

**PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DASSEL CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 15, 2015, 6:00 P.M.
DASSEL CITY HALL**

The public hearing of the Dassel City Council was called to order by Mayor Putnam at 6:00 p.m. on June 15, 2015 at the Dassel City Hall.

Present: Council members Asplin, Bjork, Nelson, Hungerford and Mayor Putnam (5)
Absent: (0)

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing on amending City Code § 94 titled *Animals* to allow for the harboring of chickens in residential areas.

Chicken Committee member Jason Benzing presented suggestions to modify the wording of the ordinance in order to ensure greater simplicity and reduce sections of the ordinance that may be deemed repetitive.

Joyce Trotter, Chicken Committee member and the initiator of the chicken ordinance expressed her desire for the ordinance to pass and mentioned that if Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs were allowed to possess chickens in residential areas, then Dassel would be suitable.

Council member Asplin, who was also a member of the Chicken Committee, suggested that the ordinance was structured and worded to the best of the Committee's abilities and found the ordinance was understandable and provided necessary restrictions. She did not believe any further additions or omissions were necessary going forward.

The public portion of the hearing was closed with no further input.

Motion by Asplin, seconded by Putnam to adopt City Code § 94 Animals to allow the keeping of chickens with the city limits as presented. Roll call: Asplin-yes; Bjork-no; Nelson-no; Hungerford-yes; Putnam-yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jeff Putnam
Mayor

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer

**PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DASSEL CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 15, 2015, 6:18 P.M.
DASSEL CITY HALL**

The public hearing of the Dassel city Council was called to order by Mayor Putnam at 6:18 p.m. on June 15, 2015 at the Dassel City Hall.

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

Absent: (0)

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing on amending the City Code section §91City's forestry program and the taking care of trees in the boulevards of the City.

Paul Haekenkamp asked the Council if the City already had sections 91.01, 91.06, 91.09, and 91.12 already in place within the City Code why there need for additional regulations. He voiced his concern about the clauses that would allow for the inspection on private premises by the Forester and allowing the City to dictate what types of trees the homeowners can plant.

City Attorney Greenley explained which portions of the ordinance were new and those of which added new language. He explained that the provisions that were being discussed were required in obtaining grant issuance. This included the hiring of a forester. Greenley touched on the fact that while certain provisions of the proposed ordinance were new, they are consistent with the statutes given by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Mark Schnobrich, the forester who has been involved in obtaining grant money and re-working the tree ordinance for Dassel clarified that the City's intent to enter private property is to monitor pests and diseases. If the City does not have the right to enter, surrounding homeowner's trees would be at risk if pests or disease is present.

Nine counties are affected by Emerald Ash Borer according to Schnobrich. All nine counties are under quarantine, which still allows for people to transport wood into the county but not out of it. Schnobrich expressed to the Council that taking a proactive approach to these potential nuisances would provide the City with greater flexibility in regards to enforcing the ordinance.

Phil Anderson, a resident of Dassel, voiced his concern regarding the transportation of wood. He asked the City Council what their plan of action would include if in fact trees were to get blown over due to weather.

Jason Benzing responded to earlier questions by saying that boulevard trees are not actually owned by property owners. He also recommended a change to 91.09 of the proposed ordinance by adding language to further emphasize that diseased wood shall not be transported without written permission.

After further discussion, the Council agreed to add a clause to 91.06 Section B. of the ordinance in which citizens will be provided notice seven days in advance upon the forester's entry upon private property. Additional language was also added to 91.09 to specify that diseased wood is prohibited to transport.

The public portion of the hearing was closed with no further input.

Motion by Hungerford, seconded by Asplin that the City adopt City Code § 91 titled City Forestry Program as presented and amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jeff Putnam
Mayor

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer