

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2017 7:00 PM**  
**Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on September 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. with Acting Mayor Maurice presiding.

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

Councilmembers absent: Gene Allex

Others Present: Police Chief Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Malvin 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 August 9, 2017

**Open Forum**

Letter from Shelly Mitchell – The Councilmembers received a letter from Shelly Mitchell in their Council packets regarding paying the utility bill late. After some discussion the Councilmembers decided not to remove the penalty for the late payment.

**Employee Report – Public Works Director**

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

- Storm Sewer – There is a broken storm sewer line on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Maple. There has been a problem of sand in the catch basin so Lauritsen Septic was called to jet the line. They said they could not get all the way through the pipe and it felt like it was broke. Chris knight is scheduled to dig up and replace the pipe. I will try to look in the pipe with a camera to verify the break and to pinpoint its location so there is a smaller opening in street.
- Wastewater – The sweeper has an auto lube system that I believe is not working. I would like to have MacQueen equipment out to work on it. I'm trying not to use it much until

this is resolved as to not take out bearings from not getting greased. There are also a few other electrical issues that I think are tied together with the auto lube not working I'd like them to work out.

- Sweeper – Little lambs brought it to my attention that a bunch of sinks are not draining upstairs in the bathrooms. Dan would like to get a plumber in to clean out lines. Dan is guessing they are corroded after sitting with little use for so long. Dan will try to get them open himself first.
- Streets – Midwest Asphalt was here for 3 days air patching the city streets. A lot of it was done on Freedom Lane as there were several big alligated areas that were starting to bust up. Caldwell Asphalt was also here to patch up areas from recent digs among others that were needed. Will need to have Caldwell back to patch from storm sewer dig coming up.
- Water Tower – I'm still working with Lee on getting all the final details taken care of on the new tower. The weeds that were growing instead of grass have been sprayed off and new seed put down. The removal of the old tower is complete. Hydrant has been placed. The ground has been leveled and seeded
- Mower – I would like to start looking into replacing the zero-turn mower. The machine is starting to show its wear and breaking down more. Parts are also getting harder to find for it.
- Ponds – Due to the big rain again in August the ponds filled up faster than normal. If it's possible I'm going to try and do 2 discharges again this fall to lower the levels. If sample results allow it. This will lead to more testing being done by MVTL.  
The Councilmembers reviewed Dan's report and decided to have Dan look into getting some prices for a new mower. Councilmember Standfuss asked if anyone noticed a difference in water pressure at their homes. All the Councilmembers present said they didn't notice any difference.

### Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give a monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for August 2017 were higher compared to last year at the same time with 67 calls, 39 reports, 23 traffic stops, 7 citations, 38 mutual assists and 3 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – Schneider reported that the school schedule has been busy with events from RCW, Tri-Valley, Little Lambs and a few Class Reunions.
- POST Training Reimbursement Update – Schneider reported that the reimbursement of \$1,250.65 was received for the POST training.
- Radar Certification (Aug 9) – Schneider reported that the annual radar certification was completed on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Both radars were certified by Radar Direct out of Redwood Falls.
- Mosquito Spraying – Schneider reported that he started spraying again for mosquitoes and will spray again next week. They are using about a gallon to two per day of spraying. Schneider said that the drum is still about ½ to 2/3 full of mosquito spray. The Councilmembers discussed if RCW is paying the City for spraying done at the football field. Dotty reported that since she has been here we have never charged them. Schneider reported that Agre said that RCW would be willing to pay for the spray being used at the football field. Schneider will talk to Agre and report back at the next Council meeting.

- Civil Defense Siren Update – Schneider reported he had Sullivan’s Electric come over to look at the siren down at the park. Sullivan’s stated that the relay was bad and they suggested putting in a new radio box like the new siren. Councilmember Maurice told Schneider to have them look into getting a new relay before the look into getting a new radio box. Schneider stated that he was going to have Jim Sullivan come over and look at the siren and check on getting a new relay.
- POST Mandated Policy Compliance Forms (Oct. 5) – Schneider reported that he will get his reports submitted early this year. The reports are due by October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Squad Car Update – Schneider reported that the squad car has an electrical issue and if he doesn’t start it every day it won’t start and needs to be jumped started. Schneider is going to take it to over to Wertish’s in Renville to see if they can figure out the issue. Danube Auto Works has been unable to figure out the electrical issue.
- First Response Information – Schneider reported that the First Response vehicle had an issue and was taken down to Danube Auto Works and they were unable to fix the issue. The vehicle was then taken to Wertish’s in Renville. Jason thought it was the cam that was causing the issue. Schneider also informed that the First Response might receive a newer First Response vehicle for free from Bird Island. Olivia needs to first get the new ambulance in service before Bird Island will receive the old vehicle. Danube’s is a 1995 and Bird Islands is a 2001. Schneider will give an update about this at the next Council meeting.
- Dog Issues – Councilmember Maurice asked what is happening with the most recent dog bit issue that involved biting a resident. Schneider said he talked to the residents about the dog and showed them what the Ordinance states that once it bites a human it has to be removed from the City. Schneider told them to go ahead and talk to Mayor Alex because he was involved with it. They asked to continue to dog sit the dog and Schneider reported that the Ordinance says no the dog is not allowed in the City and if it continues then he will have to go back down there and tell them that the City can’t make an exception because you are dog sitting. Councilmember Maurice replied it’s not if it continues it is continuing and it needs to go.
- Blighted Property – The Councilmembers and Schneider discussed the blighted property issues and they are being addressed by Schneider.

#### **Employee Report – City Clerk**

- Vacant Lot - Update – Dotty has no new information other than Mayor Alex has talked to Keith Sharpe from the EDA Board about the lot.
- Community Center Rent – Update – Dotty spoke with the City of Renville and they informed her that they also do not charge for other government groups to use their Community Center. Upon finding that out Dotty informed the group and did not charge them to rent the Community Center but did inform them that they would be responsible for any cleanup that wasn’t completed along with any damages.
- Letter Issued to Creamery – Dotty was asked by Councilmember Maurice to write a letter to the Creamery about the possibility of a sump pump being connected to the sewer and about the exterior wall. Les Schneider Sr. came in and told Dotty that there is no sump pump connected to the sewer and any rain that would go through the opening in the wall would not be going down the sewer also. Schneider is hoping to get the exterior wall fixed this fall but he is having issues on getting someone to come in and get it done.

The Councilmembers discussed the Creamery and decided to have Police Chief Schneider talk to them and use the blighted property ordinance due to the walls and chimney.

- *Golf Carts in Danube* – When Les Schneider Sr. was in the office regarding the Creamery he brought to Dotty’s attention that he had a major concern about all the golf carts being allowed to drive around in Danube. He stated that kids are allowed to drive them without an adult and the adults are not obeying traffic laws and one day there will be a fatal accident if the City doesn’t step in and control the situation. He voiced that the City of Danube has no Ordinance regarding golf carts and therefore State Law prevails and State Law says they are illegal on the street. Schneider reported that he had received this complaint a couple of months ago. Since then Schneider has had a couple of other complaints, such as golf carts driving around at night without lights so other vehicles are unable to see them coming. Schneider has addressed them on an individual basis. The Councilmembers discussed the issue and asked Schneider to handle the complaint and other complaints as they come in regarding golf carts.
- *Completed Items* – End of month payroll taxes paid.
- *Office Closed* – The Danube City Office will be closed on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> for Dotty to attend a class for another job and Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> thru Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 am to use up some vacation days.
- *Julie Krueger – Playground Committee* – Dotty received an email from Julie Krueger asking for permission to use the Council Chambers for the Playground Committee. The meetings will be on the second Monday of every month at 6pm. The Councilmembers were in favor of allowing them to use the Council Chambers for their meetings.

### **School Building Updates**

The Councilmembers discussed some school issues and asked Dotty to contact Al Strunc and ask him to go speak with Tri-Valley and Little Lambs about the scratched gym floor along with a reminder about not flushing any type of wipes that are being used.

### **Community Center Updates**

Councilmember Krogman reported she has been over at the Community Center a couple of times and she has had no issues when she tried using the microwave. Councilmember Krogman did state that the corner wall at the Community Center still needs to be fixed and Dan was going to address that. Councilmember Krogman also mentioned the cover on the front steps are in need of being replaced due to cracking and such.

### **Unfinished Business**

*Water Tower Update* – Lee Elfering had no new update for the meeting. Councilmember Maurice reported that the grass has now been reseeded.

*Water Tower – Existing Water Tower – General Construction \$28,500.00* – The Councilmembers had previously discussed this issue and made a motion regarding the quote submitted by General Construction.

*Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve signing the Application for Payment for General Construction Services for \$28,540.00. The motion carried unanimously.*

LightBeam – Internet Service provider – Councilmember Krogman asked if there was any new information about LightBeam coming to town. Councilmember Maurice reported the only thing he was aware of is that they were talking with Bruce Maurice at Creative Details about putting up a tower out by his business. They are looking into the cost of a tower.

Ordinance Review – The Councilmembers reviewed Ordinance #71 – Prohibiting Discharge into Sanitary Sewer; #75 – Excavation Permit Requirements; #80 – Littering & Dumping; Ordinance #81 – Combining City Clerk & Treasurer Position; Ordinance #82 – Pawnbrokers; Ordinance #83 – Sidewalk Improvement District; #86 – Curfew; Ordinance #87 – Nudity in Licensed Liquor Establishments; Ordinance #88 – Licensing & Regulating Sale of Liquor and Ordinance #91 – Regulating Sexually Oriented Businesses. The Councilmembers decided to go keep the Cities Ordinances reviewed except for #80, #82 and #86 in which will be State Code. The State Codes will be edited to fit Danube as needed by Aaron Walton, City Attorney.

### **Financial Reports**

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from August 10, 2017 thru September 13, 2017. Councilmember Malvin moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$77,130.97 (checks) and \$6,364.25 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from August 8, 2017 thru September 7, 2017. The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2017. The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliations for August 2017.

### **New Business**

2018 Budget – Proposed Tax Levy – Resolution 04-2017 – The Councilmembers went through line by line of the budget that was put together by Councilmember Maurice, Councilmember Standfuss and Dotty Schnobrich. After making changes throughout the budget the Councilmembers made a resolution for adopting the 2018 tax levy of \$268,746.00. Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to pass resolution 4-2017 for the proposed tax levy of \$268,746.00. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Future Business - None**

### **Correspondence**

State of MN – Volunteer Fire Relief Association Investment Report Card  
MediaCom

*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 9:06 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

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Gene Alex, Mayor

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Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk