

Dassel, MN

Regular City Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday, July 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lalone at 7:09 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Lalone

b. Roll Call

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

Minutes:

Council members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Sombke, Thurn and Mayor Lalone. Council members absent: none.

2. Approval of Minutes - Special & Regular Council June 17, 2024, Special Council June 24, 2024

Minutes:

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

3. Public Hearing(s)

a. Public Hearing - Public Nuisance, 520 Simon Avenue, Ms Connie Pool

Minutes:

Public Hearing was opened at 7:11 p.m. Connie Pool, 520 Simon Ave W was present and addressed the council. Pool acknowledged her property is not as clean as people would like to see it, but wanted to let council know she has removed several loads from her property and intends to continue with the cleanup process as she has limited finances. Mayor Lalone and Council member Sombke both stated they have noticed the work that has been done. Council member Gaertner asked Pool if she would keep communication open with City Hall and let them know when more loads were removed from the property.

Council decided at this time not to take action since it was obvious measures to clean up the property were being taken. Mayor Lalone closed the public hearing portion of the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

4. Open Forum

(The City Council invites residents to share new ideas or concerns related to city business; however, individual questions and remarks are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. No City Council action will be taken, although the Council may refer issues to staff for follow up or consideration at a future meeting. The Mayor may use discretion if speakers are repeating views already expressed or ask for a spokesperson for groups of individuals with similar views. Speakers should state their name and home address at the podium before speaking.)

Minutes:

No one was present to speak.

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to approve the agenda with the addition of 7b. Small Business Group report by Council member Gaertner. Motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrected amounts to 6b. from \$138,615.79 to \$27,997.10 and 6c. from \$332,407.00 to \$26,723.97. Motion carried.

- a. **Payment of Claims \$248,663.63**
- b. **Final Payment Request on Project 2022 First Street (CSAH 4) Improvements payable to Landwehr Construction Inc in the amount of \$138,615.79.**
- c. **Payment Request #1 on Project 2024 Parking lot and Sidewalk Improvement payable to Levanen Underground LLC in the amount of \$332,407.00.**
- d. **Accept the resignation of Joyce Schumacher Hansen, Museum Worker effective July 3, 2024.**

7. Council & Committee Reports**a. Council member Landrus - Planning Commission meeting update****Minutes:**

Landrus reported at the Planning Commission meeting held July 9, 2024. 35 Blue Property Group LLC presented an application for a zoning map amendment for 421 Parker Ave W, which will require a rezoning from R2 to R3. The Commission set a public hearing for August 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

35 Blue Property Group LLC presented a concept for the Planned Unit Development area of Highland Circle for feedback from the Commission. There is no Homeowners Association in place and there are issues regarding mowing, snow removal and street maintenance.

Marlene Blunt, 220 7th Street S presented an application for a lot line adjustment. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

b. Council member Gaertner - Business meeting update**Minutes:**

Gaertner reported the group is putting together welcome packets to be handed out at the petting zoo during Red Rooster Days and delivered to new residents that move into Dassel.

8. Staff Reports**a. Museum Director****Minutes:**

Landscaping under murals and west side of building is complete. There are volunteers to mow and weed. Public Works cleaned up the bushes. She is working on obtaining painting quotes for the Event Center and lobby. The upcoming programs include Kurt Meyer speaking about art and the art exhibit Water Works which is at the History Center now to Saturday July 20, 10 a.m. for no charge. Airborn Attraction, Tuesday, July 23, 2024, charge is \$10.00. Crow River String Band, Saturday, August 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m., charge is \$10.00, Jerry Nelson, pianist in concert, Friday, July 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m., charge is \$10.00, Cool it at

the Mushroom, Thursday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. treats available for purchase. Exhibits include From Dassel to Hollywood: Hildred Gets Her Star (Level 4), Rural Buildings of Meeker County. James Steward exhibit – Designs and building model farm buildings. Also Farm Toys, a diorama including a collection of farm toys by Walter Manthei and From Maize to Amazing, the DAHS seed corn exhibit (Level 3) Paintings from Kurt and Paula Meyer’s Art Collection with a water theme, Water Works in June and July. Exhibits in the planning stages: Working on enhancing Ergot: From Blight to Blessing exhibit. Dassel is probably the only place in the world with a museum about ergot. We will apply for grants, What’s in a Name, Dassel, Minnesota 55325. Fungus play is Much Ado About Nothing at the History Center Friday, July 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m. and Sunday July 28, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

b. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Manager Moy reported sales are down in June, but it appears to be weather related. The new computers were installed on the 16th and appear to be working well. Bonniwell Electric has been out and worked on the exterior lighting. She will be meeting with the construction crew and Bolton & Menk to navigate deliveries and sales during the upcoming construction.

c. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported the total number of calls for the month of June 2024 was 33.

d. Public Works Director

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported for Public works Director Moy in his absence. There is apprehension with the Ambassadors using the public works vehicles due to having to remove all of the equipment and it not being returned in the same condition. Some recommendations were to reach out to local businesses and dealerships to see if they would have any vehicles available for the ambassadors to use.

See report for additional.

e. City Engineer

Minutes:

Engineer Lease reported that the concrete work on the sidewalk project should be complete within the upcoming week, they will then move on to the public work parking lot. Mayor Lalone asked about the railing outside City Hall, as a couple of the posted are rusted through at the base. Lease stated the railing was not included in the project to be replaced and that it was not intended for the flag poles holes to be put back in the sidewalk on 3rd Street. He reported the construction is about a month out for the liquor store parking lot, MnDOT already has the new entrance installed.

f. City Administrator

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported on the upcoming meeting: The DAHS Board meeting, Tue,

July 23, 10:00 am, History Center. Local Candidate Filing for Elections, Tues. July 30 – August 13, 2024, City Hall. Area Trail meeting, Thurs., Aug. 1, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Small Business Group meeting, Mon. Aug. 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.at SIMO. Department Head meeting, Thu, Aug 8, 7:00 am, City Hall. Red Rooster Planning meeting, Thurs. Aug. 8, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Primary Election, Tues. Aug. 13, 2024, 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Other items include the fire hall grant application was removed from the House Appropriations Committee preliminary list of projects as of July 10, 2024, but remains on the Senate Appropriations Committee for Congressionally Directed Spending. Eckerly attended the following meeting: Small Business Group, Planning Commission, Dollar General lot development, meeting with Andrew Letson, Meeker County Administrator, Department Head meeting, Red Rooster Planning, DAHS Board, Rural Water – Wellhead Protection. Met with Carolyn Holje, Museum Director regarding staffing. Proposal is to make job description changes and request authorization from council to hire to fill the open 20-hour position.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to approve the update Museum Worker job description. Motion carried.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to start the hiring process to fill the 20 hour a week Museum Worker position. Motion carried.

Motion by Sombke, seconded by Landrus to approve the newly created job description for the Assistant Museum Director as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Sombke, seconded by Gaertner to promote Mary Therese O'Fallon to the position of Assistant Museum Director with an increase in wage from \$18.11 to \$22.11 an hour. Motion carried.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Sombke to approve \$.50 (fifty cent) increase from \$20.50 to \$21.00 per hour to Andrea Juneau for completing 90-day performance review retro back to June 11, 2024. Motion carries.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to change the name of the Facebook, Instagram and website name from All Things Dassel to Discover Dassel. Motion carried.

Eckerly stated the next Special Meeting will focus on the budget, her recommendation is to preliminarily go in at 6% with the goal of being at 3%, this will give them room to adjust if needed.

g. City Attorney

h. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:

June 2024 calls and active was reviewed.

9. Business Items

a. Lot Line Adjustment Application - Marlene Blunt 220 S 7th St

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to approve the lot line consolidation of PID 23-0275001 200 7th St S and PID 23-0274000 220 7th St S and utilize the address of 220 7th St S. Motion carried.

10. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Sombke to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm. Motion carried.

Contact: Renee Eckerly (renee.eckerly@dassel.com 320-275-2454) | Minutes published on 08/14/2024, adopted on 08/19/2024