

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE DASSEL CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 18, 2015 7:00 P.M.
DASSEL CITY HALL**

The regular meeting of the Dassel City council was called to order by Mayor Putnam at 7:00 p.m. on April 18, 2015 at the Dassel City Hall.

Mayor Putnam led the opening Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: (0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bjork, seconded by Nelson to approve the March 16, 2015 Regular Meeting and March 26, 2015 Special Meeting minutes with the correction of the start time on March 26, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Julie Schumann representing the Discover Dassel group provided information on the upcoming Flower Pot Beautification City Wide Project. Schumann stated that the Committee would like to put out forty-two (42) planters along the Highway 12 corridor and on streets leading up to the main street. She requested \$250 from the Council to help fund the project. The council added the request to New Business item 11B on the agenda.

Larry Oberg representing the Red Rooster Day Committee and Chairman of the Grand Day Parade spoke to the council regarding the upcoming parade. He requested the Council along with five other individuals to be named later be present during the parade and award ceremony as honorary judges for the People's Choice Award, which will reward the best marching band participating in the parade on September 5, 2015. Oberg stated he would touch base with the Council again in August.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Bjork to add the advertisement for a Planning and Zoning Committee member to Clerk/Treasurer Reports, item 8a2. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve the Liquor License for the Cokato-Dassel Lions Club to serve beer at the Baseball Park from May 1- September 1, 2015, pending the receipt of all required paperwork.

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

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Putnam reported on the meeting he had with Dave Krueger, Meeker County EDA Director in regard to the activation of Dassel's EDA. Putnam stated that it is currently in the infancy stage of development and they are looking to take care of some initial objectives.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk Boese reported that the Historical Society Board has requested to the Council to set up a Committee to discuss additional storage options for the museum by potentially purchasing or leasing space from the adjoining Fireworks facility. Boese requested that two Council members be appointed to the History Center Board. Council members Hungerford and Bjork expressed their desire to serve on the Committee.

The Office of the State Auditor sent a final notice of non-compliance to the City. The district has been decertified and \$120,000 was taken to the county to reimburse them. Both the City and School District will receive a portion of this money back.

Boese made a request to the Council to order 500 more City pins at a cost of \$730 with an additional \$80 set up charge which would include the new City logo. Each individual pin would be sold for \$3. Mayor Putnam said he would like to see anywhere from 200-250 pins order initially with the intent to potentially order more based on sales.

The final payout for the new public works building came out to be a cost of \$533,000 with a deductible of \$250. Boese mentioned that the City had previously paid \$492,000 and recently paid an additional \$40,000 for the project. The building is complete and waiting for the signs to be put up. An open house for the building was scheduled for May 30th, 2015.

Both Boese and Council Member Bjork met with the Meeker County Board of affairs. Boese reported that they accepted the City's letter of intent to purchase Summit Hills and approved the drafting of the purchase agreement for the property in the amount of \$1. A special meeting open to the public and EDA members to discuss the road, covenants, gutters, and zoning was scheduled for Thursday, May 7th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The Dassel Cokato Trail Board met with representatives from both the Meeker and Wright County Parks Department and are proposing a Joint Powers Agreement according to Boese. The purpose of the Trail Agreement would allow the Trail Board to apply for grant funds to assist in the maintenance of the existing trail. Mayor Putnam acknowledged that a Joint Powers Agreement would provide the City with greater protection. The drafted agreement would potentially include the cities and townships of Dassel and Cokato.

Boese reminded tax payers of a County Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting on Thursday, April 23rd, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. at Dassel City Hall. This meeting presents an opportunity to discuss property tax valuation questions.

The Minnesota Rural Water Association Workshop will present to the City Council on operation and maintenance of the City's Utility Systems. Boese suggested a meeting to be set for May 5th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Boese expressed the need to advertise for a Planning and Zoning Commission member to replace Council Member Hungerford.

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Motion by Nelson, seconded by Asplin to approve the advertising for a Planning and Zoning Commission member to replace Council Member Hungerford. Motion carried unanimously.

Liquor Store Manager

Manager Vetsch presented the March, 2015 report showing total gross sales of \$70,367.74 which showed an increase of 4% in the sales over last year.

Vetsch reported that the March sales were in line with previous months for 2015 and hopes that the weather continues in a favorable path to keep sales moving in the right direction. New displays and promotions will be on tap for the upcoming summer season. Vetsch has been working on new equipment for credit card processing to stay up to date with PCI compliance requirements.

Public Works Director

Director Scepaniak reported that he ordered 10 'No Parking during Snow Event' signs at a cost of \$23.50 each. He plans to wait until later this fall to put them up. 6 new 'No Parking during School Hours' signs were purchased as well and will be placed seasonably on Guy Street. Council Member Nelson acknowledged that the School and Bus drivers are very appreciative of these signs.

Public Works has installed the base posts for the flashing pedestrian signs, and Scepaniak mentioned that they should be operational by May.

A faulty filter effluent valve has been repaired at the Water Plant.

Public Works has added a circuit board for the #1 high service pump to activate the chemical pumps and is back in service.

The fire sprinkler system has been repaired at the Dassel History Center and B&P Drywall will patch the hole that is in the ceiling.

City streets have been swept and Public Works has submitted a billing to MNDOT for \$500 for sweeping Highway 12.

Fire Chief

Chief Johnson reported that there were 18 calls from March 16th to April 9th. 5 of the calls were in the city of Dassel bringing the total year to date to 14 in the city and 62 overall.

Chief Johnson announced the resignation of Ben Aho. Aho served on the Department for 6 years and served as the Department Secretary and Secretary of the Relief Association. Johnson expressed that he would be missed and thanked him for his time served. A replacement for the position has been found.

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Johnson also noted that on April 23rd, there would be a meeting with Ellsworth Township to discuss upcoming contracts.

Museum Director

Director Holje reported that the Fiber Arts Exhibit at the Museum has received rave reviews. She thanked everyone involved for their efforts towards the project. Holje emphasized that networking was key to getting the exhibit here. The exhibit will close on April 25th at 1:00 p.m.

A preview of coming events brought up by Holje included Memorial Day Coffee after the Program at the Dassel Cemetery and the opening of the seed corn exhibit called, *Seed Corn from Maize to Amazing*, and set an opening date for June 28th at 3:00 p.m. She mentioned that the exhibit is open to all.

Holje reported that the Historical Society has applied for a grant for an upcoming art tour on October 24th, 2015. The tour has to do with the Discover Dassel Art Tour and is currently waiting to hear if they received the grant. She mentioned that in the event that a grant is not awarded, they will proceed to move forward with a smaller agenda. The Dassel Cokato Arts Association has committed \$500 to the project and Holje mentioned of the Council's previous grant of permission to use the \$250 from the Christmas Decorations if deemed necessary. A nominal fee will be charged to the artists who choose to participate. Director Holje believes that funding will be attainable without a grant.

David Grabitske, a representative of the Minnesota Historical Society visited on April 10th, to evaluate the facility. He mentioned that some areas that should be thought about in the near future included the heat control of the building. Holje reported that they could potentially apply for a grant to receive an evaluation on their heating system. She expressed her desire to pursue this grant to receive an evaluation. Greater means of organization for storage brought up for future consideration.

The Historical Society is continuing with various activities and Holje acknowledged and praised the work of new vounteers Therese O'Fallon, David Thompson, Kathy Eggert, Linda Thompson and Sue Moore. She mentioned that everyone in the community should have ownership in the Historical Society because it is becoming a great destination and treasure for the community.

Holje reported that there have been several rentals lately and mentioned that there will be 2 rentals at an upcoming date. One will be in the morning for the Legion Waffle Feed and a fundraiser for Dassel-Cokato athletics will take place in the evening. Due to the growth the Museum is experience, Holje again brought up that lack of parking may become an issue.

Holje thanked the City Council for their support. She said that it is a partnership between the City and Dassel Area Historical Society, but is also dependent on the donations and support of other surrounding communities. Council Member Asplin acknowledged that the Fiber Arts Exhibit was a first-class operations and Holje should be commended for her efforts.

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Sheriff's Office

Deputy Bondhus reported that there were 110 calls for the month of March, 2015. He also reminded residents to keep vehicles locked based on an increase of thefts happening.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Asplin to approve payment of claims in the amount of \$59,003.11 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

The proposed chicken ordinance was reviewed and discussed by the Council. A workshop was scheduled to gather public input on the proposed ordinance was set for May 18th at 6:00 p.m.

New Business

The proposed Emerald Ash Borer Ordinance and Management Plan were discussed by the Council. The City Attorney will review the proposed ordinance and the final draft will be reviewed at the next regular meeting.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Hungerford to approve the \$250 request by Julie Schumann for the Discover Dassel Planters from account 101-41000, unallocated funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Asplin, seconded by Bjork to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Jeff Putnam
Mayor

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer