

DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 7:00 PM
Danube City Council Chambers

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on June 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Bentley opening the meeting. The meeting then was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The following Councilmembers were present: Carrie Garza, Sharon Krogman, Chris Schneider and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Police Chief Les Schneider, Kent Ritterman – Moore Engineering, Mike McGraw, Brad Nere, Harold Lambert and City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Schneider moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting. 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, 2024
- Liquor License – Danube Area Action Club – Danube Fun Days
- Bar Door Open – Danube Fun Days in Case of Rain

Open Forum

Mike McGraw – Mike spoke with the Councilmembers about some concerns he had regarding his neighbor. He spoke about a fence and a shed. The Councilmembers asked for some time to look into the concern on the fence. Mike's concern on the shed is if there was any setbacks and that they possibly added on to it.

Brad Nere – Brad spoke with the Councilmembers about possibly connecting to the city sewer. Dotty explained to the Councilmembers that the expense to the main would be the home owner's responsibility along with a connection fee to the City of Danube. The fee for connecting to the City is \$1,300.00. After a discussion about costs Brad Nere decided to not pursue connecting to the City sewer at this time.

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 tree in front of the school is down and stump will have to be removed. Tri-Valley is also asking what the city is going to do with dirt area. Everything on there new list is complete except smoke detectors that were bad. I have new ones on had just need to know who is installing them.

Water – New fluoride pump has been installed in well #5 by Hawkins Chemical. The wells averaged 41,000 gal/day for the month of May.

Sanitary – The one cable that was bad on pump #2 was repaired. There was extra cable on the pump from when it was installed. I had them cut the bad end off by the pump and rewire it rather than replacing the whole cable. The lift station averaged 65,000 gal/day for the month of May. Higher rates due to rain.

Storm – No updates.

Streets – Bargaen finished up the street patching for the year.

Mosquito Sprayer - Does the city want to purchase a new sprayer? Price for a London Fogger through Northern Tool is \$12,999 plus about \$500.00 for shipping. Last year I was able to get a discount and bring price down to \$12,349.05. Can see if still available.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve purchasing a London Fogger from Northern Tool for \$13,205.61. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Standfuss asked about the catch basin on Main Street. Dan said he cemented it and foamed it and waiting for it to dry then he will fill it back up with gravel. Mayor Bentley asked about seeding grass down at the park. Dan said he wasn't going to seed it until fall. Mayor Bentley also asked about getting the stop signs put up on 4th and Maple. Dan said he would call the county to come put in the poles for the signs and get that done.

Employee Report - Moore Engineering – Kent Ritterman

Kent was present at the meeting. He spoke with the Councilmembers about the water treatment plant and asked they pass a motion to accept the bid that came in contingent on more grants covering the difference. Kent talked about the different sources that possibly would cover the difference of \$4,496,000.00 over what was the projected project cost to build a water treatment plant. Dotty asked what the WIF Matching Grant consisted of. Kent said there was no additional money being asked from the City of Danube to receive the \$3,185,000 in WIF Matching Grant. Kent presented a letter of recommendation to award Eagle Construction Co, Inc the water treatment plant contract in the amount of \$7,497,400.00. Mayor Bentley asked if the words execute Notice Award was required in the motion or if they could remove them. Kent explained to the Councilmembers that they need to do this as on June 19th the BABA Act goes into effect and the cost will increase by \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to the project. So it would be helpful for the Council to approve the motion to award the contract so it is before the BABA rules go into effect. Dotty explained it is the terms execute notice award in the motion need to be in the by Rural Development. Kent said no it was not required and could be removed. Dotty informed the Councilmembers that she spoke with Lee Elfering (City Engineer) and he wanted to make sure the Councilmembers understood if they make the motion to award the contract that if the grants are approved the City can not back out anymore but if the funds fail to come through they could. Dotty asked Kent if could explain the amount in Contingencies along with what the difference is made up of when you take the Construction bid and the engineer contract price there is a difference of \$835,611 from the total cost of \$9,600,000.00. Kent said it's a safety net for missed items. The first thing that gets spent is your grant dollars in which Kent was corrected that first is the loan used then the grant dollars. What grant money isn't used is lost or possibly used for something else if they allow it. Kent started listing items but was asked to send the information in an email to be reviewed. It was asked of Kent if there was a reason there was not a breakdown of the construction bid instead of a lump sum. Kent said it is normal to have just a lump sum bid but they will get the breakdown at a later time. Mayor Bentley asked Kent why the contract price for Moore Engineering increased \$425,262 since November 2023. Kent informed the Councilmembers it was because they and along with other items have drug out this water treatment plant project that was to be a two (2) year project so it was increased due to additional time, redesign fees, rebidding, more grant money, and other items. Kent was again asked to send the breakdown in an email for the Councilmembers to be able to review. Mayor Bentley voiced concerns that the time being extended was due to Moore Engineering missing meetings and now the City was paying for that. The Councilmembers also asked for a breakdown of the engineering contract for them to review. The Councilmembers will wait to approve the new engineering contract once a breakdown is received and explained. Dotty has a meeting with Jessica from Northland Financial on Monday, June 17th and she will discuss when they would like to have meetings regarding bonds. The Councilmembers voiced concerns on the information being presented seems last minute and pressured to approve things. Along with they feel put off and things were strung out and not by them. Dotty also reminded the Councilmembers that there are other increases that will occur beyond the loan that the City of Danube will receive. There was money that needed to be taxed and put away into a capital account for the water treatment plant.

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve to award Eagle Construction in the amount of \$7,497,400 contingent on Rural Development funding package and amended Letter of Conditions includes the subsequent grant dollars in the amount of \$4,496,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve to authorizing City Clerk and Mayor to sign necessary documents/forms for application for federal funding and authorizing City Clerk and Mayor to sign commitment documents upon approval of amended funding. The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers asked Kent to report back to Moore Engineering that these were large decisions that needed to be made in a short period of time and the City doesn't want to be pressured into the decisions. Also, communication needs to improve with Lee Elfering the City Engineer. Kent said that things will be different and communication with Lee will improve. Kent was asked to look into the increase in fees for Moore Engineering. Kent would look into the increase. Kent talked about the Phase 2 project. Which is a city-wide project. Moore will continue working on Phase 2. Kent updated the Councilmembers about the storm water study the City was awarded a grant to do. The Councilmembers previously made a motion in a previous meeting to do the study and made no further action in this meeting. Kent updated the Councilmembers about the lead service line study that was mailed out. About 60 households have responded and Moore Engineering is waiting on guidance on the next steps to keep moving forward.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report.

- School Building Updates – The Memorial Day program took place in the school gym, and we helped with the sound system. Tri-Valley has returned to the building and students start on June 17. The June 4th DHS concert was moved to the school gym with the rain that evening. Volleyball will be done using the gym for practices on June 17.
- Squad Car Repairs – The squad car was repaired at Wertish's Auto for a pulley and alternator issue. We also had the odometer replaced for mileage readings.
- POST License Renewal – My Peace Officer's license renewal is due on June 30, 2024. I am finishing the mandated sixteen credit courses that the state requires for renewal. These classes are online through the LMC Patrol program.
- First Response Update – The Danube First Response had 44-plan training on May 30 through Ridgewater College. I was elected as the First Response Director for the year at that meeting.
- Blighted Property Update – I have advised property owners on 1st, 4th, 5th, and Maple Streets about cleaning up properties, including grass, weeds, and junk cars. Properties have been complying.
- Voelz Park Issues –The juvenile issues at Voelz Park have increased with the summer season and certain juvenile have been removed from the city park. The siren repeater has been installed by Sullivan's Electric and is operational. The Councilmembers gave Les permission to purchase and install two (2) more ring cameras down at the park to cover area that currently is not being covered.
- Mosquito Spraying – Dan contacted the City of Renville and received the sprayer to use this week. I will get out a couple of times during the week depending on the wind to get ahead of the mosquito issues.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- Land Update – Dotty reported nothing new to report.
- Completed Items - Dotty has filed PERA and paid the monthly Federal and State Payroll Taxes for May.
- Office Closed & Vacation – The Danube City Office will be closed on Wednesday, June 19th for Juneteenth, vacation day Thursday, June 20th and will reopen Monday June 24th.
- Early Closure – Dotty asked the Councilmembers if it would be okay if she left early on Thursday as the power was being turned off at around 1pm and will be off from 3 to 5 hours for Xcel to replace a pole in the alley behind the City Office. The Office will only close if they do show up to do the work and turn off the power.

School Building Updates – None

Community Center Updates

Mayor Bentley reported that there was an issue that occurred from another renter at the Community Center and their damage deposit was taken. Mayor Bentley also asked the Councilmembers to consider banning confetti from being used at the Community Center as it is really hard to clean up after and get it all.

Unfinished Business - None

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from May 9, 2024 thru June 12, 2024.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$152,222.40 (checks) and \$10,606.32 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from May 7, 2024 thru June 10, 2024.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2024.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliations for April and May 2024.

Councilmember Standfuss inquired about how the interest was received from Edward Jones. Dotty reported that some interest goes into the Money Market account and some comes in the form of a check to the City of Danube.

New Business

Leroy Nere's Residence – Sewer Connection - Annexation – This was covered in the open forum.

Future Business - None

Correspondence – None

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Schneider moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Ryan Bentley, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk