

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2019 7:00 PM**  
**Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on June 12, 2019 at 7:01 p.m. with Mayor Alex presiding.

The following Councilmembers were present: Carrie Garza, Sharon Krogman, Cathy Malvin and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Jeff Freitag, Diane Pfarr, Jamie Schneider, Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of Streets under New Business and Removal of Siren under Old Business. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman 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 8, 2019
- Building Permit – 404 6<sup>th</sup> Street - Fence
- Bar Door Open in Case of Rain – Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Fun Days

**Open Forum**

**Jeff Freitag** – Jeff Freitag voiced concerns that it has been a couple of months and nothing has been done about the streets. Mayor Alex said Dan Kaufenberg started on the streets today. Councilmember Standfuss added that they were working on getting bids regarding the streets. Jeff stated that the spots should be dug out and filled with gravel so that the streets are passable. Jeff stated concerns about grants for the streets instead of raising taxpayers' taxes. Mayor Alex stated that Sacred Heart did a \$20 million sewer and water project and received grants and still is trying to come up with the difference of \$6 million they are responsible for. Jeff would like to see the streets addressed in time for the parade on Danube Fun Days. Jeff asked the Councilmembers to sit and discuss removing the police department from the City of Danube and going with a contract with the Renville County Sheriff's Office for policing in Danube. Jeff has

seen many Sherriff's vehicles and State Patrol parked in his lot watching Highway 212. Jeff stated that the City has Ordinances that aren't being enforced but yet the Council is made another Ordinance that won't be enforced. Jeff voiced concerns that not much is being taken care of or accomplished from meeting to meeting to meeting. The same issues like the dog licensing keep getting brought up and nothing is getting done. Councilmember Malvin said that she understood the frustration especially about the dogs but the City does have to work with the County and it takes some time when it involves court proceedings. Mayor Alex stated he has checked on some of the citations and they do take that long in court and they sit on them he doesn't know why they do but they do maybe because they have more important things to do. Councilmember Garza stated that but if they would have been issued the day after licenses were due we would be a lot further in this process then them being issued now. Councilmember Garza also voiced concerns on seeing a pattern of things the Councilmembers are being informed of by Schneider and the time frame of which things are first getting started on by the police department. Jeff also spoke to the Councilmembers about if the excuse is used by residents for not getting things done when due is not being able to make it Monday thru Thursdays then maybe the Council needs to make the City Office open Monday thru Fridays. Councilmember Malvin stated that she did not think having the City Office open on Fridays was going to change anything if they couldn't make up here Monday thru Thursdays. Councilmember Malvin looked into a drop box similar to Sacred Heart and the cost is around \$650.00 and is something the City should look into getting.

### **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 – Auto owners insurance sent a letter informing the city that they will no longer provide coverage beginning in October. The reason being that the fuse panels now need to be replaced with breaker panels. I feel this will be now an ongoing issue with all insurance companies if the city were to try and find a replacement company. The Councilmembers discussed the fuse panels and asked Dan to get a quote from Sullivan's to replace the fuse panels with breaker boxes.
- Water – The wells averaged 35,000 gal/day for the month of May. Sullivan's have begun the concrete work for the generator at well #3. It will be located on the North side directly behind the well house.  
The Councilmembers discussed the letter from MN Dept. of Heath about the radium results with Dan.
- Waste Water – The lift station still has been well above normal condition. It has been averaged more than triple its normal flows in May. The lift station averaged 108,000 gal/day for May. The department will need to order Alum for the Ponds so we have it for the fall discharge. The sooner I have it the sooner I can figure out a way to get it out into the ponds. It will be around \$3000.00 for the Alum from Hawkins chemical. We won't know until the time of discharge as to how much chemical is needed. It depends on our phosphorus levels at the time. The City will also need to purchase a phosphorus tester to analyze and check the levels in the ponds. I'm still working on finding which one will work best for our need. Sullivan's has also started the concrete pad for the generator at the lift station. It will be located right next to the lift station on the West side of panel.

*Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve Dan to purchase Alum and a phosphorus tester from Hawkins starting at \$3,700.00. The motion carried unanimously.*

Dan also reported that he made a small boat to disperse the alum. Councilmember Malvin suggested seeing if surrounding towns have a boat that maybe could be borrowed/used her instead of buying one.

- Streets – The City received a quote from Duininck’s to fix the bad areas in town. The quote came in at \$78,700.50. This quote involved doing some soil correction on Freedom Lane as the current asphalt in on dirt. I’m waiting to hear from Haney Construction to see what the price would be to dig out the bad areas and pack in glass 5 gravel or granite. This would be a temporary fix if the City goes forward with a major street project in the near future.

The Councilmembers and Dan discussed the streets. Dan had concerns on where to stop as he has been working on Freedom Lane on removing some of the issues. The Councilmembers told Dan to use his judgment on how much to tear up but to get it done. Dan is working on getting granite from Haney’s for filling in. Dan informed the Councilmembers they could replace the spots and turn it into FEMA but that is not guaranteed to get it back. Some of the work that is done should be able to be turned into FEMA to make the streets useable. Mayor Alex asked Dan if he spoke to Lee regarding the streets and Dan reported that Lee said that it he can’t do the size of project the City is looking at doing. The Councilmembers asked Dotty to reach out to some engineering firms for some references for them to review. The Councilmembers set a deadline of September 11<sup>th</sup> to review them at that Council meeting.

- Community Center – Joey informed me that the Community Center still had some leaks in the bathrooms this Spring. I went up on the roof and some of the patching that Forcier Roofing did was blistering and had air pockets in it. I’ve contacted Forcier and they are coming back to fix the problem spots on the roof.

Mayor Alex and Councilmember Malvin asked Dan to look at the windows at the Community Center for the seals and chalking. Also Councilmember Malvin mentioned the weeds in the back to be taken care of before the wedding reception that will be held there. Diane Pfarr asked if Dan would go pick up the barricades behind the Community Center because they are just getting busted up more and more and unusable.

- Vacation – I will be using comp time on 6-13-2019. I will be using vacation July 14-22 and Aug 19-22.
- Garbage at the Park – Councilmember asked that when the grass gets mowed down at the park that the garbage get emptied also at that time. Dan said he would talk to Joey about emptying the garbage.
- Mowing – Councilmember Malvin mentioned the grass at Blanchard’s property. Dan will talk to Joey about mowing the grass at Blanchard’s. Councilmember mentioned a house on 5<sup>th</sup> Street that has tall grass. Dotty pointed out that Blanchard’s property was being forfeited to the State and the Councilmembers received a copy of the email in their packets.
- Leasing Equipment – Les Schneider Sr. stopped in the City Office asking to lease the grain truck for the work he is doing at the Creamery and Dotty called Dan asking if the City does this and Dan was not aware of it and also that the grain truck is not in working condition. Les Schneider Sr. was told no to leasing any equipment. Les Schneider Sr. at a later time stopped down at the shop and spoke with Dan about telling him he will be getting the grain truck on a certain date. The Councilmembers discussed this and decided

not to do any leasing of any equipment. Mayor Alex will talk to Les Schneider Sr. letting him know that the City will not be leasing any equipment and that he needs to have the pile of bricks cleaned up by Danube Fun Days.

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

Chief of Police Les Schneider had a typed Police Department report in the Councilmember's packets. Statistics for May 2019 were lower compared to last year at the same time with 49 calls, 24 reports, 34 traffic stops, 13 citations, 27 mutual assists and 1 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – Tri-Valley started with students on June 10, Dan and I have been working with their new director Sandy, and the Little Lambs on building issues. The use of the gym has slowed down with the nice weather.
- Dog Ordinance #74 – I am currently resolving a system issue with the MN Judicial Branch regarding our city ordinances. Renville County Court needs forms regarding each ordinance entered into their computer system to proceed with processing citations. Once this is completed, we will issue approximately 20-30 citations for not licensing dogs. Residents who have licensed their dogs after May 16, have been charged a \$1 a day late fee.
- Blighted Property Ordinance #84 – Same issues with court on entering citations, I am resolving this with any ordinances that we would possibly issue a citation on. Overall, most properties have complied with a few exceptions of unlicensed vehicles and long grass. We are ahead of last year with compliance and will have all properties addressed by Fun Days.
- Golf Cart Ordinance #107 – I discussed this with the City Attorney and I was advised to go forward with issuing permits for these vehicles. The three-year permit stickers were ordered from Creative Details and will be done this week. Dotty advised that the ordinance hasn't been published and I will have the City Attorney get this completed before issuing permits.

Councilmember Garza presented a copy of the Golf Cart Ordinance #107 that was sent to Dotty from City Attorney after Dotty asked permission to contact Aaron for a clean copy of the Ordinance to be published. Dotty will get the Ordinance published in the newspaper. Councilmember Malvin had concerns about charging the full amount when

- FEMA Update – I submitted the quote from Duinink's to FEMA to continue the process. We applied for grants to repair all streets damaged this spring. The City will be receiving 100% of the damage from 2018 flooding incidents, and FEMA added frost heaves to this year's damage causes. Frost heaves caused nearly all of our street damage in 2019. I have contacted West Central Sanitation regarding overweight trucks, and look forward to working with them to resolve this issue. Last week, the garbage truck caused additional damage to a street patch in front of the telephone company building. Also, all local truck drivers have been spoken to regarding truck routes and the City's enforcement plans. Councilmember Krogman said she would like Les to give a follow up on the garbage trucks with West Central Sanitation.
- 2019 Fun Days – I've been working with the DAAC and Dan with getting items ready for Fun Days. Extra barricades will be needed and the DAAC have been advising on plans for the upcoming events. Extra officers are scheduled for the Friday and Saturday activities.

- Mosquito Spraying – The first night of bug spraying started on June 9<sup>th</sup> and will continue as necessary. The plans include spraying around 2-3 times a week, in the heavy traveled spots during Fun Days. The chemical works on flies, gnats and mosquitoes, which have all been plentiful this summer.
- First Response Training – The First Response 44-plan training occurred on May 30<sup>th</sup> through Ridgewater College. Members trained on burn care, environmental emergencies, splitting and OB emergencies.

Councilmember Malvin voiced concerns about the vehicles on Main Street in front of the apartments and if the place is getting over occupied again. She asked that it be handled before it becomes an issue. Councilmember Malvin also brought up that it was reported to her that the dog is back down at Danube Auto Works. It was stated that the dog has never left. Mayor Alex said that if you see the dog to take a picture and send it to Les.

### Closed Meeting

Mayor Alex asked for the City Council to go to a closed meeting at 8:15 pm for the purpose of talking about an employee review.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to close the meeting at 8:15 pm. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to reopen the meeting at 8:51 pm. The motion carried unanimously.*

### Employee Report – City Clerk

- Land Update – Nothing new to report.
- Copier Contract – Dotty received a contact from Marco and it is in the Council packets to be reviewed. They are looking at going up about 20 plus dollars per month for the current copier which currently costs \$ 48.36 per month. Dotty looked up the copier and a new one would cost around \$2,600.00 if the City were to go buy one straight out  
*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve the contract with Marco for a new copier for \$70.00 per month. The motion carried unanimously.*
- Fuse Panels - Les Schneider called Dotty on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and informed her that the insurance company recommended the fuse panels be updated but that doesn't mean in a year they won't make it mandatory for you to replace them. Schneider said to do it now would be cheaper then to put it off and wait to change them out. This is also being covered in Dan's report along with a letter from Auto Owner's Insurance Company
- Solar Garden Follow Up - Dotty contacted six (6) surrounding towns regarding their sunscriptions into solar gardens and the following is the information she obtained. Franklin 4.67% (??); Renville 120% (they are in 2 different solar gardens 50% and 70%); Morgan 96%; Buffalo Lake 90%; Hector did not call back with their information but they are subscribed to a solar garden; Bird Island is not in a solar garden and are not going to subscribe to any according to Deb Lingl, City Administrator.  
The Councilmembers discussed the solar garden sunscription with US Solar.

*Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve doing an 80% sunscription with SW MN USSolar with City Attorney approval. The motion carried unanimously.*

- Tri-Valley Fiscal Year Follow Up - Dotty emailed Stacy and she informed Dotty that their fiscal year is April thru March
- Trees in the Railroad Right-A-Way - Dotty had Leroy Hilbert stop in and request she contact the railroad company and ask them to remove the trees in the railroad right-a-way and Dotty informed Leroy that it would be best for him to come to a Council meeting and voice his concerns regarding the trees.

The Councilmembers discussed the issue and asked if Leroy comes into the office again to ask him to come to a Council Meeting so the Councilmembers can get more information about his concerns.

- Office Closed – The Danube City Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for the Fourth of July.

### **School Building Updates**

Councilmember Krogman spoke with the Councilmembers about putting it out there for someone to go paint on the walls at the School a history of Danube or something like that. Mayor Alex mentioned a company as a suggestion and Councilmember Malvin suggested asking Joey if he would be interested in painting the walls since he did a nice job at the Community Center. Mayor Alex did say that he is busy with mowing lawn and helping Dan with other things including the streets. Councilmember Krogman spoke with Brighter Homes and she will be getting an estimate for doing the floor in the entryway and the two (2) bathrooms. Mayor Alex will speak with Joey and ask him about painting down at the School. Councilmember Krogman asked for suggestions for colors on the entryway. Councilmember Krogman also spoke with Brighter Homes about doing the squares of carpeting in the main entryway and hallway and they will measure it out and get an estimated cost to her.

### **Community Center Updates**

Councilmember Malvin informed the Councilmembers that Joey did a wonderful job of painting at the Community Center. Councilmember Malvin also had concerns about people using the wrong tape that will wreck the newly painted walls or anything that would put holes in the wall. The Councilmembers discussed the concern and decided that all renters should be informed that they are only allowed to use command strips or painters tape when decorating. The Councilmembers discussed the area in front of the Community Center that the 4-H use to plant flowers in and Mayor Alex volunteered Colleen Alex to come plant it with some flowers. Mayor Alex reported that Dan is having the company that sealed the roof come back and look at the roof at the Community Center because it is bubbling up.

### **Unfinished Business**

SW MN USSOLAR – This was discussed this under the City Clerk report.

Removal of Old Siren – Mayor Alex reported that he has Jefe Crane coming to remove the old siren on June 18th at 7am for a cost of \$750.00.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to approve Jefe Crane to remove the old siren for \$750.00. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Financial Reports**

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from May 9, 2019 thru June 12, 2019.

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$33,449.56 (checks) and \$10,431.75 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.*

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from May 6, 2019 thru June 10, 2019.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2019.

Councilmember Garza asked about the miscellaneous account under the Maintenance department and Dotty explained that when Dan doesn't turn in receipts to Dotty she puts the unidentified expenses under miscellaneous. Dotty informed the Councilmembers that everyone who has a credit card signed an agreement that all receipts to be turned in and if they didn't they would be held responsible for any expenses that receipts are turned in for. Councilmember Standfuss will speak with Dan about turning in receipts.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliations for May 2019.

### **New Business**

*Forfeiture Property* – The Councilmembers reviewed the email from Renville County regarding a forfeiture property in Danube.

*RCHospital Letter of Support* – The Councilmembers reviewed the information and decided to send a letter of support. Dotty will adjust it if possible and send it to Councilmember Krogman to review before mailing it.

*Streets* – This was discussed under the Public Works area.

### **Future Business**

### **Correspondence**

League of MN Cities – Letter on Increase in membership Dues

*There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Malvin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

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Gene Alex, Mayor

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Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk