

Dassel, MN
Regular City Council Meeting
Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lalone at 7:28 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Pledge led by Mayor Lalone

b. Roll Call

Minutes:

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

Council members absent: none

2. Approval of Minutes - March 18, 2024 Special & Regular meetings, April 1, 2024 Special meeting and April 8, 2024 Special meeting

Minutes:

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

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

3. Public Hearing(s)

4. Open Forum

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Business Item 9a. Marv Vetsch. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to approve Consent Agenda item A as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

a. Payment of Claims \$517,571.95

7. Council & Committee Reports

a. Council member Landrus - Park & Rec Comm meeting update

Minutes:

Council member Landrus stated the Park & Rec Commission had met on site at the Summit Hills Park and chose the location for the new playground equipment installation. The Commission recommends a concrete foundation permitter be installed. Director Moy is getting quotes for this work along with the dirt work that will be required on the site. Bolton & Menk will survey the area and provide specifications.

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to amend the trail budget to include patching holes prior to the crack sealing that had already been budgeted for this year. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

b. Council member Landrus - DC Trail Board meeting update

Minutes:

Council member Landrus provided an update on the recent Trail Board meeting.

c. Council member Sombke - Joint Cokato & School meeting update

Minutes:

Council member Sombke provided an update on the recent joint meeting. He said the school will be looking for community input in the near future as to what to do with the existing elementary school buildings. They will either need to be rehabbed or a new elementary school will need to be built at the existing middle & high school location. Additionally the Superintendent reported that they are looking at alternative route options out of the school parking lot due to the dangerousness of the traffic at the stop sign on Highway 12.

d. Council member Sombke - Meeker in Motion leadership program

Minutes:

Council member Sombke provided the welcome address at the recent Meeker in Motion Leadership event at the History Center. He found it to be interesting and encouraged others to attend the 9-month program.

8. Staff Reports

a. Museum Director

Minutes:

Director Holje reviewed her monthly report and stated they will be replacing the existing projector in the Community Room.

b. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Director Moy reported \$89,400.77 gross sales in March which is a decrease of 7%. She is working on hiring new staff members and is eager to work with the Council in her new role as manager.

c. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported 16 calls in Dassel and a total of 36 calls in March. French toast breakfast will be held at the fire hall on May 19th.

Fire Fighter Erik Dickey is the new gambling manager for the department's license at Thirsty's Tavern.

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to approve waiving the city code required 10% fee for charitable gambling from the Dassel Fire Department. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

d. Public Works Director**Minutes:**

Director Moy reviewed his monthly report and stated the 2023 Consumer Confidence report is available at City Hall and on the city website.

e. City Engineer**Minutes:**

Engineer DeWolf reviewed the 2024 Parking Lot & Sidewalk Improvement project and reported 9 bids were received. The project is scheduled to begin mid to late June.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to accept the low bid of \$360,537.50 from Levanen Underground LLC. Motion carried.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Gaertner to approve the application for a library expansion/renovation. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

f. City Clerk / Treasurer**Minutes:**

Clerk Boese reviewed upcoming events/meetings. Boese explained she had been working with the City Financial representative and he recommended tax abatement bonds for partial payment of the sidewalk improvement project along with the remainder being funded from reserves. More information will be presented at the May meeting.

1. Motion by Landrus, seconded by Sombke to accept Jordan Siltala's (part-time liquor store clerk) resignation effective 3/31/2024. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to hire Dakota Cadorette, part-time liquor store clerk pending successful completion of background check. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Lalone, seconded by Sombke to hire Michael Adams, part-time liquor store clerk pending successful completion of background check. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Landrus, seconded by Sombke to approve the Xcel refrigeration efficiency upgrades at a cost of \$8,111 after rebate of \$5,928 at the Liquor Store. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to approve Pro Works Lease as presented. Motion carried.
6. Motion Gaertner, seconded by Sombke to approve implementation of water customer portal software, one-time implementation cost of \$3,800 and annual support cost

\$2,400. Motion carried.

7. Clerk Boese will schedule a Personnel meeting.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

g. City Attorney

h. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:

Mayor Lalone reviewed the monthly Sheriff's report which showed 57 calls in the month of March.

9. Business Items

a. Marv Vestch

Minutes:

Mayor Lalone thanked Vetsch for his many years of service as manager of the city liquor store. Th Council discussed ways to assist the family with medical bills. Lalone will research a GoFundMe option.

10. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded to Gaertner to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0