

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, June 11, 2014 7:00 PM  
Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on June 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Gene Alex presiding.

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

Councilmembers absent: Sharon Krogman

Others Present: Chief of Police Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, Dennis Zieske, James Krogman, Paul Kokesch, Mark Molenaar, Wendie Discher and media.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Strunc 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 Regular Meeting of May 14, 2014
- Approve Liquor License for Firemen's Keg Shoot on July 13, 2014

**Open Forum**

Dennis Zieske spoke to the Councilmembers about the blighted property letter he received. He informed the Councilmembers that the tires that are at the property are for making flower planters and they currently have about 8 of them painted and being used for that purpose. The Councilmembers informed Dennis that there was approximately 25 blighted property letters and he was not being singled out by the City.

Dennis Zieske and James Krogman brought forth a concern about the CCFE Road. The first concern is the truck traffic that is using 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Oak Street. A second concern was the dust that is coming off of the Elevator road. The agreement between the CCFE and the City said that Oak Street would be used for seasonal agronomy traffic only and that grain truck traffic will not be allowed to use Oak Street as an access to their site at any time. In the minutes from Wednesday, May 25, 2011 Craig Hebrink informed the council that he would be putting dust

control on its road. The Councilmembers discussed the issue with James Krogman and Dennis Zieske and agreed that a courtesy letter should be sent to the Craig Hebrink at CCFE regarding the Oak Street traffic and dust issue.

Paul Kokesch spoke with the Councilmembers about the blighted property letter he received. He was unclear about what needed to be fixed on the paint and facia concern. Les Schneider addressed the issue and clarified the paint issue for Paul Kokesch.

The Councilmembers agreed that Les Schneider is to make the decisions about the blighted property issues and on who should be fined due to non compliance.

#### **New Building Project Presentation**

The board of Independent School District No 2890 has proposed to bring forth a building bond proposal in the value of \$4,900,000.00. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for twenty years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Mark Molenaar and Wendie Discher gave an informative presentation about the Renville County West building bond that will be on the Tuesday, August 12, 2014 Special Election. What additions are included in the building bond are additional classrooms, gym space and storage. The District will be hosting several Open houses for individuals to attend to learn more.

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

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for May 2014 were higher to last year at the same time with 54 calls, 23 reports, 47 traffic stops, 19 citations, 28 mutual assists and 5 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- Blighted Properties – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that 25 letters were sent out. A majority of the properties starting making improvements immediately. About 4 out of 25 residents have not done anything to improve. The deadline for the blighted properties is June 16, 2014. Les Schneider will review the properties and bring to the Wednesday, July 9, 2014 Council meeting the properties that are still a concern or need to be addressed.
- School Building Update – Schneider reported that the Historical Society has submitted dates for back-up in case of rain during their concerts. Other dates that are scheduled are for the primary Tuesday, August 12, 2014 and a Christmas party on Saturday, December 27, 2014.  
Councilmember Strunc informed the council that the cost for the school is the same as the Community Center for residents and nonresidents.
- MCPA Twins cards program – Schneider reported that he has received the baseball cards and has been handing them out to the kids since Memorial Day.
- Memorial Day Program Assistance – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that he assisted with the set up and tear down for the Legion Memorial Day Program at the school and assisted at the Community Center.
- Numerous License Updates – Schneider informed the Council that he got the last of his licenses for water and waste water.

- Fun Days Planning – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that he started spraying early for mosquitoes and will continue to spray thru Fun Days. Continue to spray for them as it warms up. Also Les has been helping out the Danube Area Action Club with barricades and he also has been addressing other items relating to Fun Days.
- Use of Force Training Completed by Full Department (06-14) – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that the full department will be attending the Use of Force Training on June 14, 2014.
- Squad Car Tire Purchase and Alignment – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that the squad care was in need of 2 tires, an alignment and an oil change. The car was wearing tires due to an alignment issue.
- First Response Information – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that the Sugar Beet Plant held their Mass Casualty Incident on June 5, 2014. Various departments from the area went to the incident.
- Health Insurance options – Schneider spoke with the Councilmembers regarding his health insurance due to the new Affordable Health Care Act. The Councilmembers discussed the issue. Further research needs to be done on the issue before any decision can be made 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 – The roof over the Boiler room was replaced by Forcier Roofing. All new light covers have been installed in Tri-Valleys main offices. Boilers will be drained and opened up for inspection.
- Street Repair – As per Dave and Al's request I stopped talk with Dave Palm of Bolten & Menk in regards to joining Olivia and Bird Island in their Seal Coating Project. I talked with Caldwell Asphalt and they are going to be in the area this week and next and would like to do our streets then if we choose to do seal coating. If seal coating is done IO think we can get by with one day of Glieden doing air patching on other streets. Haney's were contacted to grade Railroad St. and then haul in more gravel on top.
- Water – Both wells have been running without issue. They averaged 30,000 for the month of May.
- Waste Water – Dan is still locating leaks in manholes that need to be plugged. Our averages went up in May due to heavy rainfall at times to 50,000. Dan will be having Lauritsen come and jet/vac the Sanitary line on the south side of town. This one was never done the last time and needs to be.
- Dan is looking in at prices for new storm sewer catch basins.
- CMF has been contacted to take down trees by school and the City has received a certificate of liability insurance coverage.
- Does the City want to get tables from the County again this year for Fun Days?
- I will be spraying for weeds around town this week and next.

After the Councilmembers reviewed the Public Works report the following discussion was held: The Councilmembers discussed Railroad Street and that it was looking better but needs more gravel added to the road. Councilmember Strunc informed the other Councilmembers that he spoke with Dan and asked that he contact Lee Elfering, City

Engineer, to look at the streets and tell the City what is the best direction to go regarding the streets. Councilmember Standfuss informed the Councilmembers that Dan will be going around town and finding out how many catch basins need to be fixed and will report back with how many and the price for the catch basins. Dotty informed the Councilmembers that the City has received the Liability Certificate from CMF as Councilmember Maurice requested. Schneider will talk to Dan about picnic tables and barricades for Fun Days.

### **Employee Report – City Clerk**

- **Next Meeting Time** - The next City Council meeting on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> will start at 6:30 pm so that Kevin Friesen from Rural Development can come speak with the council about funding for the water tower.
- **Wellhead protection Plan** - Dan and Dotty will be having a meeting with Dave Neiman, from Rural Water, on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am regarding the Wellhead Protection Plan Implementation.
- **Water Shut Offs** - Dotty inquired if the City needs to follow up with landlords when renters enter into a payment agreement and then breach the agreement by making no payments and have the water turned off due to the nonpayment. Four residents entered into payment agreements with the City. Out of the four one has paid their bill in full, two have been in contact with the City, the fourth one I contacted and gave them till noon on June 16<sup>th</sup> to pay the balance in full or the water would be turned off at the residence. The Councilmembers discussed the issue and decided that the landlords will only receive the notice about possible shut off date and do not need to be contacted about the water being turned off but instead the City could automatically turn off the water for nonpayment.
- **City Office Closed Dates** - Closing at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> for Election Judge Training in Olivia and Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am till 1:30 pm for OSHA training on recordkeeping and administrative duties (as of currently the training place has yet to be determined).

### **School Building Updates** - None

### **Community Center Updates**

**Roof Leak** – Mayor Alex brought attention to the roof leak located in the ladies bathroom at the Community Center. The Councilmembers discussed the roof leak at the Community Center and Councilmember Strunc will speak with Randy regarding patching the leak again like he has done in the past.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Blighted Properties** – This information was covered in the Chief of Police report. The Councilmembers asked that Dotty contact the League of Minnesota regarding blighted properties and what laws are out there regarding this issue.

### **Financial Reports**

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list and receipts list from May 15, 2014 thru June 11, 2014.

*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$27,055.28 (checks) and \$8,055.80 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.*

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2014.

The Councilmembers reviewed the reconciled bank statements for May 2014.

### **New Business**

*Fun Days Activities (Petting Zoo, Pony Rides and Face Painting) - \$1,475.00 - DAAC – Councilmember Strunc was asked to present the issue since the City of Danube has paid for these events in the past. Councilmember Strunc asked that the City take the funds from the Cable Franchise Fee that is received.*

*Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve giving the Danube Area Action Club \$1,475.00 for the Petting Zoo, Pony Rides and Face Painting. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Doug's Lawn Scaping Filling Tanks - Dotty brought to attention that Doug's Lawn Care stopped by the office and filled their tanks from the fire department and needs to know how much to bill Doug's for the water. The Councilmembers discussed the issue and decided that Doug's Lawn Care should be charged the minimum charge of \$38.73 for the water. After much discussion a majority of the Council decided Doug's Lawn Care should be informed that the City of Danube will no longer be able to fill their tanks to avoid any future issues that may occur.*

### **Correspondence**

The Councilmembers received the following informational material in their packets:

1. League of Minnesota Cities 2015 Dues

### **Adjournment**

*There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

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Gene Alex, Mayor

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Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk