

DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2023 7:00 PM
Danube City Council Chambers

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on June 14, 2023 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: Les Schneider Sr., Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Jeremy Boots – Moore Engineering, Police Chief Les Schneider and City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting with the additions of Les Schneider Sr – Insurance Information under Open Forum and Renville County Blight Grant under New Business. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Schneider moved and Councilmember Garza 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 10, 2023
- Danube Historical Society Building Permit Extension – Basketball Court/Pickleball Court
- Bar Door Open – Saturday, June 24, 2023 – Family Gathering
- Bar Door Open – Friday July 7th and Saturday July 8th in Case of Rain for Danube Fun Days
- 1 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – July 9, 2023- Danube Area Athletic Club

Open Forum

Les Schneider – Insurance Information – Les Schneider informed the Councilmembers of some big increases to the insurance with the League of MN Cities. The increase is due to an increase in the replacement cost after an audit was conducted on all the property, buildings and equipment the City of Danube owns along with the inflation that is happening. The Councilmembers discussed this with Schneider and reviewed some items of concerns.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve renewing the insurance without coverage for the Pond 1 and Pond 2 and verifying that the dumpsters are not on the policy, light poles other than those on Main Street along with the Zamboni down at the Park Building and lowering the cost of the contents at the courthouse. The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Report – Public Works Director

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

- School – Boilers have been taken apart and are awaiting inspection from the state boiler inspector. I will be able to remove the maple tree Infront of the school myself. Will just need the stump ground out once removed. The Councilmembers asked Dan to trim up the tree for now. Dan also informed that the tree in front of the Community Center he will be cutting down as it is too large for the space and is starting to hang down.
Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the Supervisors to approve the quote for the tree stump removal. The motion carried unanimously
- Water – Still waiting for Hjerpe Construction to install water line at Malvin residence and valves on the mains. Sullivans will be mud sucking out around the curb stop and Cal Lueck residence as previously approved. Bonnema Construction said they could do Forsman curb stop for about \$1000.00 or less. The wells averaged 48,000 gal/day for the month of May. Usage is higher due to Farmward using more water.
Councilmember Schneider moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve Bonnema Construction to do the curb stop at Forsman not to exceed \$1,000.00, dig and repair the collapsed storm line on Railroad Ave. and dig on County Road #1 behind the gas station for a fracture force main to be repaired. The motion carried unanimously.
- Wastewater – A second pond discharge was done due to the heavy snow melt and rains earlier in the spring. The lift station averaged 72,000 gal/day for the month of May.
- Storm – There is a possibly storm line collapsed on Railroad Ave. by Main ST. Would like to have Bonnema Construction dig and repair at the same time they do Forsman curb stop if approved.
- Snow Plow – R@R Diesel got the snow plow truck started and it has been parked outside for now.
- Vacation – I will be using vacation July 3rd and 5th. I will be back in on the 6th to get Danube ready for Fun Days

- *Mosquito Sprayer* – Dan reported that the mosquito sprayer is broken for good. The shaft snapped again. He looked at a couple quick online and found one for \$11,500.00, a second one for \$13,000.00 and a third for \$19,000.00. The Councilmembers tabled purchasing a new mosquito sprayer until more research is done. Dan is talking with Renville about borrowing theirs for this year as needed. Dan is waiting to hear back for a price on borrowing the mosquito sprayer. Dan will let his supervisors know the price once he hears back from Renville.
- Mayor Bentley asked Dan to stop parking his vehicle inside the maintenance shop.
- Mayor Bentley also informed Dan that there are some applicants for the part-time maintenance in case he wanted to be part of the interview. Councilmember Standfuss and Councilmember Schneider will be doing the interviewing.
- Les Schneider reported that there was a concrete spill on Highway 212 that the fire department and Jaime Aalderks showed up for clean-up. The Councilmembers discussed this and the rates for the clean-up.
Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve billing Crow River Ready Mix for the concrete spill on Highway 212 for the fire call at \$350.00, skid loader clean-up work for 2 hours at rate we charge the County, 1 fire fighter for 2 hours for \$20.00 and \$70.00 for water used. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mayor Bentley asked to make sure the garbage down at the park are taken care of before Fun Days. Dan asked about the dirt pile down at the park. Mayor Bentley said they will be taking care of that pile by the basketball court but the other pile is to be used to even out the new sidewalk with the ground going to the open shelter.

Employee Report - Moore Engineering – Jeremy Boots

Jeremy was present at the meeting and went through the Environmental Assessment with the Councilmembers.

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve and sign the Environmental Assessment as presented by Moore Engineering. The motion carried unanimously

Jeremy reviewed the Right-of-Way map next with the Councilmembers along with the Right-of-Way Certificate.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve certifying the Right-of-Way Map and Right-of-Way Certificate and for Mayor Bentley and City Clerk Schnobrich to sign them. The motion carried unanimously

Jeremy then reviewed the Preliminary Title Opinion that was completed and signed by City Attorney Aaron Walton.

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve the Preliminary Title Opinion as prepared by City Attorney Aaron Walton. The motion carried unanimously

The final item was to set a date to hold a Special Meeting to issue bonds. The Councilmembers received in their packets an email from Northland Securities regarding when to hold a meeting to issue bonds. Jeremy informed the Councilmembers that he agreed with waiting for bids to come in to get the correct amount needed for issuing bonds. No motion was made to hold a special meeting at this time.

Mayor Bentley reminded Jeremy that Council packets go out Monday at noon the week of the meeting to give them time to review, if possible, he could turn stuff in before then to go out in the packets.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was not present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for May 2023 were higher compared to last year at the same time with 52 calls, 36 reports, 28 traffic stops, 9 citations, 31 mutual assists and 2 home security checks.

- School Building Updates – Tri-Valley received an outrageous quote from Lloyd's Security to do their fire system. The gym floor was completed on May 27 and looked good for the Memorial Day Program. Activity has picked up since Tri-Valley has returned to the building.
- Codification Updates – The dog licensing is continuing, and I have advised residents of late fees and getting this completed. Blighted properties needing to be addressed are the Meredith Olson property and the Ridler residence on 5th Street. The golf cart permits list has been completed. The Olson house is not savable and the Ridler house is a big storage place full of stuff. Schneider will try to get ahold of the Ridler family regarding that property. Mayor Bentley told Schneider that he got a complaint about the Olson property. Councilmember Standfuss asked if we could apply for the Renville County Blight Grant that is coming up for the property. Doty informed them in order for the City to apply for the grant they need to be the owner of the property. Olson could apply herself for the property if she wants to. The Councilmembers discussed the blight issues on how to handle them. They asked Schneider to be consistent on handling blight issues with everyone in Danube. Another issue is the house that was taken down and the property needs to be cleaned up and the hole filled in. Mayor Bentley informed Schneider that they will go through the list of golf carts permitted as there are some missing. Mayor Bentley stated that the golf cart/ATV/UTV/etc permits are to go through the City Office.
- Fun Days Planning – Danube Fun Days is from July 5-9, and we will need to borrow 20 barricades for the number of events going on that Saturday. Extra officers are scheduled for July 7-8.
- First Response Update – The Danube First Response had 44-plan training on May 25 through Ridgewater College. I was elected as the First Response Director for the year at that meeting.
- BCA System Audit - I have spent many hours working on the multiple system audits for the BCA since mid-April. These audits are state mandates necessary to use the computer systems provided by the BCA.
- Squad Car Repair – The push bumper on the squad car was damaged this winter after getting stuck in the middle of city streets. Schmoll's Welding of Olivia spot welded and straightened the frames so I could reattach the push bumper.
- City Park Update – The juvenile issues that started in April have been monitored and numerous incidents involving adults and children occurred in May. I have been using the Ring camera regularly with park issues, and I have made routine patrols at the park during late afternoons to avoid further issues.

- Day Visibility – I have increased the daytime patrol with the higher activity and many traffic issues we have all over town. Slowing down traffic this month has become a priority.
- Juvenile Curfew Enforcement – The 15-year-old and under curfew at 10 pm every night has been enforced this summer and will continue to be enforced. The group of kids that have been violating the curfew have been dealt with and their parents are aware that the city will be enforcing this for safety purposes and to eliminate the illegal activity we have experienced the past two months.
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Employee Report – City Clerk

- Land Update – Nothing new to report.
- CD Rates – Dotty reported that the current interest rate is approximately 5.25%. This rate is for a 6 (six) month, 9 (nine) month or 1 (one) year CD.
Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve investing \$200,000.00 into a 6 (six) month CD at Edward Jones. The motion carried unanimously
- Budget Date – Dotty sent out the packets to the departments and asked they be returned by July 10th. I would need 2 Councilmembers who would be willing to meet again and work through the budget so we are ready to review it at the September meeting. Last year it was Councilmember Standfuss and Councilmember Krogman. Councilmember Standfuss and Councilmember Krogman said they would do the budget again with Dotty.
- Completed Items – Dotty has filed PERA and paid Payroll Taxes.
- Office Closed & Vacation – The City Office will be closed on Monday, June 19th for Juneteenth.

School Building Updates

Councilmember Schneider mentioned that the Union at the Beet Plant would like another key. The Councilmembers told Schneider to have them go ahead and make one but let Schneider now when and what keys are made so he can track them.

Community Center Updates

Mayor Bentley and Dotty Schnobrich informed the Councilmembers about the issues that occurred with the rental on May 27th. The renter was informed that this was being addressed at this meeting. *Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve keeping the damage deposit from the May 27th event due to damages, extra day used and cleaning issues from the rental and possible further expenses relating to the damage. The motion carried unanimously*

Councilmember Schneider moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve no longer allowing the renter from May 27th to rent from the City of Danube. The motion carried unanimously

The Councilmembers discussed possible rent increases in renting the Community Center and Park building. The Councilmembers asked Dotty to check around the surrounding towns and inquire their fees for renting and bring it back at a future meeting.

Unfinished Business

None

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from May 11, 2023 thru June 14, 2023.

Councilmember Schneider moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$42,998.08 (checks) and \$9,842.70 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from May 9, 2023 thru June 12, 2023.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2023.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliation for May 2023.

New Business

Renville County Blight Grant – The Councilmembers discussed this in the Police Department Employee Report earlier in the meeting.

Golf Carts – Mayor Bentley informed the Councilmembers that the checks turned over from Schneider for golf cart/ATV/UTV/etc permits are too old to cash. The Councilmembers discussed how to address the out-dated checks. The Councilmembers decided to have Dotty write a letter to be approved by Mayor Bentley and her 2 (two) supervisors and return the funds to those that purchased a permit. All permits and payments will go through the City Clerk at the City Office.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve returning the checks and cash received from those who permitted along with a letter apologizing on behalf of the City Council and not charge until the next permitting period begins in January 2025. The motion carried unanimously

Future Business

Community Center and Park Building rental price and use of glitter and confetti in the buildings

Correspondence

None

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Ryan Bentley, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk