

# Dassel, MN

## Regular City Council Meeting

### Minutes

Monday, April 21, 2025 at 6:00 pm

#### 1. Call to Order

**Minutes:**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lalone at 6:05 pm.

**a. Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Mayor Lalone

**b. Roll Call**

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

**Minutes:**

Members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone. Members absent:

None

#### 2. Approval of Minutes Approval of Minutes Closed City Council meeting March 27, 2025, DAHS February 25, 2025, City Council meeting March 17, 2025, Minutes Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting, April 9, 2025, and Special City Council Meeting, April 15, 2025.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, 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.)

**Minutes:**

Dave Johnson, 130 Linart Ave. W. addressed the council stating he does not like the idea of taking money out of reserves to be used for the Breeds Park restroom project. Johnson believes reserves are to be used in emergency situation. Johnson also stated city staff is not licensed and bonded to do the type of work needed for the bathroom project and the porta potty is just fine for that location.

**a. Alan Greene with SAFEbuilt**

**Minutes:**

Alan Greene, Tracy Reimann and Tonia Sikorski with SAFEbuilt were present to discuss what options and services SAFEbuilt can provide to the city in regard to ordinance enforcement and building permits.

#### 5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve the agenda with the addition of 6h. Motion

to hire Dale Wright for the Seasonal Public Works position for \$18.00 per hour with a start date of April 22, 2025, pending background check and 6i. Motion to hire Jack Nesseth for the Temporary Seasonal Public Works position for \$18.00 per hour starting May 19, 2025, pending background check to the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

## 6. Consent Agenda

### Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of 6h and 6i. Motion carried.

- a. **Payment of Claims in the amount of \$234,213.33**
- b. **Motion to approve hiring Paul Jacobson as Volunteer Firefighter effective April 14, 2025.**
- c. **Motion to approve Seasonal Maintenance Worker Job Description.**
- d. **Motion to approve the purchase of tires for truck 654 from in the amount of \$922.68 and tires from truck 553 in the amount of \$3,736.74 from Flatout Tire from 226-42280-404.**
- e. **Motion to approve the Lawful Gambling Permit for the Cokato Dassel Lions Club for a raffle at 460 3rd St N, Dassel on October 6, 2025.**
- f. **Motion to approve Resolution 2025-013 accepting a donation to the City of Dassel from Dassel Firemans Relief Association Gambling Account in the amount of \$30,000.**
- g. **Motion to Approve Temporary Street Closing Application for Dassel Fall Frolic Craft & Flea Market Festival on Sept 21, 2025 from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm from 2nd Street N to 4th St N on Atlantic Ave W.**
- h. **ADDED Motion to hire Dale Wright for the Seasonal Public Works position for \$18.00 per hour with a start date of April 22, 2025, pending background check.**
- i. **ADDED: Motion to hire Jack Nesseth for the Temporary Seasonal Public Works position for \$18.00 per hour starting May 19, 2025, pending background check.**

## 7. Council & Committee Reports

### a. Dassel Area Historical Society Meeting March 25, 2025 - Eckerly

#### Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported at the March 25th meeting Fungus Amungus got 1st alternate at the state competition and will be doing the Book of Mark instead of Annie for their summer play. No tickets will be sold it will be free will offering benefitting the food shelf. A childrens theatre in July at the History Center. The new Ergot project was also discussed, and a tour of the little theatre area and exhibit area was given by Museum Director Holje.

### b. Special Closed City Council Meeting, March 27, 2025 - Mayor Lalone

#### Minutes:

Mayor Lalone reported on the special closed meeting in which the council discussed the option of purchasing the Red Rooster Grocery property. Council decided to not move forward with this purchase due to the cost of the project.

### c. Business Group Luncheon Meeting, April 7, 2025 - Councilmember Gaertner

#### Minutes:

Council member Gaertner reported the business group hosted a luncheon which had 13 participants from 6-7 local businesses. The goal is to do this every 2 month to see what

businesses need help with to keep them moving forward.

**d. Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting, April 9, 2025 - Mayor Lalone**

**Minutes:**

Mayor Lalone reported all council members were present along with the County Assessor and 3 Appraisers. The Assessor gave a review and discussed what the council could do. Council cannot reduce the amount by more than 1% of the overall valuation for the City of Dassel. 6 properties will be reviewed at the County meeting in June. Several members of the community were present and set appointments to meet with staff from the Assessor's office to have their property looked at.

**8. Staff Reports**

**a. Museum Director**

**Minutes:**

Director Holje reported upcoming events include Abigail Johnson and Isaac Meza, JaneAnn Settergren – Music April 27, 2:00 pm. Vocal, Pianist, Harpist, Super Sleuth – Education Committee. May 10, morning Airborn – June 19, 6-9, Jerry Nelson Concert – June 20, 7:00 pm, Kent Nerburn – speaker, Dassel Library, June 12, 6:00 pm, Book of Mark. Isaacson Olson – Fungus Amongus, June 26-29, Sue Davies – July 19, Airborn – Aug. 7, 6-9, Crow River String Band, Aug. 16, 7:00 pm, Red Rooster Program - Aug. 30, 10 am. Galen Johnson Reading of Our Town –?? Aug. 31, 2:00 pm, Also Exhibit “Our Town”, Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept. 19 Temporary exhibits include Level 1: Sue Davies – July 19- Aug 2., Art exhibit. Program and workshop – July 19 or July 26. 612.501.4434 Level 2: What’s in a Name? Dassel, Minnesota 55325. -- Aug. 16-Sept. 14, Karen and Carolyn, Maps, Germany, US, England (Cottage in Barnstable, Davon), Railroad connection, trains, when were towns named? Cologne Cathedral, brochure, Have you been to Dassel, Germany? Dassel and Kassel, Photos Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept.19 -Oct. 19. Level 3: Kurt Meyer – Sept. 13 – Oct. 25, level 3. Program, Asian. Wall art and fabric, fans, poetry. Can touch. Install Janice and Joyce.

Holje proposed to council the idea of having anyone who would want to plant a stalk of corn in their yard to celebrate the history of seed corn in Dassel. Dahlman seed is willing to donate seed corn to be planted. Dahlman is also willing to plant corn the planters at Breeds Park and maintain them.

**b. Liquor Store Manager**

**Minutes:**

Manager Moy reported that sales were up a little over the month prior. The store had a recent liquor and THC compliance checks done and passed. Moy explained the liquor compliance to the council and is waiting for a copy of the THC compliance report. Moy and Siltala participated in a cyber security webinar through SOPHOS. The fundraiser for shelter pets the store was hoping to be a part of did not happen due to marketing material not being done in time.

**c. Fire Chief**

**Minutes:**

Chief Johnson reported 34 calls for service in March 21 within the city limits. Johnson reminded council of the French Toast Breakfast that is coming up on May 18th starting at 8:00 am.

**d. Public Works Director****Minutes:**

Street Department: They have begun street sweeping. They will be continuing as needed. They also will be submitting invoices to MNDOT and Meeker County. They will begin pothole patching in next week or two after hydrant flushing and sweeping is finished. They hung some of the new banners downtown and on 1st St. They are waiting to do the ones on HWY 12 until the sidewalk project is finished. They have been out repairing any damage done to lawns due to plowing snow. They did have to plow snow with the heavy snow we got. IMS was out repairing the 4-storm sewer catch basins that are repaired per year. Graded the gravel areas around town. Water Dept.: They have been out hydrant flushing. This will continue next week until finished. I have included results from our Pfas sampling for water from a month ago. The results show that we do NOT have any recordable levels. I have attached this year's conservation report. This is a report of the water usage and conservation. They have been continuing to sample and test as needed. Will be having Flow Measure out in May to do calibrations on our meters. This is a bi-annual requirement by the state. Sewer Dept.: They are still waiting on the pump to be received for the irrigator. They said they are ordering it from another supplier and should be here within a couple weeks. I did have them come put a blind flange in place so that we can run without that pump for time being. We will be spraying this week. The spray fields are closed and ready for service. All sampling and testing have been completed for this year's irrigation season. They have begun a treatment process to help with sludge build up in the ponds. They are waiting on dates for Team Lab to come out to do a sonar grafting of our ponds. This will give us an idea of the sludge levels in the ponds so that we can work on bringing it down with treatment instead of dredging. Will be having Flow Measure out in May to do calibrations on our meters. This is a bi-annual requirement by the state. Equipment: We did have to replace the under broom on the sweeper. This is just a regular maintenance item. We actually were able to get a longer run time than estimated by the manufacture. Snow equipment is mostly removed, cleaned and put away for the season. We have all summer equipment serviced and ready for the season. Personnel: I have brought Stan back for 4 days a week while we are revving back up for the year. I did receive applications for part time employee. Will be setting up an interview. Parks: I have included bids for removal of some trees at Breeds and Railroad Parks. The one at Railroad is half dead and is a risk to the structure. One of them at Breeds is hollowed out and is a risk to fence around courts. The other is overhanging the restroom. They will also be trimming some other limbs that are issues. We will be leveling and grading Summit Park around playground. We will also be trying to level out at Railroad Park. Will get quotes for hydro seeding for next month. Update on Sellards Park bathroom. We have it completed, when we attempted to turn on water the service line has a leak. I have Norbergs lined up to come repair the line. We have installed

pet waste stations at the parks. Water has been turned on at Breeds. Building/Property: The service line at the Ballfield has a leak also. I am awaiting an estimate for repair. I am also waiting on an estimate to repair the service line for the top city shop. Council reviewed the bids for tree removal but would like to see another quote for just the trees that are dead.

**e. City Engineer**

**Minutes:**

Engineer Lease reported he was unable to get a meeting with the grant specialist prior to the meeting to see if the library grant could be moved to another publicly owned building but has one scheduled for April 22nd. Lease would like direction from council for approval to move forward with the grant if it can be moved to another city owned building. Council would like to review the layout of the space and have a site visit.

Motion by Suchy, seconded by Landrus to set a special council meeting on May 13th 6:00 pm to discuss the library grant. Motion carried.

Lease reported the total to date amount for engineering fees is \$15,400.00 for the library project and that dates back to the start in the Fall of 2023.

The goal is to get quotes for the Breeds Park restroom project for the next council meeting.

**f. City Administrator**

**Minutes:**

Administrator Eckerly reported upcoming events include DAHS meeting, Tues. April 22, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center, Meeker Co Government Center Open House, Tues. April 22, 2025, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, 114 North Holcombe Avenue, Litchfield, Red Rooster Committee meeting, Tues. May 6, 2025, 6:00 p.m. City Hall Department Head meeting, Tues, May 13, 2025, 7:00 am at City Hall, City Wide Clean Up Day, Sat. May 17, 2025, 8:00 am to noon at 455 6th St N., City Council Meeting, Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall, MNDOT Open House – Hwy 12 Construction, Tues. May 20, 2025, at 3:00 pm-5:30 pm, Linder Financial Open House at 430 3rd St N is April 22nd 3-5 pm., City Hall Holiday – Memorial Day, Mon. May 26, 2025, City Hall will be closed, DAHS meeting, Tues. May 27, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center.

If you are planning to go to the LMC Conference in Duluth in June or the Coalition on MN Cities Conference in Bemidji in July please let admin staff know ASAP. Tracey Bergum and Deb Suchy will be attending the LMC Conference in Duluth and Renee Eckerly will be attending the Coalition meeting in Bemidji.

Other items to report: I attended a Social Media webinar regarding the best practices for cities to handle all their social media accounts with Tracey and Janis Rannow. The League of MN Cities did a great job. I had a meeting with MN Cities Loss Control Representative. There will be a report issued of items that the city needs to address to reduce the risk of insurance claims. I attended the following meeting: MN Housing grant webinar and meeting, Meeker in Motion, Special City Council meeting, Dassel Business luncheon meeting, Safety Training with Kyle and Tracey, Board of Appeal, CGMC Legislative Update, Special City Council meeting – Library, and Department Head meeting. Administrative staff launch the H2O Analytics application for residents to monitor their own water usage. See attached

instructions to setup your account. The annual audit with Sara Oberloh was done on March 24-26, 2025. Sara will be at your May Council meeting to present the 2024 audit. Handle a variety of complaints and inquiries especially regarding snow plowing policy and towing. The new City Official Seal is here and ready for use. I got feedback from Sheriff Cruze on revisions to the city noise ordinance about jake braking. Those revisions will be on your May agenda for review. Food Trucks – The Mexican Grill truck will be in the city's parking lot on Mondays and Tuesday from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm (lunch) and from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm (dinner). The Squeaky Cow will be in the Industrial Park in front of Cretex Medical on May 6th from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month until Sept. The School District and the City of Cokato would like to schedule a joint meeting on Wednesday, June 18th at 5:00 p.m. at the school. There was a couple of Council members able to attend. Council discussed the property located in Summit Hills PID 23-0818000 and whether the City would be interested in selling this parcel. Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy to put the Summit Hills parcel #23-0818000 out for sealed bid. Motion carried.

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

**h. Sheriff's Department**

**Minutes:**

Deputy Kelly reported 141 calls for service for the month of March. There have been a couple of citations written for the 30-minute parking on 2nd St. to the vehicle owner not the owner of Alman Auto. Council member Landrus is intending to have a conversation with Alman Auto about the parking on 2nd St. N.

**9. Business Items**

**a. Motion to approve JandM Displays fireworks 3 years 2025-2027 contract in the amount of \$4,000.00 per year.**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy to approve J and M Displays fireworks 3 years 2025-2027 contract in the amount of \$4,000.00 per year. Motion carried.

**b. Motion to approve 3-year land lease agreement with David Fitterer on irrigation land.**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to approve 3-year land lease agreement with David Fitterer on land that was formerly proposed for an ice rink with the fee being the amount of taxes due on each parcel for the current year. Motion carried.

**c. Discuss Library grant and funding options**

**Minutes:**

Special meeting scheduled for May 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm to discuss the grant and options moving forward.

**d. Motion to purchase 3 SuperSaver Outdoor Benches from TreeTop Products for \$405.00 each and Traditional Powder-Coated Bike Rack for \$255.00 for Summit Park with funds from 101-45200-500.**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to purchase 3 SuperSaver Outdoor Benches from TreeTop Products for \$405.00 each and Traditional Powder-Coated Bike Rack for \$255.00 for Summit Park with funds not to exceed \$1500.00 from 101-45200-500. Motion carried.

**e. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-014 Declaring Dassel Fall Frolic Craft & Flea Market a City Festival**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve Resolution 2025-014 Declaring Dassel Fall Frolic Craft & Flea Market a City Festival. Motion carried.

**10. Adjourn**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to adjourn at 8:26 pm.