

# Dassel, MN

## Regular City Council Meeting

### Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm

#### 1. Call to Order

##### Minutes:

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lalone at 6:04 pm

##### a. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Lalone

##### b. Roll Call

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

##### Minutes:

Members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Sombke, Thurn and Mayor Lalone.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes - Council meeting Oct. 21, 2024, DAHS meeting Sept. 24, 2024, Personnel Committee Meeting May 13, 2024.

##### Minutes:

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

#### 3. Public Hearing(s)

#### 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.)

#### 5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

##### Minutes:

Thurn would like item d. on the Consent Agenda moved to Business Items 9 f. for additional discussion. Motion by Sombke, seconded by Landrus to approve the agenda with the one change of moving 6 d to 9 f. Motion carried.

#### 6. Consent Agenda

##### Minutes:

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Thurn to approve the agenda with the one change of moving 6 d to 9 f. Motion carried.

##### a. Payment of Claims - \$254,778.32

b. Approve Temporary Street Closing for Small Business Group on Friday, December 13, 2024 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm 3rd street from the alley to Highway 12 for Dazzle in Dassel.

c. Approval to set Public Hearing for December 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. for Assessment of Delinquent Utility payments

d. Approve annual Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) license for the Dassel Municipal Liquor Store for one year starting October 24, 2024..

- e. **NEW ITEM - Approve the \$100.00 a month incentive pay for Mason Bakke for his class D certification for water supply operator.**

## 7. Council & Committee Reports

### a. Council Member Sombke - Dassel Area Historical Society meeting, Oct. 22, 2024

**Minutes:**

Council member Sombke reported the Board was excited to hear his report on the Historic Preservation conference. He deferred the rest of his report to Museum Director Holje because she would be covering it in her report.

### b. Mayor Lalone - Personnel Committee meeting, Oct. 29, 2024

**Minutes:**

Mayor Lalone reported the Personnel Committee, and staff discussed the options for Health care coverage and changing from PEIP to Blue Cross Blue Shield. The change would be a savings of about \$25.00 per month. There was also discussion of increasing the City's contribution from \$2,000 to \$2,500 for the HSA contribution to each eligible employee each year due to the increase in the deduction amount increasing. This is on the council agenda for action.

## 8. Staff Reports

### a. Museum Director

**Minutes:**

Director Holje reported they are still in need of storage space. They have an area which they would like to use as a little theatre. They are looking into a new company to inspect the sprinkler system. Mary Jensen will be doing a book study.

The Curtis and Loretta concert was great, and they hope to have them back for another performance. Working on updating the Ergot exhibit and have future exhibits planned, including Hatchery 2025, Printing and Books, Manhole Covers and What Is It?

### b. Liquor Store Manager

**Minutes:**

Administrator Eckerly gave the report in Manager Moys absences. Scenic signs will be setting the poles for the new sign on 11/18/2024 and installing the cabinet on 11/25/2024. Staff is starting to set the holiday sales and promo items on display.

### c. Fire Chief

**Minutes:**

Mayor Lalone presented the Fire report for the month of October.

### d. Public Works Director

**Minutes:**

Director Moy reported the following: Streets: Continuing to sweep leaves as needed. There was a lot of trees lost from the snowstorm last week. A lot of time going around and chipping up piles. Some damage was caused to a few gate valves when we plowed, which we have repaired. Road salt has been ordered. He has been in contact with Telecom Company doing work around the railroad. They are hopefully coming this week to finish.

The department has been doing lots of utility marking this fall. Water: Mason tested for his class D water license. He is still waiting for results. Hydrant flushing for the year has been completed. He is continuing to monitor and sample as needed at water plant. Moy is finishing up with the district engineer with the lead and copper report. We have been updating our records as we receive the information from residents. The department has repaired a couple fire hydrants. Wastewater: The spraying for the year is complete. He did have to have one of the pumps for the fields pulled for repair. He is waiting on an estimate for the repair. The original estimate was for \$7,000 to pull and reinstall but after removal more issues were found. We will be winterizing the fields this week. The sewer flushing for the year has been completed. Lift station pumps have all been inspected. We did have an issue with an impellor at the Simons Lift that has now been completed. Will be having lift station on Willis serviced due to an alarm. We will be adding this pump to our regular service intervals. Parks: The black dirt was delivered for Summit Park. The weather did not cooperate for us to get the Rotary Club to help finish the dirt work due to the snow. We are hoping to possibly do it yet this fall if it dries up and weather holds out. All of the parks have been closed and winterized. Equipment: Working on getting the summer equipment winterized and getting winter equipment ready. Cutting edges have been ordered for the plow trucks so we have an extra set on hand if needed. The plow truck did sustain some damage from the recent plowing. The damaged part was removed and getting repaired. The loader has been serviced and is ready for snow. Looking into options of a salt/sand spreader for the ToolCat. It currently has nothing that works well on the sidewalks and walkways besides a walk behind. Buildings/Property: Everything has been closed up and winterized. Will be blowing out irrigation systems using a mobile compressor. There has been a large number of leaves and brush this fall. Moy plans to take a closer look into gate options for the compost site. They are finishing up leaf mulching for the year.

**e. City Engineer**

**Minutes:**

Engineer Lease had nothing to report but answered Councils questions about the sidewalk project. They will be out next Spring to inspect the project to see if any repairs are needed, and architects are looking into options for the railing outside City Hall.

**f. City Administrator**

**Minutes:**

Administrator Eckerly reported upcoming events include DAHS Board meeting, Tues., Nov. 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m. History Center, Holiday – Thanksgiving and Friday, Nov. 29, 2024, City Hall Closed, Small Business Group meeting, Wed. Dec. 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at SIMO, Department Head meeting, Tues, Dec. 10, 7:00 am, City Hall, Dazzle Dassel, Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, downtown 3:30- 6:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall, Truth In Taxation Hearing, Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall. Other items include Tracey Bergum and I attended the LMC Fall Forum webinars. I attended the following meeting: MCFOA Regional meeting in Hancock regarding Childcare and planning/zoning, DAHS meeting, Department Head, Safety Meeting, Meeker

in Motion, Discover Dassel Trick or Treat event about 125 kids. Met with George Eilertson, Northland Securities review bonds and payment schedules. She worked with Tracey Bergum, City Clerk and 7 elections judges to process a great election turnout for the City of Dassel. Thank you to all the election judges who did a fabulous job! The department has been handling a variety of complaints and inquiries. Notifications have been made to utility accounts that maybe assessed regarding the Public Hearing on December 16, 2024, for delinquent accounts. She is working on a proposed new fee schedule, as well as the proposed budgets for the water/sewer and liquor store for 2025. She met with Duane Heier regarding the restrooms at Breed's Park and the pickleball courts. He is interested in a public/private partnership to get the restrooms renovated. Heier would like year-round bathrooms. He would have his contractor do the labor if the City would pay for the materials. The goal would be to have it completed this winter so it can be used next Spring. Eckerly will work with Bolton & Menk and set up a Park meeting to discuss this further. She presented an updated city seal for Council to approve. Council recommended to customize the seal more to the City of Dassel and bring back.

Eckerly reported she received a letter from Charter notifying the City of the following program changes. The Weather Channel en Español will cease on or around December 31, 2024, and on November 11, 2024, Music Choice Reggae will temporarily be rebranded to Classic Christmas and will continue until January 7, 2025, when it will switch back to Reggae.

**g. City Attorney will not be in attendance**

**h. Sheriff's Department**

**Minutes:**

Deputy Bonnick reported 78 calls for the month of October.

**9. Business Items**

**a. 2024 Canvas Election Results**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve Resolution 2024-021 and Meeker County Canvassing report for the 2024 Election as presented. Motion carried.

**b. Motion to approve change health insurance providers to Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to approve the change in health insurance providers to Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN. Motion carried.

**c. Motion to approve change to Alerus Health Savings benefit from \$500.00 contribution to be paid quarterly to eligible employees to increase \$1,250 to be contributed semi-annually (January and July) to eligible employees.**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to approve change to Alerus Health Savings benefit from \$500.00 contribution to be paid quarterly to eligible employees to increase to \$1,250 to be contributed semi-annually (January and July) to eligible employees. Motion carried.

**d. Discuss purchasing new copier for the Administration office**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Sombke to purchase from MARCO the Konica Minolta C361i for \$9,400 with a service contract which includes supplies for \$36.00 per month from account 101-4100-500 Gen Capital Outlay. Motion carried.

**e. NEW ITEM: Motion to approve the new city seal for the City of Dassel.**

**Minutes:**

Council wants to see more options for a seal including the city logo, date of incorporation, and wheat for Ergot. Lalone would like it to have points of reference to ensure it is not duplicated. No motion taken at this time, item tables until more proofs are obtained.

**f. Approve annual Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) license for the Dassel Municipal Liquor Store for one year starting October 24, 2024..**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve annual Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) license for the Dassel Municipal Liquor Store for one year starting October 24, 2024. Motion carried with Thurn voting no.

**10. Adjourn**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Sombke, seconded by Landrus to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm.