

Dassel, MN

Regular City Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lalone at 6:00 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Led by Mayor Lalone

b. Roll Call

Minutes:

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

Council members absent: none

2. Approval of Minutes, April 15, 2024, Special & Regular meetings and May 15, 2024, Special meeting

Minutes:

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

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

3. Public Hearing(s)

a. Proposed Property Tax Abatement - City Sidewalk/Parking Lot Project

Minutes:

Peter Meidal, Northland Securities explained the process and purpose of the proposed property tax abatement for the 2024 sidewalk and parking lot project.

Jerry Irwin questioned why the city was using tax abatement instead of assessing the benefited properties.

Dave Johnson also questioned why the project was being done using tax abatement and not assessments.

Meidal reviewed the assessment process requirements and explained that the City Council can chose to use tax abatement and reserves to best serve the community.

Council responded that it was a potential liability issue that needed to be repaired and this was the process they had chosen.

4. Open Forum

a. American Legion Representatives, CO John Von Eschen & Ron Hungerford - Flag Retirement Ceremony, June 14

Minutes:

Von Eschen and Hungerford invited the public to attend the Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 14th at 7:00 pm on the property behind Perennial Bank. The public was encouraged to bring flags that need to be retired to the ceremony.

b. Jerry Irwin - Rezoning his property

Minutes:

Mr. Irwin questioned why the city would rezone his property as part of the updated zoning map and felt his property should not be considered inside the shoreland overlay district.

c. Amy Gaertner - Breeds Park bathrooms

Minutes:

Ms. Gaertner questioned why we use a porta-potty at Breeds Park instead of the existing bathrooms. She asked Director Moy to get a cost of renovating the existing building.

d. Dave Johnson - Precedent being set by tax abatement project

Minutes:

Mr. Johnson expressed concern about the precedent being set by using tax abatement for the sidewalk improvement project.

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to add Business Items: 9F-nuisance complaint 520 Simon Ave W; 9G-nuisance complaint 260 5th St S; 9H-parking complaints 150 Parker Ave W. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

- a. Business item 9F - Nuisance Complaint 520 Simon Ave W**
- b. Business item 9G - Nuisance Complaint 260 5h St S**
- c. Business item 9H - Parking complaints 150 Parker Ave W**

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to approve consent agenda item as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

- a. Payment of Claims \$287,147.12**

7. Council & Committee Reports

- a. Council member Sombke - Heritage Preservation Commission meeting update & minutes**

Minutes:

Council member Sombke reported on the recent HPC meeting and requested volunteers to serve on the commission. There will be a public hearing on June 12th regarding historic designation for the Kaufman house, 250 Pacific Ave W.

b. Council member Landrus - P&Z meeting update & minutes

Minutes:

Council member Landrus provided an update on the recent public hearing and the ordinances and resolutions coming up later on the agenda.

8. Staff Reports

a. City Attorney

Minutes:

Attorney Greenley reported that the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust will cover cities selling low potency THC products. He reviewed necessary steps to amend the existing ordinance and setup procedures for applications, etc.

Liquor Store Manager Moy stated she has scheduled a meeting with another municipal liquor manager to discuss their THC products, sales, displays etc. Deputy Clerk Bergum offered to participate in the meeting.

The council table action on ordinance amendments until their June meeting.

b. Museum Director

Minutes:

Director Holje reviewed her monthly report.

c. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Manager Moy reviewed the monthly report which showed sales of \$89,932.83 down 12% over last year.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to approve changing Michael Adams from part-time to full-time status. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

d. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported 7 calls in Dassel in April and 138 calls year to date. The department made approximately \$5,000 from the French toast breakfast. He stated they were getting bids to renovate the front of the building to install larger doors in anticipation of the delivery of the new truck. He estimated the cost would be around \$100,000. It was agreed to wait and see if the city receives a congressional direct spending grant toward a new fire hall before proceeding. Clerk Boese reported that the city received \$65,000 in public safety aid in 2023 that needs to be expended by the end of 2024. These funds could be used for the renovation of the building or other equipment needed by the fire department.

e. Public Works Director

Minutes:

Moy reviewed his monthly report and requested approval on the following expenditures.

Motion by Sombke, seconded by Thurn to approve the purchase of steel lap siding for the Sellards Park bathroom facility at a cost of \$2,100 from account 101-45200-404. Motion carried.

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Lalone to approve the purchase of a striping machine and attachments at a cost of \$4,309 from Newstrip.com from account 101-41000-504. Motion carried.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Sombke to approve hydro seeding at Bandstand Park not to exceed \$2,100 and black dirt not to exceed \$900 from account 101-43100-404. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

f. City Engineer

Minutes:

Engineer DeWolf provided an update on the Spring Lake enhancement project. He reported that Meeker County Soil & Water received grant monies to conduct testing on the lake and is working on that part of the project. DeWolf stated that Bolton & Menk has completed the work of developing a priority list that was authorized by the Council. The Council did not authorize any additional work or funds at this time and will wait to see what the test results are and what the next steps will be after the initial analysis.

DeWolf will be meeting with the seeding contractor from the 2023 project to review the final punch list items to be completed.

g. City Clerk / Treasurer

Minutes:

Clerk Boese reviewed her monthly report and the upcoming meetings.

1. Motion by Sombke, seconded by Gaertner to amend Resolution 2024-006 Annual Fee Schedule to add Wine & Strong Beer License annual fee of \$300.00. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to approve the purchase city banners from MOSCA at a cost of \$3,359.10 as presented, from 101-45200-241 Beautification/banners account. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to approve the following recommendations from the Personnel Committee: a. Changing City Hall hours to 8:00 am – Noon on Fridays. b. Amending Personnel Policy – Appendix B2. Specialized Incentive Pay to include the following statement: Incentive Pay will be listed as a separate line item on payroll checks for both exempt and non-exempt employees and shall not be included in the base salary of exempt employees. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Lalone, seconded by Gaertner to approve purchase of new computer equipment for the liquor store POS system in the amount of \$4,399.37, from 609-49750-404 Repair/Equipment. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to approve Clerk Boese retirement application effective July 5, 2024, retirement party to be held at the History Center on

July 6, 2024. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

h. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:

Deputy Defries reported 63 calls in the month of April.

Mayor Lalone asked Deputy Clerk Bergum to send a letter to the owner of the white boxer which has been running at large.

The Council questioned why tickets are not being written for parking violations on 2nd St.

Defries stated that he had an email from the Sheriff approving the deputies to ticket vehicles being illegally parked.

9. Business Items

Minutes:

The Council recessed the meeting at 9:41 pm and reconvened at 9:50 pm.

a. Adopt Resolution 2024-011 Tax Abatement

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to adopt Resolution 2024-011 Tax Abatement as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

b. Adopt Ordinance 02-2024 Zoning Map Amendment

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Sombke to adopt Ordinance 02-2024 Zoning Map Amendment as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

c. Adopt Resolution 2024-009 Approving Land Use Plan & Future Land Use Map

Minutes:

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to adopt Resolution 2024-009 Approving Land Use Plan & Future Land Use Map as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

d. Adopt Ordinance 03-2024 Shoreland Regulations

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to adopt Ordinance 03-2024 Shoreland Regulations as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

e. Adopt Resolution 2024-012 Providing for Summary Publication Chapter 154 Shoreland Regulations

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to adopt Resolution 2024-012 Providing for Summary Publication Chapter 154 Shoreland Regulations as presented. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

f. Nuisance Complaint - 520 Simon Ave W

Minutes:

The Council reviewed the photos Clerk Boese presented, which were taken by Director Moy on May 20, 2024 of the 520 Simon Ave W.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus directing Clerk Boese to send a notice to the owner of 520 Simon Ave W advising them that a public nuisance exists and they have 14 calendar days to abate the nuisance. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

g. Nuisance Complaint - 260 5th St S

Minutes:

The Council reviewed photos of a fire that occurred on Friday May 10th at 260 5th St S. Council member Sombke will reach out to the property owner about recreational fire regulations before any other action is taken.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to send a letter to the property owner at 260 5th St S regarding the regulations on open burning and recreational fires in the city. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

h. Parking complaints - 150 Parker Ave W

Minutes:

The Council reviewed complaints regarding vehicles being parked on 2nd St blocking the bus pickup, site triangle and in violation of the 30-minute parking zone. Council member Landrus will speak to the owner of the property at 150 Parker Ave W and the Sheriff's Deputies were directed by the Council to write tickets to the owners of the vehicles that were parked in violation on 2nd St.

10. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Sombke to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 pm. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

