

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE DASSEL CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 16, 2015 7:00 P.M.
DASSEL CITY HALL**

The regular meeting of the Dassel City council was called to order by Mayor Putnam at 7:05 p.m. on March 16, 2015 at the Dassel City Hall.

Mayor Putnam led the opening Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk/Treasurer Boese administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Council member Ron Hungerford.

Present: Council members Asplin, Bjork, Hungerford, Nelson and Mayor Putnam (5)

Absent: (0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Bjork to approve the January 20, 2015 Public Hearing Meeting; February 17, 2015 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes with correction on February 17, 2015 minutes – ‘Approval of minutes was seconded by Bjork instead of Benzing’. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Wayne Medcraft resident at 701 Willis Street. Medcraft stated that the sidewalk which parallels Horace Ave and Willis Street was designated to be abandoned as part of the city’s 2012 sidewalk plan. It is unsafe and dangerous due to the steep angle of the entrance. He requested the Council split the costs to make the repairs needed to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mayor Putnam stated that this request will be discussed at the next Safe Routes to School meeting.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Hungerford to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2015-011 Supporting Dedicated Street Funding for City Streets
- B. Approve annual renewal of Wine License and Strong Beer for Thirsty’s Tavern Inc pending the receipt of all required paperwork.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Bjork to approve consent agenda items A & B as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Bjork reported on the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting she attended on February 26, 2015, where they reviewed a variance request from Tim Ubl at TACCOM for an addition to his building on Parker Ave. The Commission determined no variance was required per the zoning ordinance.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE DASSEL CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 17, 2015 7:00 P.M. CONTINUED
DASSEL CITY HALL**

Council member Asplin gave an update on the Chicken Committee stating they are working on their final draft of the ordinance to present to the council. They will have the final draft ready for council approval at the April meeting, at which time a Public Hearing can be called. Along with the chicken ordinance the animal committee will be updating the remainder of the animal ordinance also.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk Boese provided an update of Summit Hills, and the meeting that was held with David Krueger, Meeker county EDA Director. Krueger has been working with the State of Minnesota in order to move along the process of Summit Hills which was tax forfeited and is currently owned by the State and managed by the County, there are currently 10 homes in the subdivision. He recommended the council discuss sending a letter of intent to Meeker County to purchase the property for \$1.00. Although there are several decisions to be made there are some developers that have shown interest in developing lots or purchasing the entire parcel. The county board would have to approve the city's offer to purchase and then recommend it to the state. Clerk Boese along with the City Attorney have drafted a letter to submit to the Meeker County Board of Commissioners.

Justin Wendroth with Bludorn Builders informed the council on his idea of building possibly 3 homes per year in the Summit Hills addition.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Hungerford to approve sending the letter of intent as presented to Meeker County Board of Commissioners to purchase the Summit Hills Addition property for \$1.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk Smith is working on updating the water and sewer ordinances as well as drafting an Emerald Ash Borer ordinance and a mitigation plan that is needed for the DNR tree grant which the city received. Mark Schnobrich, DNR Arborist has agreed to help with the ordinance and future inspections as needed.

Boese reminded the council of the upcoming League's conference which will be held in Duluth June 24-26th and invited council members to attend.

Liquor Store Manager

Manager Vetsch presented the February, 2015 report showing total gross sales of \$64,345.22 which is an increase of 4% in the sales over last year.

Vetsch reported that the February sales kept up with January's thanks in part to the weather. This is a great start to 2015. Vetsch attended a trade show to bring back some new products and extensions of lines already available. He will be redoing some displays to keep up with that is trending.

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FEBRUARY 17, 2015 7:00 P.M. CONTINUED
DASSEL CITY HALL**

Public Works Director

Director Scepaniak reported that they will be ordering new control panels for Pivot's #1 and #2 the original ones are 33 years old and are rusted out. Quote is an estimated \$15,500. Money will come from the Wastewater budget 602-49450-404 which has a balance of \$30,000. The plan is to have them completed in April.

Bids are being collected for annual maintenance for Generators, Lift stations and Sewer main cleaning. Scepaniak attended the 31st annual Minnesota Rural Water Association seminar in St. Cloud.

The old standby generator (surplus equipment) has been sold for \$2000. Public Works has finished moving into the new shop, the phone system and computer are now working. He reported that the skating rink has been closed and Mayor Putnam requested keeping it open as long as weather permitting going forward. Street sweeping has been started.

Fire Chief

Chief Johnson reported that there were 14 calls from February 12th to March 16th, 1 of them in the city limits and total calls for the year 42.

A committee to look at the purchase of mason building has been appointed, 3 members from the fire department and 2 from the city council. The Mason's are looking for an offer from the city. A couple of firefighters attended the Ellsworth Township Board meeting to discuss future fire contracts.

Johnson presented proposed changes to the Articles of Constitution which have been approved by the Fire Department members. He recommended the City Council ratify the changes as presented.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Bjork to approve the changes presented by Fire Chief Johnson in Article 2 Sec. 1, Article 2 Sec. 3, Article 3 Sec. 4 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Keith Day, Fire Relief Association Treasurer, presented a request for a pension increase from \$2400/yr to \$2600/yr. He stated this change requires a Bylaw change.

Motion by Asplin, seconded by Hungerford to approve the increase of the pension from \$2400/yr to \$2600/yr and approve the Bylaw change as presented. Motion carried. Council member Nelson and Mayor Putnam abstained.

Museum Director

Director Holje reported The Fungus Among Us Players theatre group at the DC Community Theatre held 6 performances of the Romancers, with the DAHS serving dessert before 5 of the performances and one being a dinner theatre.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE DASSEL CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 17, 2015 7:00 P.M. CONTINUED
DASSEL CITY HALL**

Museum Director report continued:

The parking lot is in need of being resurfaced. Several complaints have been made in regards to the condition of the parking lot. Storage space is needed, there are landscaping issues in the front as well as in front of the fence mural, and there are some window issues on the 3rd level.

Upcoming events include the Fiber Arts exhibit which opens on the 28th of March with an open house from 3-5p.m. with refreshments and music by Julie Lindquist, the exhibit will run through April 25th. We have been working on the Seed Corn exhibit for nearly 3 years it's currently being produced and we are looking at a tentative opening date of June 28th 2015. We are applying for a grant for an art tour for October 24th 2015, called the Discover Dassel Art Tour. There are about 20 artists within the community who will be displaying their art. We would like the support of the City.

Holje expressed the need for a people counter to track all of the visitors and volunteers at the History Center.

Holje thanked all of the supporters of the Dassel Area Historical Society.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Bjork to support the Discover Dassel Art Tour and event. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Bjork to approve spending the \$250 previously allocated toward new banners to be used as matching funds for grant monies on future Discover Dassel projects. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff's Office

There were 66 calls for the month of February, 2015.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

Motion by Asplin, seconded by Bjork to approve payment of claims in the amount of \$92,558.59 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Asplin to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Jeff Putnam
Mayor

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer