

# Dassel, MN

## Regular City Council Meeting

### Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm

#### 1. Call to Order

##### a. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Lalone

##### b. Roll Call

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

##### **Minutes:**

Members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone. Members absent: none

#### 2. Approval of Minutes - DAHS 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, DAHS Nov 2024 Meeting Minutes, City Council Meeting Minutes January 21, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes February 11, 2025

##### **Minutes:**

Motion by Suchy, seconded by Gaertner 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.)

##### **Minutes:**

Mayor Lalone present former Council member Sombke with a plaque in appreciation for his service to the City of Dassel.

##### a. Abby Lang - Community Education

##### **Minutes:**

Abbey Lang, Community Services Director, reviewed the programs and activities that are provided by Community Education. Lang reported on new updates to their scheduling which will be available this upcoming year.

##### b. Wale and Bola Banjoko - Red Rooster Foods Owner

##### **Minutes:**

Wale Banjoko, owner of Red Rooster Foods wanted to thank the community for their support over the past year.

#### 5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

##### **Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve the agenda with the addition of 9c. Motion to approve quotes for repair of Dassel fire hall exterior doors. and 9d. Motion to approve design to be the city seal. Motion carried.

## 6. Consent Agenda

### Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

- a. **Payment of Claims \$202,237.86**
- b. **Motion to approve Kurt Greenley City Attorney to attend 2025 MN Association of City Attorneys conference February 6-7, 2025, in Bloomington, MN for \$350.00**
- c. **Motion to approve hiring Shawn Hendrickson and Ryan Chatterton as Volunteer Firefighters effective February 10, 2025.**
- d. **Motion to approve Resolution 2025-2009 Accepting a Donation to the City of Dassel for the Fire Department.**

## 7. Council & Committee Reports

### a. Dassel Area Historical Society Meeting January 28, 2025-Eckerly

#### Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported on the Historical Society meeting on January 28, 2025. She reported that an item discussed included whether or not to invite all paid members to the annual meeting with possible utilizing zoom and an option of a date change. It was decided that the internet is not capable of a zoom meeting for that many people and the annual meeting date will remain the same.

### b. Fire Advisory Board January 29, 2025- Chief Johnson

#### Minutes:

Fire Chief Johnson reported on the January 29, 2025. This meeting is a continuation of working on the 2026 budget. The final meeting regarding the 2026 budget will be February 26, 2025, meeting.

### c. Joint Council and Planning Commission Meeting February 11, 2025 - Mayor Lalone

#### Minutes:

Mayor Lalone reported that the joint meeting between Council and Planning and Zoning went well. It was decided to move forward with the approval process of the ordinance with the exception of 1 park (Grandstand) that doesn't have park equipment to have the designation eliminated from which will give businesses downtown and opportunity. Council Member Landrus explained the boundary distances on the map and the ongoing need for compliance checks.

## 8. Staff Reports

### a. Museum Director

#### Minutes:

Director Holje reported the priority for the new ergot exhibit is a little theatre to watch videos/movies. It has to be emptied, but there is no storage area. New equipment in place includes a microfilm reader, computer and two new copy machines. Painting has begun in the lobby and the event center will be next. Upcoming programs in 2025 include: Jerry Nelson, pianist June 20, Reader's theatre of Our Town, Exhibit – "What's in a Name – Dassel?" Aug. 30 or 31, 2025, Airborn – Summer, Community Strings in December, Cowboys in Sneakers, Poor Richard's Pizza, Cash bar, Dueling Pianos – perhaps with the

Arts Association, Crow River String Band – August-September, Red Rooster Program – Ideas, Dakota Uprising Tour, Susan Davies Art exhibit, program and workshop, Abby Johnson – vocal and piano and Curtis and Loretta - Music. Other exhibits planned include Hatchery 2025, Printing and books – Steve Meisner, Dan Hoisington and our printing items from the Dassel Dispatch, 2025, Manhole Covers – Lydia Henry, What Is It? Showing some of the antique gadgets in the DAHS collection, Celebrating the beginnings and history of the DAHS and all the volunteers. Bill Ward established a website 3 years ago and staff member Janis Rannow has taken over. Bill Ward and Paul Johnson started showing photos in our collection on the TV 3 years ago. Janis Rannow is working on it now.

**b. Liquor Store Manager**

**Minutes:**

Manager Moy reported a decline in sales from the end of the year holiday season, but sales held up to January 2024 with a small gross profit increase. The LED light conversion in the store was completed on February 5, 2024. Staff has been working on moving shelf sets to group similar products together.

**c. Fire Chief**

**Minutes:**

Chief Johnson reported 43 calls for the month of January 20, 2025, within city limits and 66 year to date. There are 2 new members and 1 new applicant bringing the number of members to 21. Johnson received 2 quotes for replacement of the exterior entrance doors that they would like to have replaced. Johnson will get a revised quote to include the locks and will present the quotes at the next department meeting then will bring back to Council in March.

**d. Public Works Director**

**Minutes:**

Street Dept: The Department plowed on Feb. 8, 2025. They have been salting and sanding as needed. The Department replaced a few street signs and ordered more. Water Dept: MN Dept of Health was out on Feb. 12, 2025, for an audit and some site sampling, It went very well. MDH had a second party come out on Feb. 11, 2025, to complete sampling for PFAS. Kyle attended a training on the new lead and copper sampling rules in Waite Park. Kyle had Ahlgren's come to the water plant and install new monitor for chemical feed. Kyle should be receiving the water tower inspection report in next couple weeks from Bolton & Menk. Kyle completed water usage information for the state. We had a total water usage of 40,114,100 gallons of water, which is down from last year 41,848,400. He is continuing to work on the conservation report. Sewer Dept: The Department did have some issues with the cold at a couple of the new lift station panels being unable to keep warm inside. We have purchased little heaters to help circulate heat in the panels in that type of cold. The Department is waiting on the weather to warm up to begin installing siding on lift stations. Equipment: The Department is continuing to do regular maintenance and repairs as needed. Personnel: Nolan and Kyle will be attending the MRWA annual water and wastewater conference in March. The Department did host the monthly safety meeting at

our water plant. The topic was water plant operation. Kyle is continuing to use Stan as needed for snow removal. Parks: The Department has been continuing to keep the skating rink up and going the best they can. They have been in contact with Bolton & Menk on the restroom for Breeds Park. Kyle is waiting on estimates from tree service companies to have a few trees at Breeds and Railroad Park removed and cleaned/trimmed up. The trimming is at higher heights than the department can reach. The removals are larger trees close to buildings or equipment. There is a window at the warming house that has been broken. It was previously damaged but now is worse. Kyle will have to replace the whole window due to age and condition of the current one. We have it taped up and will replace it when weather warms up and we can close the warming house for the season. Building/Property: On January 24, 2025, called in due to water leak at City Shop. We were able to shut it down that night. The following Monday, we were able to diagnose the leak was coming from the service line for the top shop. We have decided to wait until spring to have it repaired. I am looking into some options, so we do not have to tear up the new asphalt. The Department has been doing some tree removal and trimming on city properties. Kyle had Russell Security Resource out to repair/rekey a few doors to get them on same key as all others. The Department hung an old liquor store sign on rear of building for liquor store. The Department purchased and will be installing new ceiling tiles for the City Hall to repair damaged ones.

#### **e. City Engineer**

##### **Minutes:**

Engineer Lease spoke of the meeting with Duane Heier on the bathrooms at Breeds Park. Heier proposed having the city supply the materials for the new restrooms and he would provide labor for free. Heier provided a copy of the plans he had for the structure. Lease reported that with Heier's plan the cost would be approximately \$250,000 - \$300,00, to rebuild the current structure would be about \$120,000 and to redo the current structure would be around \$80,000. Lease stated the best option would be to make the building maintenance free no matter which route Council decided to go. Council member Gaertner suggested writing a letter to the Lions and Rotary organizations to see if they would be willing to help with the project. Mayor Lalone would like to keep it one unisex bathroom. Gaertner also explained that Heier also wanted a pickleball court to be placed in Sellards Park. Eckerly updated Council that the Parks and Rec Capital Improvement fund has \$36,200.00.

#### **f. City Administrator**

##### **Minutes:**

Administrator Eckerly reported upcoming events include DAHS meeting, Tues. Feb. 25, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center, Fire Advisory Board meeting, Wed. Feb. 26, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Fire Hall, Small Business Group meeting, Mon. March 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at SIMO, Department Head meeting, Tues, March 11, 2025, 7:00 am at City Hall, Red Rooster Committee meeting, Tues. March 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, City Council Meeting, Mon, March 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall, Annual Audit, Monday, March 24 – 26, 2025,

DAHS meeting, Tues. March 25, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center.  
Eckerly reminded council if anyone who was wanting to attend the LMG or CGMC conferences coming up in June and July need to book hotels ASAP.  
I attended the following meeting: MN Beverage Association – Cannabis webinar, League of MN Cities – Legislative webinar, MN Hemp webinar, DAHS meeting and Department Head meeting. Chuck DeWolf and I attended a meeting with a representative from Summit Hills that would like to develop 7 twin homes. Tracey Bergum, City Clerk met with Protein Source regarding expansion. Tracey Bergum, City Clerk met with Duane Heier, Amy Gaertner and Bolton & Menk regarding the design of a restroom at Breeds Park. The Small Business Meeting was held at the Tea Shoppe.  
Eckerly thanked her staff for all their help while she was out sick and for a family emergency.

**g. City Attorney - not in attendance**

**h. Sheriff's Department**

**Minutes:**  
Deputy Kelly reported 133 calls for the month of January 2025, 0 burglaries, 2 thefts and 93 traffics stops.

**9. Business Items**

**a. Motion to set the date for the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for April 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm.**

**Minutes:**  
Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to set the date for the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for April 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.. Motion carried.

**b. Set a date to discuss Library grant and expansion.**

**Minutes:**  
Administrator Eckerly will have some dates on the next agenda for council to choose from.

**c. Fire Hall exterior doors quotes**

**Minutes:**  
The quotes for the fire hall exterior doors were discussed during the Fire Chiefs report.

**d. City Seal design options**

**Minutes:**  
Council discussed the seal design options and preferred option #4 with no trees, railroad tracks as the border, no gas pump and the addition of the Mushroom building. Carolyn will report back with the changes.

**10. Adjourn**

**Minutes:**  
Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Motion carried.

03/17/2025