

DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:00 PM
Danube City Council Chambers

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on August 9, 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 and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: Chris Schneider

Others Present: Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Police Chief Les Schneider, Jeremy Boots – Moore Engineering, 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 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 July 12, 2023
- Building Permit – 507 Oak Street - Fence

Open Forum

None

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 – Still waiting on state boiler inspector to inspect the boilers. Will be ordering some plumbing and heating parts for the upcoming season to have in supply.
- Water – Bonnema Excavating repaired the curb stop at 205 S. 2nd ST. CMF removed the stump at Lueck residence that was affecting the curb stop. We were able to dig down only to the kinked portion of the stand pipe and cut it off. A new piece was added to the top. The wells averaged 54,000 gal/day for the month of July.
- Wastewater – Bonnema excavating was here to dig up Sanitary backup on CO RD 1. What was thought to be a force main crack was actually a plugged gravity line that was backing up at a manhole. The area was dug out to expose the problem and Johnson Jet Line came to clean the line. Lots of grease was present in the line. The lift station averaged 35,000 gal/day for the month of July.
- Storm – Bonnema excavating was here to dig up and repair a storm line on Railroad Ave. The concrete pipe had collapsed causing washout which created the sinkhole.
- Streets – Barga was here to patch the water main break areas from prior years. There are still spots to be done if the city wants them done.
- Community Center – After several complaints about faucets in Community Center. All the faucets were replaced in both bathrooms. The old ones were not working properly anymore and needed replacement. They were original to the remodel of the building. The hole in the wall in the men's bathroom has been covered. There is still some minor trim work to be done.
- Trim Saw – The price for a Milwaukee saw with charger and batteries is \$700.00. A Stihl saw is \$620.00. The saw is needed for trimming in the basket of loader on higher up tree limbs not reachable from the ground.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve purchasing a Milwaukee saw for \$700.00. The motion carried unanimously

- Mosquito Sprayer? – The Councilmembers discussed briefly spraying for mosquitos and asked Dan to look into possible grants and other options on a new mosquito sprayer in the meantime, to continue to rent Renville's spare for right now. Mayor Bentley passed on the email Dotty received on a mosquito sprayer from another company.

Mayor Bentley informed Dan about some spots on the roads that need to be addressed from the valve turn offs installation. The one on Freedom and Oak needs to be addressed as it is bad and needs more granite.

Employee Report - Moore Engineering – Jeremy Boots

Jeremy was present at the meeting and gave an update on the Water Treatment Plant project. Rural Development came back with their first set of comments and Moore Engineering is working on addressing them. Jeremy also spoke with the Councilmembers about applying for grant with MPCA or the State of Minnesota to do a storm sewer study. The Councilmembers discussed the grant.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve Moore Engineering to apply for a Strom Sewer Study Grant from either the State of Minnesota or MPCA whichever is more beneficial for the City if Dan and Dotty are unable to complete the application. The motion carried with Councilmember Garza, Councilmember Krogman and Councilmember Standfuss voting in favor and Mayor Bentley abstaining.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for July 2023 were lower compared to last year at the same time with 59 calls, 27 reports, 12 traffic stops, 4 citations, 41 mutual assists and 3 home security checks.

- *School Building Schedule* – The DHS class of 1973 had their 50th class reunion on July 8, which included touring the school building. Three other classes went through the school on Fun Days.
- *POST Board Annual Training Reimbursement* – The training reimbursement forms were sent to the POST Board for training expenses incurred from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.
- *Renville-Sibley Power Building* – The fire suppression system on the new building was tested on 07-17-2023, and I went through the system with the sprinkler contractor and REA employees. After testing the system, I approved the operation for the contractor to the State Fire Marshal.
- *DPS Juvenile Holding Policies* - All Police Departments in MN are required to report on policies of holding juvenile offenders, and facilities for holding these juveniles. I sent in all the information regarding juvenile policies to the Dept. of Public Safety.
- *First Response Update* – The contract with Ridgewater College will be sent in before training, which takes place on August 24, 2023. The date was moved up for the new members who are busy in the fall harvest season.
- *Mosquito Spraying* – With the first football game on September 1, I have been asked about possibly spraying this month. We used Renville’s spare sprayer at \$45 an hour before Fun Days.

Councilmember Standfuss asked if the City should be charging RCW for spraying for them. The Councilmembers discussed spraying the football field and decided to spray this year but rediscuss about charging for spraying the field for RCW.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- *Land Update* – Nothing new to report.
- *Funds Transfer* – The funds that were approved being moved from Renville Bank to the Danube Bank were completed
- *Budget Date* – Still waiting on a budget date with Councilmember Krogman and Councilmember Standfuss. A date of Monday, August 28th at 9:30am was set for the budget meeting.
- *Completed Items* – Dotty has filed PERA and paid Payroll Taxes.

- Office Closed & Vacation – The City Office will be closing at Noon on Thursday, August 24th for OSHA Training and closed on Monday, September 4th for Labor Day.
- House on 5th Street – Dotty informed the Councilmembers the blighted property on 5th Street has been sold. Dotty was contacted by the former owner and was passing on the information.
- Right of Way Permit – Dotty presented a Right of Way Permit Application that was prepared by City Attorney Aaron Walton. The Councilmembers reviewed the permit and the cost for the application.
Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the Right-Of-Way Permit with a Fee of \$100.00. The motion carried unanimously
- Website – Catalis – Dotty updated the Councilmembers that after emailing Catalis about the cost increase of the website that they contacted her back and dropped the price to \$1,000.00 a year with a 6% increase the next year.
Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the offer from Catalis for \$1,000.00 a year with a 6% increase the following year. The motion carried unanimously

School Building Updates

Councilmember Krogman informed the Councilmembers that Little Lambs will be out of the school building by August 31, 2023.

Community Center Updates

July 15, 2023 Rental – Security Deposit Charges – Mayor Bentley spoke with the Councilmembers the issues from the Rental on July 15, 2023. Dotty did inform the renters that this would be discussed at tonight’s meeting if they wished to attend to comment.

Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve not returning the security deposit from the July 15, 2023 event. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Bentley spoke with the Councilmembers about booking back-to-back events. The Councilmembers discussed this and decided that those could be decided case by case basis based on the times of the events. Dotty mentioned that there are many renters that come in last minute to rent and wanted to know how these should be handled. The Councilmembers discussed the concern and decided that once the schedule is given out to the Custodian that any new rentals in that month must first go through the custodian before booking the rental. Mayor Bentley also brought up the renters are continuing to prop doors open at the Community Center and Park Building. Dotty said she has been telling the renters they are not allowed to prop the doors open.

Unfinished Business

None

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from July 13, 2023 thru August 9, 2023. *Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$82,633.30 (checks) and \$8,279.37 (electronic fund transfers).* The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from July 13, 2023 thru August 7, 2023. The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2023. The Councilmembers did not review the Bank Reconciliation for July 2023.

New Business

Solar Garden Address – Dotty shared with the Councilmembers the address of 711 1st Street that her and Scott Hable came up with the 911 system for the Solar Garden. *Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve 711 1st Street as the address for the Solar Garden located on the North side of town.* The motion carried unanimously

Future Business

Budget

Correspondence

None

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Ryan Bentley, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk