

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2025 7:00 PM**  
**Danube Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on December 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Chris Schneider presiding. The meeting then was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Danube Council Chambers.

The following Councilmembers were present: Ryan Bentley, Sharon Krogman and Travis Schneider

Councilmembers absent: Carrie Garza

Others Present: Police Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Ryan Odden – Moore Engineering, Renville Police Chief Aaron Slagter and City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Travis Schneider seconded a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Travis Schneider 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 Special/Regular Meeting of November 12, 2025
- Off-Site Gambling Permit – Danube Firemen’s Relief – March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 AT 407 Main Street (2<sup>nd</sup> Street) Danube Community Center

**Open Forum** - None

**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 – Boiler #1 has a leak on one its mud legs. Midwest Boiler is scheduled to come look at it and get it repaired. They did Boiler #2 last year. That repair was \$3725.00.

There are several steam traps that need replacing. I will be going around testing them and replacing as needed.

- Water – The wells averaged 26,500 gal/day for the month of November. No issues to report on water dept.
- Wastewater – The lift station averaged 30,000 gal/day for the month of November. No issues at current time
- Mower – I got a written estimate from Warrens Sales for a new Scag Cheetah II. Total price was \$13899.20. The Councilmembers asked Dan to get pictures and information about the old old mower so the City could look into trying to sell it.  
*Councilmember Chris Schneider moved and Councilmember Travis Schneider seconded a motion to approve purchasing a Scag Cheetah II lawn mower from Warren's Sales and Service for \$13,899.20. The motion carried unanimously*
- Dump Truck – The red dump truck is non functioning and near the end of its run. It is missing across half the cylinders and the carb keeps flooding everything out. Can't even get it started at the moment. It has been parked outside for the winter to make room for snow equipment. Councilmember Bentley suggested looking into a dump trailer. Dan will look into some prices for a dump trailer.
- Depot – I was asked by members of the Historical society if the city would be willing to take back mowing duties at the Depot. Stan Malacek is retiring and they would like the city to take over. The Councilmembers were in favor of the city taking back the lawn mowing at the Depot.
- Vacation – I will be using vacation days 12-22-25 to 1-5-26. All backups have been notified and we are working out scheduling.

### **Moore Engineering – Ryan Odden**

Ryan Odden spoke with the Councilmembers about the pay application #14 from Eagle Construction.

*Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Travis Schneider seconded a motion to approve Pay Application #14 for \$820,561.99 to Eagle Construction pending RD approval. The motion carried unanimously*

Ryan Odden also spoke with the Councilmembers about Invoice SIN006276 and SIN006152 from Moore Engineering.

*Councilmember Chris Schneider moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion to approve Invoice SIN006276 for \$31,476.00 to Moore Engineering pending RD approval. The motion carried unanimously*

Ryan Odden gave an update on the construction at the water treatment plant. Ryan informed the Councilmembers that Eagle Construction is requesting an extension from Rural Development of 136 days. This would move the completion date from May to September. The letter needs to go to Rural Development Engineer to review and make a recommendation. Ryan said that he was going to ask Rural Development for consideration of some kind of compensation from Eagle Construction for expenses relating to the old system during that time extension. The Councilmembers asked to see the letter they will be submitting to request the extension. Ryan

Odden said he would send the letter to Dotty for her to send out to the Councilmembers for them read.

Ryan reviewed Invoice SIN006152 for \$1,200.00 relating to the water meters.

*Councilmember Chris Schneider moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion to approve Invoice SIN006152 for \$1,200.00 to Moore Engineering pending RD approval. The motion carried unanimously*

Ryan closed with informing the Councilmembers that the construction contract for the water meters is under review with the City Attorney and once it is completed Ryan would like to hold a preconstruction meeting on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Mayor Chris Schneider and Councilmember Bentley were fine with that date and gave permission to Ryan Odden to check with the contractor if it works for them. After completing everything then they will issue a notice to proceed to the contractor. Roughly February would be when the water meters would be getting replaced. Ryan will get Dotty some pamphlets about a couple different water meter software for billing for the Council to make a decision on which to use.

### **Employee Report – Renville Police**

Renville Chief of Police Aaron Slagter was present to give his report to the Councilmembers. Aaron reported that the City of Danube's Police Department is completely removed from the State and any open cases have been turned over to the Police Department. The Councilmembers are happy with how the first year went with contracting the Renville Police Department to take over Danube's policing. Mayor Chris Schneider asked if they go over on hours if they would be billing the City for that time. Aaron said no they would not be billing the City and they would try to make it even on hours before the end of the year.

### **Employee Report – City Clerk**

- *Completed Items* – Dotty has filed PERA and payroll taxes.
- *Council Meeting in November* – The Council meeting in November 2026 falls on a holiday (Veterans Day) so the Council needs to decide if they would like to move it to Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Councilmembers discussed this and decided to move the meeting to Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- *Water Rates* – Dotty reviewed the water rates after the last Council meeting and upon the review the rate that we were given did not take into consideration of the overage usage fees. When Dotty reviewed three (3) years of information and did the math she came up with a lower rate. If the Council would like to use the information that Dotty came up with, they will need to rescind the motion from November and make a new motion for these rates. The figures that Dotty came up with is \$54.63 per month with leaving the over 5,000 gallons at \$4.00 per 1,000. Using the \$54.63 per month allows for \$20,000 in overage fees from the residents in the year. The Councilmembers discussed this item in length. The Councilmembers thanked Dotty for doing the research on the water rates.  
*Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion to approve to rescind the motion from the November meeting increasing the water rates. The motion carried unanimously*

*Councilmember Krogman moved and Councilmember Bentley seconded a motion to approve to change the water rates from 2025 to 2026 consisting of increasing the base rate to \$163.89 per 3 months, starting January 2026. The motion carried unanimously*

- *Office Closed & Vacation* – The Danube City Office will be closed on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> thru Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> for Dotty to use up her vacation time. However, during the December vacation there is a payroll that will need to be completed so there will be a short time that she does come to the office to complete the payroll and other needed filings like PERA.

### **School Building Updates**

Councilmember Krogman mentioned that there is someone interested in possibly renting a room at the School and once she knows more, she will bring back to a future Council meeting. Councilmember Krogman also informed the Councilmembers a new fix it list was given by Tri-Valley and Dan will be addressing the items. Councilmember Krogman asked about the elevator down at the school and Dan informed the Councilmembers it was the power supply and it did get fixed.

### **Community Center & Park Building Updates**

Mayor Chris Schneider mentioned the sidewalks at the Community Center need to be cleared of snow after snowfalls.

### **Unfinished Business**

*Truth In Taxation (TNT) Public Hearing* - The Councilmembers reviewed the updated 2026 budget. After the review and some revisions to the 2026 budget a resolution was made to adopt the 2026 budget with no increase in taxes on the City's side.

*Councilmember Travis Schneider moved and Councilmember Chris Schneider seconded a motion to pass resolution 08-2025 adopting the final 2025 tax levy collectible in 2026 in the amount of \$398,372.00. The motion carried unanimously*

### **Financial Reports**

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from November 13, 2025 thru December 10, 2025. *Councilmember Travis Schneider moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$654,183.10 (checks) and \$6,473.79 (electronic fund transfers) with any checks related to the water treatment plant held pending RD approval first. The motion carried unanimously*

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from November 10, 2025 thru December 8, 2025. The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2025. The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliations for November 2025.

**New Business**

Signage for Ice Rink – Councilmember Bentley asked the Councilmembers if they would be interested in putting up a sign or two down at the hockey rink regarding risk and safety. Councilmember Travis Schneider will check with the MN League of Cities Insurance if they have an example and then get it to Dotty to ask Creative Details for a cost to make two (2) signs.

**Future Business**

Councilmember Absence – The Councilmembers discussed absences from Council meetings. Mayor Chris Schneider will proceed forward and report back to the Councilmembers at the January meeting.

Open Forum – Councilmember Krogman asked the Councilmembers to look at possibly changing how to handle walk ins for open forum and not make any decision at the meeting when the item is first being discussed but to make a decision at the next meeting to not feel pressured and have time to do research on the request. The Councilmembers will look into how surrounding cities handle open forum and discuss this at a future meeting.

Councilmember Pay – The Councilmembers discussed changing the Councilmembers pay from yearly to each pay per meeting. The Councilmembers will do some research on this and readdress it at the January meeting for possible changes.

**Correspondence**

RRRSWA – Landfill Fees  
Lyon County Environmental – Landfill Fees

*There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Bentley moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

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Chris Schneider, Mayor

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Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk