discharge was done in the month of May. All samples were well within the limits. I'm still waiting on Lauritsen Septic to come clean the lift station. They got behind on their schedule. I will stay on them to get out here. The department has received the bacteria from Hawkins Chemical and they have been disbursed into the secondary pond. The Lift station pumped an average of 52,000 gal/day for the month of May.
- Storm – There is another sinkhole in the alley behind Farmward building. I will be televising it to determine the problem and getting it fixed.
- Streets – Midwest Asphalt has been contacted to do some crack sealing on 2<sup>nd</sup> St E. and Railroad Ave. I have been spraying weeds along the curbs in town. We will be painting curbs in the next couple of weeks also. When we do we will widen the corner by Flora Ins.

- TDS Internet – Councilmember Malvin asked if the internet was taken care of. Dan said he spoke with TDS and now they are getting better internet down at the Maintenance Shop and is still waiting to hear back on a possible refund. Councilmember Malvin asked then if we still needed the hotspots on the phones. Dotty said she no longer needed. Dan said he would prefer the internet and no longer needed it. Les said he was fine with the internet provided it keeps working. It was decided to have Les cancel the hotspot on all three (3) phones with Verizon.

### **Moore Engineering – Jeremy Boots**

Jeremy Boots informed the Councilmembers that had a meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> with Mayor Alex, Councilmember Standfuss and Dan Kaufenberg to get guidance on televising. The pricing for Johnson Jet-Line has not changed so the prices are the same as the sheet at last month's meeting. It was discussed doing It was decided at the Committee Meeting that they would like to clean and televise the Sanitary (\$22,500.00); clean and televise the Strom (\$25,937.50); and lateral launching (\$26,000.00). Councilmember Krogman asked Dotty to contact Lee Elfering, City Engineer, a question that she had. Both Krogman and Lee Elfering were wondering if the lateral launching can be done as an add on instead of doing it all at once. Dan stated that if they end up coming back the cost would be more because they would end up redoing the main lines again to check the residential lines. Lee's other concerns was needing permission from the residents for if they need to go inside their house or entering private property. The Councilmembers and Jeremy discussed the options further taking into account Lee's questions and concerns.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to approve Johnson Jet-Line to clean and televise the Sanitary; clean and televise the Strom; and lateral launching for the cost of \$74,437.50. The motion carried unanimously.*

Councilmember Malvin asked Jeremy with something like this if there is a public meeting for the residents regarding this. Councilmember Standfuss commented that once we get closer and we know more they discussed holding a public meeting to inform the public on the costs and grants regarding the project and possibly eliminating things. Jeremy said once they get the information they would like to have another Committee meeting with the end results to review. Dan mentioned informing the residents once a date has been picked to let the residents know what is going on just in case so they know what is going on.

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

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for May 2020 were higher compared to last year at the same time with 55 calls, 31 reports, 30 traffic stops, 10 citations, 29 mutual assists and 2 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – Tri-Valley starts with students on June 15, and have been training in the auditorium for the past 1 ½ weeks. With the large total of employees and social distancing required, the gym was the only room that would work. I have been in contact with their Director Sandy on policies as it involves the city. We also assisted in putting carpet on the stands for the partitions used on the gym floor. That will protect the new finish that was put on the gym floor completed on May 12. Tri-Valley paid the contractor around \$900 for the job.
- FEMA Update – I have had multiple phone conferences with Lindsey Hirsch, who is our new contact person on the street projects from FEMA. She requested information on our

street projects from 2019, and is completing that portion. A virtual inspection of the damaged areas of the city street may be the next step.

- First Response Training – First Response 44-plan training took place on May 28 at 6:30pm in the Community Center. The COVID-19 response issues for EMS, and treatment procedures for assisting in patient transport were covered through Ridgewater College.
- Full Department Use of Force Training (June 7) – The entire police dept. attended the eight-hour Use of Force training in Shakopee last Sunday. Training covered all annual required POST mandates, scenario training, and new issue created by the George Floyd incident in Minneapolis. The POST Board has advised that new policies will likely be sent to all MN Police Departments stemming from this incident regarding the use of force in the near future. Our Department has never allowed the knee on the neck/head restraint to be used, except in deadly force situations, unlike the Minneapolis PD.
- County EOC COVID-19 Update – The County EOC meetings that I began attending on May 15 has met twice a week until the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. At that meeting, it was decided to only hold the whole community meeting once a week on Wednesday morning. I will continue to attend these meetings, and send the information to Gene, Dotty, and Brian Block.
- City of Danube COVID-19 Preparedness Plan – Beginning June 29, 2020, all businesses including the City of Danube must develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan according to EO 20-74. On Monday, I was advised to bring a draft of this plan to the council meeting for review. Dotty did mention that the plan could always be changed but the City of Danube has to have one in place by June 29<sup>th</sup>. Dotty did mention according to Governor Walz all government buildings are to require face masks. Councilmember Standfuss asked regarding the masks what kind. Les and Dotty both said just face masks is what was stated not limited to a certain kind. Les did report he did bring Dotty some masks to have at the office to use as she felt needed.  
*Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the City of Danube COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. The motion carried unanimously.*
- Mayor Alex updated Schneider about the Councilmembers decision regarding JJ's Bar and Grill and Main Street Café event since he was not at the beginning of the meeting including that they had to follow the COVID-19 guidelines.
- Blighted Property – Mayor Alex asked about blighted properties and if he has done anything regarding blighted properties. Schneider reported that the worse one the City mowed because he found out she lives in Florida. Schneider also commented that because the courthouse is still closed that he was to be lenient regarding licensing. Once the courthouse opens back up he will pursue the licensing of vehicles. Mayor Alex also asked about the lawn over at 405 1<sup>st</sup> Street and also about the one that went to court last year that is still sitting on their property. Schneider said that he has not received any follow up from last year's on that and he would need to check with the City Attorney on that property. Mayor Alex stated if we can't go through the courts right now to contact them and ask them to clean it up and get it done with. Mayor Alex also brought up about the golf carts and dog licenses. He has people ask about the golf carts and told them to contact Schneider and will give him the names after the meeting tonight. Schneider stated by the next meeting almost all of the golf carts and dogs would be licensed and we wouldn't have anything to worry about. Councilmember Malvin asked if the house at 405 1<sup>st</sup> Street is even safe structure anymore. Schneider said the owner said last summer

that they were going to tear it up and redo the house. Their construction pace is very slow and he doesn't know if it is any safer than last year. He did speak to them last week about the weeds. They have family in the area so he has a way to contact them. The Councilmembers asked that he get on them and get stuff taken care of at the residence.

- Dan Hotovec – Schneider reported that Dan Hotovec passed away last night. He worked for the City of Danube for 20 years and the family asked that Schneider bring over the old squad car in which Dan drove. Schneider said he would bring the old squad car to sit in front of the funeral home and in the procession to the cemetery.
- Truck Issue – Councilmember Standfuss asked about the truck issue we had at the last Council meeting. Schneider will follow up with the City Attorney on where this is at.

### **Employee Report – City Clerk**

- Land Update – Nothing new to report.
- CD Rates – Dotty spoke with John from Edward Jones for the current CD rates available. A three (3) month CD is 0.1% and a one (1) year is 0.1%. The interest in the Money Market Fund where the \$500,614.27 is sitting is getting 0.01% and is insured. The Councilmembers decided due to the low interest rates to wait until next meeting to see what the rates look like.
- Youth for Christ – Peach Selling Fundraiser – Victor Arimendi contacted me about selling peaches for a fundraiser for their church, Youth for Christ out of Willmar, MN. They are looking at setting up in front of CJ's on HWY 212. They would be using a tent top setup to sell their peaches from. They are looking at doing it July 8<sup>th</sup> thru July 14<sup>th</sup> from 7am till 8pm. The owners of CJ's have given permission for the church to be on their property selling the peaches. I didn't see a cost for a transient license in the fee schedule. Would the Council be willing to approve allowing the Church to set up and sell peaches in front of CJs? The Councilmembers discussed it and decided they were okay with it provided that they follow any requirements that Renville County may have.
- Completed Items – Dotty has filed PERA and Payroll Taxes for the month.
- Office Closed & Vacation – The Danube City Office will be closed on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, that is the day that Dan and Dotty will take for the holiday of July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Dotty spoke of a concern that happened at the office and was making the Councilmembers aware of it. The Councilmembers discussed it and suggested getting a spray bottle and using paper towels to wipe it up. Dan commented that you are not suppose to dry it but let it stand for 10 minutes and air dry when you spray it.
- Missed item on May 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Resolution 07-2020 – Election by Mail in Ballot Due to COVID-19 was passed with a vote of 3 in favor and 2 not voting.

### **School Building Updates**

Mayor Alex stated that Dan has not gotten the ceiling done yet. Councilmember Krogman asked about the exterior door and if the bottom was fixed and the stain on the wall. Mayor Alex will ask Dan about both items.

### Community Center Updates

Mayor Alex spoke with the Councilmembers about the fire suppression system. He contacted the Fire Marshall regarding the rules and as long as there are signs hung up stating that the renters are not allowed to cook raw meats or any foods producing grease laden vapors. The Councilmembers discussed putting in two (2) electric stoves and removing the gas stove. The Councilmembers asked that Joey get a hold of Korsmo for an estimate for the removal of the Ansul system only and leaving the hood. Councilmember Garza asked when the Councilmembers were looking at reopening the Community Center for renting. The Councilmembers discussed the reopening of the Community Center and Councilmember Standfuss voiced concerns on who was going to do the policing of events to be sure COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. The Councilmembers discussed limiting the capacity to 25 and having Schneider oversee the events being held there, depending on what the event is.

*Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to reopen the Danube Community Center as long as the Social distancing and CDC guidelines are followed effective Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.* The motion carried with 4 voting in favor and 1 (Councilmember Standfuss) voting opposed.

Mayor Alex will talk to Joey regarding setting the timers for the AC. Councilmember asked if the grates and hood were cleaned above the stove. Mayor Alex will ask Joey to ask Korsmo when he calls for an estimate to remove the Ansul system if they cleaned them when they were last here.

### Unfinished Business - None

### Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from May 12, 2020 thru June 8, 2020.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$57,801.29 (checks) and \$8,018.62 (electronic fund transfers).* The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from May 8, 2020 thru June 4, 2020.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2020.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliations for May 2020.

Dotty did inform the Councilmembers that she handed out all the budget sheets to the departments and gave a deadline of July 20<sup>th</sup> to turn them back in to her. Dotty also gave a copy of the entire budget to Councilmember Garza and Krogman for them to start reviewing.

### New Business

Renville County Assessment Agreement – The Councilmembers reviewed the letter and assessment agreement from Renville County.

*Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve Assessment Agreement with Renville County for 2021-2022.* The motion carried unanimously.

**Future Business**

*Special Agenda Item – Board of Appeals* – Dotty spoke with the Councilmembers about addressing the Board of Appeals and turning it over to Renville County that would need to be done as a special agenda item and advertised. Originally the Councilmembers were going to hold it earlier in the year but due to COVID-19 it was put off. The Councilmembers discussed it and decided to put the Board of Appeals on the July 8, 2020 meeting. Dotty will get it in the paper as required.

**Correspondence - None**

*There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

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Gene Alex, Mayor

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Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk