

Dassel, MN
Regular City Council Meeting
Minutes
Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Mayor Lalone called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 for City Council meeting April 21, 2025, and Special City Council meeting May 13, 2025.

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy to approve the Minutes for City Council meeting April 21, 2025, and Special City Council meeting May 13, 2025. 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. wants it noted that he is addressing council as a resident of the City of Dassel and not as the Fire Chief. Johnson stated if it continues to get noted in the paper he can resign as Chief. Johnson noted that some of the people reference in the newspaper articles as residents of Dassel do not live within the city limits. They may have a Dassel zip code but are not taxpaying residents of the City of Dassel. Johnson urged residents to come and voice their opinions and concerns, as these decisions affect them.

a. George Eilertson, Northland Securities, present Debt study

Minutes:

George Eilertson, Northland Securities presented Council with the current and future debt study for the city explaining the city's existing debt, the statutory debt limit and the options for future projects and financing.

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

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

- a. **Payment of Claims \$263,123.34**
- b. **Approve Temporary 1 Day On-Sale Liquor License for Cokato Dassel Lions Club for June 19, 2025, at the Dassel History Center.**
- c. **Approve the resignation of Melinda Boltz, Liquor Store Clerk effective April 30, 2025.**
- d. **Approve the renewal of the annual contract with the Minnesota Lottery and authorize the City Administrator to sign.**
- e. **Approve Lease Agreement with Brian Dahlman for 63 acres at \$125.00 per acre and 20 acres at \$30.00 per acre**
- f. **Approve Lease Agreement with Greg Nelson for 50 acres at \$125.0 per acre.**

7. Council & Committee Reports

a. Dassel Area Historical Society Meeting April 21, 2025 - Eckerly

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported the Fungus Amungus is performing the Book of Mark June 26-29, 2025, and there was more discussion about the little theatres and an update on the ERGOT exhibit.

b. Red Rooster Committee Meeting, May 6, 2025 - Eckerly

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported the committee discussed the concrete option at the chicken pits and the committee decided against doing the project but instead will have the residents of the Village Ranch come in July and help rebuild the pits. Representatives from the fire department were present and requested the water ball event be moved to after the parade on Saturday. The Knights of Columbus will no longer be doing the brat feed and will be turning it over to Gethsemane Youth Group this year to raise money for their mission trip. More shirts will be ordered for purchase.

c. Special City Council Meeting - Library May 13, 2025 - Mayor Lalone

Minutes:

Mayor Lalone reported the meeting was in regard to the Library Grant details. Mitch Lease, City Engineer reported the State Dept of Education approved the grant being used at another city owned building. Friends of the Library and representatives from Again and Again were present at the meeting to ask questions and voice their concerns. The letter to the Legislature that the city was intending to proceed is due May 19th so that was decided at that meeting. The option of moving the library project to the south side of the liquor store building was discussed, along with another property that will be discussed later in the closed session.

d. Dassel Cokato Trail Meeting May 14, 2025 - Landrus

Minutes:

Council member Landrus reported the DC Trail received the Active Transportation grant to cover the reconstruction costs of the trail. This does not include any engineering costs. The

Committee received a bid from Bolton & Menk of \$80,000.00. It was voted to move forward with Bolton & Menk. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23rd, and the project will then go out for bids.

8. Staff Reports

a. Museum Director

Minutes:

Director Holje reported upcoming programs include Super Sleuth – Education Committee. May 10, 9:15 am. Memorial Day Coffee, May 26 following service at cemetery, Kent Nerburn – speaker, Dassel Library, June 12, 6:00 pm., Airborn – June 19, 6-9 and Aug. 7, 6-9, Food, Cash Bar. \$10, Jerry Nelson Concert – June 20, 7:00 pm, \$15, Book of Mark. Isaacson Olson – Fungus Amongus, June 26-29. Donation to be given to local food shelves, Sue Davies – July 19, Art program, Crow River String Band, Aug. 16, 7:00 pm. \$10-\$15. Red Rooster Program - Aug. 30, 10 am. Galen Johnson. Food. Reading of Our Town – Aug. 31, 2:00 pm. Exhibits Level 1 Sue Davies – July 19- Aug 2. Level 2 Berkey – Star Wars artist, June and July or Level 4 What's in a Name? Dassel, Minnesota 55325. -- Aug. 16-Sept. 14 Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept. 19 -Oct. 19. Level 3 Kurt Meyer – Sept. 13 – Oct. 25

There will also be a retired professor coming to learn more about Ergot from staff. Holje also told council about a project they are working on with Dahlman to plant seed corn throughout Dassel and anywhere people would like to celebrate Dassel's history in seed corn. Packets of corn are available for pickup at the history center.

b. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Manager Moy reported the sales for the month of April were \$90,944.43 which is up from the prior year. The inspection report from the Office of Cannabis Management came back with no issues. We had an employee turn in her resignation and are looking to advertise for the open position. Staff has been working on rearranging displays with the new seasonal products coming in.

c. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported 31 calls for the month of April 11 being within the city limits of Dassel. The French Toast Breakfast was this past weekend, and the department made \$2,500.00. The attendance appeared to be lower than prior years.

d. Public Works Director

Minutes:

Not in attendance

e. City Engineer

f. City Administrator

Minutes:

Eckerly reported she filed the Housing grant application. Sarah Swedburg reported the

grant cost will be much less than approved. She had a meeting with MNDOT with Chuck DeWolf and Mitchell Lease regarding the Hwy 12 project. We pleaded not to close the road but due to the concrete road slabs that need to be replaced from Dassel to Cokato the road has to be closed. It will be posted open to through traffic and Businesses are open. The project will start June 9, 2025, and completed by the first part of August 2025. She attended the following meeting: DAHS meeting, Linder Financial Open House with Tracey, Meeker in Motion, Special City Council meeting – Library, Trail meeting and Trail Grant – Kick Off meeting. She attended a Coalition webinar meeting with Explore MN and learned a lot about how the organization can help small communities in greater Minnesota. Explore MN reports to Governor Walz. She met with Wright Hennepin Security on better cameras at city hall and around the community and also fob access to City Hall. Cross training with Tracey Bergum, City Clerk – Treasurer on payroll processing. She spent time with Mr. Zimmerman regarding cutting brush as a volunteer at the stormwater pond and the city’s coverage. She researched past housing developments for a future project. Tracey Bergum, Kyle Moy and she met Jena Levandowski at the Mushroom building to improve the landscape and at city hall. She graduated from Meeker in Motion on May 8, 2025. 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. Eckerly asked council if they would like dates on the next agenda for a Strategic Planning Session and also if they would like to take any further action after the Safebuilt presentation.

Eckerly asked council for approval to work with David Anderson with Kennedy and Graven Law firm, who specializes in land law to help with the property in Highland Circle. Eckerly believes it would be beneficial to the city to consult with someone who works with land law specifically.

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to use David T Anderson at Kennedy and Graven for the property at Highland Circle. Motion carried.

g. City Attorney

Minutes:

Not in attendance

h. Sheriff’s Department

Minutes:

Deputy Kelly reported no burglaries, 2 thefts and 44 traffic stops for the month of April.

9. Business Items

a. Disconnection of Water Service Due to Delinquent Account

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to shut off water service due to delinquent account (non-payment) at 610 Parker Ave E (past due amount \$708.22; full amount due \$826.59). Last receipt of payment June 11, 2024. Motion carried.

b. Motion to repair the curb stop at 610 Parker Ave E and invoice the property owner for the amount not to be greater than \$1,000.

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to repair the curb stop at 610 Parker Ave E and invoice the property owner for the amount of the invoice. Motion carried.

c. Discuss Zimmerman lease agreement regarding reimbursement for watering.

Minutes:

Ray Zimmermann, 1294 Summit Cove has an irrigation system that was installed on city owned property in 2022. At that point Zimmermann requested the city sell him that parcel and it was decided that a lease agreement would be the route the city would like to go. During the first year of the irrigation system being on the city property a one time credit was issued to Zimmermann but was not part of his lease agreement. Zimmermann has requested a credit on his irrigation usage yearly since the installation of the system. City staff would like clarification since this is not addressed in the lease agreement. Motion by Suchy to issue a credit for one half the usage for one month. Suchy rescinded her motion. Motion by Thurn to issue a credit of \$400.00 for the summer. Motion died due to lack of a second. Zimmermann also addressed council about the retention pond that borders his property and the trees and brush he has been cutting down with the permission from public works. It was decided that going forward public works will be responsible for cutting down all trees and brush from around the retention ponds and will no longer allow residents to perform this work due to liability risk.

10. Announcements / Dates to Remember

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported the following dates to remember MNDOT Open House – Hwy 12 Construction, Tues. May 20, 2025, at 4:00 pm- 5:30 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 Dassel Business Group meeting, Mon, June 2, 2025, 12:00 pm at City Hall Dept Head meeting, Tues. June 10, 2025, 7:00 am at City Hall City Council Meeting, Mon., June 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall Red Rooster Committee meeting, Tues. June 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm at City Hall Holiday – Juneteenth, Thurs. June 19, 2025, City Hall will be closed. DAHS meeting, Tues. June 24, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center

11. Closed Session

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to recess the meeting at 8:18 pm. Motion carried. Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Thurn to open the closed session at 8:18 pm. Motion carried. Mayor Lalone read the following Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sections 13D.05, subdivision 3(c)(3) to conduct a closed city council discussion concerning the following real property (the "Property"):
Meeker County PID 23-0103000 465 2nd Street, Dassel, Minnesota

To develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

Representatives from Lessad Capital, Clint Scherping, Nick Corbin and Bill Aho were in attendance. Lessad Capital presented council with their proposal and left the meeting at 8:55 pm.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to adjourn the Closed session at 9:20 pm. Motion carried

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to reopen the Regular meeting at 9:23 pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve Bolton & Menk to investigate the options that were discussed. Motion carried.

12. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Bob Lalone, Mayor

Tracey Bergum, Clerk/Treasurer

Contact: Renee Eckerly (renee.eckerly@dassel.com 320-275-2454) | Minutes published on 06/11/2025, adopted on 06/16/2025