

Dassel, MN
Regular City Council Meeting
Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting called to order Mayor Lalone at 7:00 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Pledge led by Mayor Lalone.

b. Roll Call

Minutes:

Council members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Sombke, Thurn and Mayor Lalone

Council member absent: none

2. Approval of Minutes, February 20, 2024 Special & Regular, March 7, 2024 Special & EDA meetings

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

3. Public Hearing(s)

4. Open Forum

a. Nick Corbin, Planning Commission member

Minutes:

Planning commission member, Nick Corbin stated the commission had worked very hard on the Comprehensive Plan, held public input sessions but received very little input from residents. He asked that Council respect the committee and their recommendations.

b. Dan Pelletier, Cassia Administrator

Minutes:

Cassia Administrator, Dan Pelletier provided an update on their patio fundraiser project. He stated they had reached their goal and exceeded it by \$10,000. He thanked the community for their generosity so construction on the project can begin this spring.

c. Abbey Lang, DC Community Ed Annual Report presentation

Minutes:

Abbey Lang reviewed the programs and activities that were provided by Community Education during the 2022-2023 year. She thanked the History Center for their help with the anniversary celebration and the City for their partnership.

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

Minutes:

Move Consent agenda item 6b to Staff Reports, City Engineer 8e; add Consent agenda item 6e Lions Club Raffle permit; and add Consent agenda item 6d resignation of Al Sexton from the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Thurn to approve the agenda with above changes. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Sombke, seconded by Gaertner to approve consent agenda items a-e as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

- a. **Payment of Claims \$263,862.15**
- b. **Motion to approve Wine/Strong Beer license application for Cokato Dassel Lions at Saints Field for the 2024 summer season pending the receipt of all required paperwork.**
- c. **Motion to pay final pay request, Landwehr Construction, Safe Routes to School Project \$26,543.55**
- d. **Accept Al Sexton's resignation from the Heritage Preservation Commission effective immediately.**
- e. **Motion to approve raffle permit for Cokato Dassel Lions Club**

7. Council & Committee Reports

a. Planning & Zoning Commission rezoning recommendation

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Sombke to adopt Ordinance No. 01-2024 Amending Chapter 153 to rezone 811 Parker Ave W from R-2 to C-2. Motion carried unanimously.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

b. Council member Sombke - Library expansion options

Minutes:

Council member Sombke presented the preliminary library expansion options from the library committee. Options include building a new building and renovating city hall. The third option had been to purchase the vacant building at 430 3rd St but it was recently sold.

8. Staff Reports

a. Museum Director

Minutes:

Museum Director Holje reported current exhibits include: From Dassel to Hollywood; Hildred Gets Her Star; James Stewart exhibit; and the Story of Footlockers. Upcoming exhibits include: Grammy winner Dassel HS grad – Jon Pankake; upgrading the Ergot Exhibit; and What's in the Name Dassel.

The Crucible play will be March 15-17 and March 22-24.
A \$1,500 donation was received for an intern.

b. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Manager Vetsch reported that he is still seeing a softness in sales. Vetsch is concerned about not offering THC products in the store as additional revenue, they have taken off stronger than expected. He would like the Cannabis Committee to meet and review the ordinance to consider changes to allow sale of THC products.

c. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported there were 15 calls for the month and 75 calls year to date. The department is following the DNR restrictions related to burning, campfires, etc.

d. Public Works Director

Minutes:

Moy reported public works will begin street sweeping week of March 18. Pothole patching and hydrant flushing will begin after that. The sewer pond levels are very low. Siding will be replaced on the 5th St and main lift stations this year. The bathroom will be repaired at Sellards Park this spring.

e. City Engineer

Minutes:

Engineer Dewolf stated there is solar grant out called Minnesota Solar to put solar on public buildings that can fund up to 70% of the installation and there is a federal tax credits that can cover the remaining 30%. After some discussion it was decided to not move forward with the grant application.

Motion by Sombke, seconded by Landrus to approve the cooperative agreement with MNDOT as presented with a cost of \$15,228.00 to the city for the project. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

f. City Clerk / Treasurer

Minutes:

Clerk Boese the upcoming meetings and events.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to approve the Return-to-Work Program through League of MN Cities and Corvel MN Certified Managed Care Services and to notify employees of the change in process for work comp claims. Motion carried.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to approve the 2024 Community Ed Joint Powers funding as presented with the 2% increase. Motion carried.

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to amend the 2024 Fire Fund budget as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Thurn to approve the 2025 Fire Fund budget and

contracts as recommended by the Fire Advisory Board. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

g. City Attorney

Minutes:

City Attorney Greenley clarified last month's minutes regarding the Opioid Settlement. Dassel does not qualify as a city that would receive direct distribution from the bankruptcy court, however if there is an Opioid claim that the city can apply for funds through the county.

He reviewed the updated language on the ProWorks lease which includes Cannabis language and provides restrictions on certain sales and promotion activities by the tenant. The Cannabis Committee has had two meetings. They reviewed maps with 3 different distances from schools, daycares and parks and recommend that 300 feet be the distance that is adopted.

h. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:

Deputy Bonnicks reported there were 56 calls for service in the month of February.

9. Business Items

10. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0