

DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:00 PM
Danube City Council Chambers

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on September 13, 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 Garza moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Standfuss 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 August 9, 2023
- Xcel Energy - Right of Way Permit

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 due an inspection on the boilers. After that they will be reassembled and ready for the cold season. Little lambs I out of their classrooms and everything has been cleaned out.
- Water – I had a meeting with MDH discussing our compliance agreement for radium in well #3. The current one is set to expire December 31st 2023. After much discussion we constructed a new compliance agreement going forward with new timelines for compliance. The new end date is December 31st 2026. This was to allow for new treatment facility. The wells averaged 44,000 gal/day for the month of August. A new door slab is needed on well #3. The door has rotted out and falling off the hinges.
- Wastewater – The lift station averaged 35,000 gal/day for the month of August.
- Storm – There is another sinkhole at the intersection of maple and 3rd ST. The tile line has collapsed next to the manhole. I have contacted Bonnema Excavating to dig and repair.
- Compliance Letter from Dept of Health – Dan informed the Councilmembers that the compliance agreement with the Dept. of Health regarding the radium has an end date of 2026. The treatment plant needs to be completed in 2025 as 1 year of sampling is required before the end date of the agreement.
- Mayor Bentley asked Dan how Jaime has been working out. Dan stated that it is working out good and he did let Dan know that he would be hauling beets during the beet season. Mayor Bentley asked Dan if he is still working Summer hours compared to Winter hours. Dan responded that his hours are the same all the time. Mayor Bentley said it use to be 4 (four) 10 (ten) hour shifts in the Summer and different in the Winter. Dan said that is all year round except in the Winter he works 7 days a week. Mayor Bentley noticed that the time card is showing 6am-5pm the first 3 (three) days and the 4th (fourth) is 6am to 1:00pm. Dan said because they don't like it when he gets overtime. Mayor Bentley voiced concerns about no breaks on a 10 (ten) hour shift safety wise and Dan said he takes his 10 (ten) and 15 (fifteen) minute breaks here and there.
- Councilmember Standfuss asked Dan about the maintenance that gets done on the payloader like oil changes is that covered in the contract. Dan said the regular maintenance of changing fluids and stuff like that is at the cost of the City. Major repairs are covered by the contract. Dan also brought up about trading in the payloader every 5 (five) years to keep the equipment new like other towns in the area do. The payloader is now 3 (three) years old and might be something the City of Danube should look into. Mayor Bentley said the only concern is any attachments the City has bought be able to work with any trade ins.
- Mayor Bentley also asked Dan to fix the front door on the City Office Building as it is not working correctly.

Employee Report - Moore Engineering – Jeremy Boots

Jeremy was not present at the meeting. Mayor Bentley read a text message he received from Jeremy Boots stating that RD has approved the plans and we are waiting to hear from MDH and once approved they should be good to go for bids.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for August 2023 were lower compared to last year at the same time with 68 calls, 37 reports, 28 traffic stops, 8 citations, 43 mutual assists and 2 home security checks.

- *School Building Schedule* – The annual lockdown drill for Tri-Valley took place on Aug. 21. Santa’s Closet has returned to the building, and I am in communication with their directors. Since the closing of the Little Lambs Daycare, I have been doing regular building checks.
- *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.
- *PD/MRU Maintenance* – The squad car and the First Response rig have been into the shop for scheduled maintenance and repair. The PD office computer also had issues this summer and was also repaired and updated.
- *PD Report Requests* - The total report requests this August was at an all-time high since I’ve been here. The total reports have tripled when compared to this month last year. One person requested and received seven incident reports that occurred from Aug. 2022 until July 2023. That was time consuming going back through all that information and having computer malfunctions also produced issues.
- *First Response Continuing Education* – The contract for training through Ridgewater College has been completed and the first training took place on August 24 at 6:30pm.
- *Siren at Park* – Councilmember Krogman asked about the siren down at the park about cost to repair. Schneider said it needs a receiver to work but he has not looked into at this time. He suggested with this time of year to let it go. The Councilmembers needed to know for the 2024 budget. Les suggested taking it out of the capital outlay for the park. Dotty informed the Councilmembers that park capital outlay is at a negative currently and has no money for that.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- *Land Update* – Nothing new to report.
- *Completed Items* – Dotty has filed PERA and paid Payroll Taxes.
- *Office Closed & Vacation* – Nothing at this time.

School Building Updates

Councilmember Krogman asked Dan to check the weather stripping on the bottom of the overhead door down at the school.

Community Center Updates

Dotty reported that since the change in renting the Community Center it has been working well with checking with Valarie (custodian) before renting once the schedule has been going out. Councilmember Krogman asked Dotty to put in the minutes a Thank You to Colleen Alex for doing the flowers at the Community Center again this year.

Unfinished Business

None

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from August 10, 2023 thru September 13, 2023. *Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$50,153.99 (checks) and \$10,696.96 (electronic fund transfers).* The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from August 8, 2023 thru September 11, 2023. The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2023. The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliation for July 2023 and August 2023.

New Business

2024 Budget- Proposed Tax Levy – Resolution 03-2023 – The Councilmembers went through line by line of the budget that was put together by Councilmember Standfuss, Councilmember Krogman and Dotty Schnobrich. After making changes throughout the budget the Councilmembers made a resolution for adopting the 2024 proposed tax levy of \$376,081.00. *Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to pass resolution 03-2023 for the proposed tax levy of \$376,081.00.* The motion carried unanimously.

Renville Sibley Building – Mayor Bentley informed the Councilmembers that Renville Sibley will be accepting sealed bids starting at \$100,000.00 for the building located at 103 Oak Street in Danube. The Councilmembers discussed if there was any interest in the building. The only ones that went over and looked at the building was former mayor Gene Alex Sr, Dan Kaufenberg and

Les Schneider Jr. Both Les and Dan said they were not interested in the building and none of the Councilmembers had interest either in placing a bid for the building.

Future Business

None

Correspondence

None

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Ryan Bentley, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk