

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

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on December 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Bentley presiding. The meeting then was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Danube Council Chambers.

The following Councilmembers were present: Carrie Garza, Sharon Krogman, Chris Schneider and Phil Standfuss

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Police Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Kent Ritterman – Moore Engineering, Chief Les Schneider and City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Schneider moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the Agenda for the Special/Regular Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as listed below. The motion passed with Mayor Bentley, Councilmeber Garza, Councilmember Krogman and Councilmember Standfuss voting in favor and Councilmember Schneider abstaining.

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 8, 2023
- Schneider & Sons LLC DBA The Hawks Nest Liquor License for January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024
- Bar Door Open - Thursday, December 28, 2023 – Retirement Party

Open Forum - None

Employee Report – Public Works Director

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

- School – The school has had a lot of thermostats go bad recently. They all were in use for a long time and nearing the end of their life cycle. An order will be placed with State Supply for more. More water chemical was also ordered through Team Lab and Marc Corp. The boilers have been running well without any issues. I received Tri-Valleys fix it list and will begin working on it. Dan updated the Councilmembers his progress on the fix it list from Tri-Valley. Dan spoke with the Councilmembers about the water softener down at the school and will get quotes and bring them back at another meeting.
- Water – The wells averaged 23,000 gal/day for the month of November. No issues at present time.
- Sanitary – The lift station averaged 30,000 gal/day for the month of November. No issues at present time.
- Snow Contracts - All individuals lined up for this coming snow season have signed and returned their contracts.
- Vacation – I will be using vacation 12-22-23 to 1-2-2024.
Councilmember Standfuss asked about flushing hydrants and Dan replied he planned to get to more this week as the weather is still warm.
Mayor Bentley informed Dan about the stop signs and yield signs that need to be placed in town. Dan will get these done.

Moore Engineering – Kent Ritterman

Kent Ritterman was present at the meeting. He gave a brief update on the changes in engineer and reassured the Councilmembers that the others are still at Moore Engineering that have been working on the Water Treatment Plant project. Kent informed the Councilmembers that only one (1) bid came in for the Water Treatment Plant came in and it was high at \$7.2 million. Moore Engineering will do some research as to if there is more money out there in grants along with reaching out to those who inquired on the project but didn't submit bids. Kent will be at the January meeting to give an update and suggestions on how to move forward with the project.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for November 2023 were lower compared to last year at the same time with 29 calls, 18 reports, 12 traffic stops, 3 citations, 17 mutual assists and 2 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Updates – Tri-Valley's Director last day in the school building is December 15, and she will be out until February. The last day for RCW JH BBB in the gym is on Dec. 18. I have also been assisting Santa's Closet with various issues in the building.
- Police Chief Vacation/Holiday Update – I currently have 240 hours of vacation left for the year, and I'm attempting to get that number as close to 180 hours as possible by the end of the year. I also have five unused holidays from Independence Day to Thanksgiving.
- AED Grant Update – I applied for an additional AED on the grant from the U of MN before they close out the project. There is no cost to our department, and this AED would go in the Community Center. We have received two AEDs on this grant, and they are in the squad car and MRU rig.

- County Meetings - I've attended meetings with various agencies in the county for a Child Mortality Review. The last meeting was on Nov. 29, discussing how to improve county services.
- 2023 First Response Summary - The Danube First Response team totaled 33 calls for service in 2023. The 2022 call total was 39 calls for service. The 2023 wages totaled \$2170, while the 2022 wages amounted to \$2500.
The Councilmembers mentioned to Les the concerns of semis still parking on roads that are not truck routes in the City of Danube.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- Land Update – Nothing new to report.
- Audit Date – The 2023 Audit is scheduled for January 16th and 17th.
- Completed Items - Dotty has filed PERA and paid Payroll Taxes.
- Office Closed & Vacation - Closed Wednesday, December 20th until Tuesday, January 2nd.

School Building Updates

This was covered under the Public Works report. Councilmember Krogman mentioned that Santas Closet will be done and closed on December 19th.

Community Center & Park Building Updates

Dotty reported there was a rental on Monday, December 11th but due to the power being turned off they were unable to rent the Community Center and is asking for permission to return the rent paid to the Quilters Along the Yellowstone Trail.

Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to approve the returning the \$50.00 rental fee to Quilters Along the Yellowstone Trail for the Regular Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

Councilmember Schneider reported that he spoke with Ben Ryan regarding the broken swing down at the park and he informed the Councilmembers that the swing was still under warranty and will get replaced at no cost.

Mayor Bentley brought up the stove at the Community Center and that they need to move forward with removing it and putting in the two (2) new stoves that are sitting in the Community Center. Dan will speak with the American Legion to see if they are interested in the stove or not. Mayor Bentley will take some pictures of the stove and put it on some swapping sites to see if any interest is out there. The Councilmembers agreed to Mayor Bentley advertising it elsewhere.

Mayor Bentley also mentioned that the Danube Area Athletic Club has not yet given a schedule of dates they will be using the building down at the park. The Councilmembers asked Dotty to email Ben Ryan a reminder that per the agreement they are required to give a schedule of dates to the City to be put in the book.

Unfinished Business

Truth In Taxation (TNT) Public Hearing - The Councilmembers reviewed the updated 2024 budget. After the review and some revisions to the 2023 budget a resolution was made to adopt the 2024 budget.

Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to pass resolution 05-2023 adopting the final 2023 tax levy collectible in 2024 in the amount of \$376,081.00. The motion carried unanimously

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list from November 14, 2023 thru December 13, 2023. *Councilmember Schneider moved and Councilmember Garza seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$60,117.75 (checks) and \$8,216.78 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously*

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from November 11, 2023 thru December 9, 2023. The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual versus Budget Comparison for 2023. The Councilmembers reviewed the Bank Reconciliations for November 2023.

New Business

ACTS Garbage Bag Agreement – The Councilmembers reviewed the agreement with ACTS. *Councilmember Garza moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve signing the garbage bag agreement with ACTS. The motion carried unanimously*

Future Business

Possible Annexation of Farm Land – The Councilmembers briefly discussed this and is in favor of discussing annexing in more land into the city limits of Danube
Water Treatment Plant – January Meeting
Bond Hearing – Possibly February depending on Water Treatment Plant being awarded

Correspondence

RRRSWA Letter
Lyon County Letter

The Councilmembers thanked Mayor Alex for his years of service on the Council.

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Schneider seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Ryan Bentley, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk