

Dassel, MN
Regular City Council Meeting
Minutes
Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lalone at 6:03 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 May 19, 2025, Special City Council meeting June 9, 2025, and DAHS meeting April 22, 2025.

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.)

Minutes:

Melonie Jensen, 860 3rd St N would like to see if the city would put a stop or yield sign on 3rd and Centennial.

Jerry Fitzloff, 1007 Sunrise Circle is asking on behalf of the majority of Sunrise Circle and the North part of Summit Cove to maintain the North retention pond. Moy, Public Work Director has spoken with several residents in that area who do not want it cleaned up due to privacy. The trees that are there are not in the pond but on the perimeter. Moy, Eckerly, City Administrator and Mitchell Lease, City Engineer met to discuss what to do with the retention ponds and there was nothing that needs to be done at this time.

David Johnson, 130 Linart Ave W doesn't believe the city should take monies from the reserve to fund the Breeds Park restroom project. Johnson is also not in favor of the library project and believes instead of raising the property tax rates the city should cut spending. Johnson also stated it may be better to remove the trees around the retention pond before they get too large and cause issues.

a. Darren Sombke County Commissioner will be present to give a Meeker County update.

Minutes:

Darren Sombke, Meeker County Commissioner was present to give the council an updated on the happening in Meeker County. Sombke stated the remodeling project is wrapping up at the county. Commissioners met with legislators at the capital recently and discussed the increase in levy due to the State deficit. The county is working on their vision/mission statement, and the EDA is working on housing and childcare. Sombke addressed questions in regard to the county's financials and stated the county has brought a consultant in to do a comparable work study. Administrator Eckerly stated the Truth in Taxation hearing is usually in the fall and each entity will hold their own hearing in which the public can attend and ask questions regarding spending and property tax increases.

b. Sara Oberloh, Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd. will be presenting the City's 2024 audit.

Minutes:
Auditor Oberloh presented the 2024 annual audit report. Oberloh reviewed the required reports, financial analysis and discussed with council the importance of not letting the unassigned fund balance drop below 50%, currently the city is maintaining.

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

Minutes:
Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Thurn to approve the agenda with the addition of 9f. Resolution 2025-017 Declaring Red Rooster Celebration as a City Festival. Motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:
Motion by Suchy, seconded by Gaertner to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

- a. **Payment of Claims \$257,255.21**
- b. **Motion to hire Alyssa Carlen Part time liquor store clerk pending background check.**
- c. **Motion to appoint AI Suchy to the Planning Commission board for 2025 to December 31, 2026**
- d. **Approve Temporary 1 Day On-Sale Liquor License for Cokato Dassel Lions Club for August 9, 2025, at the Dassel History Center.**

7. Council & Committee Reports

a. Planning Commission Meeting, June 9, 2025 - Landrus

Minutes:
Council member Landrus reported that a lot line adjustment on Sunrise Circle was approved by Planning and Zoning and is on the agenda for council action.

b. Special City Council Meeting - Grant/Vehicle purchase June 9, 2025

Minutes:
Mayor Alone reported council met to discuss and take action on application for housing infrastructure grant and the purchase of a 2015 Ford Super Duty Pickup for the Public Works Department, which they will swap out for the 2005 Ford Ranger.

8. Staff Reports

a. Museum Director

Minutes:

Director Holje reported Landscaping will be doing the spring and fall work around building, looking at some other areas of landscaping concerns. Staff is working on evaluation of the spaces in the History Center for exhibits and enhancing the ergot exhibit. A retired professor from Texas A&M has been at the museum doing research for a presentation about ergot in Portugal. The seed corn planting project has started and is growing around Dassel.

Upcoming events include: Airborn – June 19, 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. No Charge, Airborn – Aug. 7, 6-9, Food and Cash Bar. Cost \$10. Crow River String Band, Aug. 16, 7:00 pm. \$15, Red Rooster Program - Aug. 30, 10 am. Galen Johnson. Food. No Charge, Reading of Our Town – Aug. 31, 2:00 pm. No Charge, Also Exhibit “Our Town”, Kurt Meyer – Sept 7, 2:00 pm. No Charge, Tea, Saki, Poetry –Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept. 21. 2:00 No Charge

b. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Manager Moy reported staff is doing cycle counts on inventory and organizing the inventory room, so they are ready for the summer season, A couple of application have been received for the open positions.

c. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported 38 calls in the month of May of which 23 were within the city limits of Dassel and the departments year to date calls is 195. There are a couple of leaks in the roof that they are monitoring.

d. Public Works Director

Minutes:

Street Dept: The Department has been street sweeping as needed and pothole patching as weather allows. We have been doing some sight triangle tree trimming and spraying weeds along sidewalks and properties. Water Dept: Servin Plumbing was out to inspect our Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ). The one at the water plant needs replacement with an estimated cost of \$2,000. It is needed for compliance, so Moy had them go ahead. These are tested annually. We have been busy doing one calls and locates for MNDOT Hwy 12 project. Sewer Dept: Flow Measure was here doing bi-annual flow meter certifications and Team Lab was here doing sonar on the sludge levels of the ponds. Moy is waiting for the results, which will allow them to determine the levels and try to treat without having to dredge the ponds. There have been some electrical issues at the 5th St Lift Station. Quality Flow was here, and they believe we had some type of power surge or may have had a lightning strike. They got it repaired, and we plan to turn it into insurance once we receive the correct parts. The 5th St Lift also needs to have one of the lift pumps replaced. Attached is a quote to have it replaced with a new pump or rebuilt. I would recommend new because

the warranty and the current one is 15-20 years old. Nolan Nelson has been working on residing the Main Lift building. After the Main is finished, we will be moving on to 5th St Lift. We have been irrigation spraying as much as possible. If the weather gets nicer soon, we will be running later into days to try and get caught back up. Equipment: Moy purchased a new gas pole saw due is having issues and it not being economical to repair. Personnel: Continuing to utilize part-time employees based on weather. Jack Nesseseth and Dale Wright have been working out great. Both are picking things up quickly and are a valued addition. Parks: We have completed the restroom at Sellards Parks and added mulch to the playground. Dirt has been added at the Summit Hills Park, just waiting on drier weather to level it out. Bldg/Property: We are in process of repairing the railing at City Hall and painting the entrances. I have been talking with a lot of the residents surrounding the retention pond by Sunrise Circle. With this I have gathered a large group of them DO NOT want the trees removed. Going forward I believe it would be best to work with each owner separately. We have been working with Jen Levandowski on cleaning up the mushroom building and doing some overdue maintenance. We had Nordberg's Repair water lines at ballpark and city shop.

e. City Engineer

Minutes:

Engineer Lease reported 2 quotes were submitted for the Breeds Park restroom project with the low bid coming from Bludorn Builders LLC in the amount of \$75,293.00, the other bid was in the amount of \$111,318.99 Litchfield Building Center. Council member Suchy stated she has spoken to city residents, and they do not want to put the money towards a new restroom and expressed her frustration that it was allowed to get to this state of disrepair. Administrator Eckerly asked about grants that might be available for park shelters, Lease will look into what may be available. Eckerly will do some research on a fundraiser and also reach out to the county and townships to see if they have any funds that can be donated. Dave Johnson asked council how much we are paying to Bolton & Menk every time we need something researched.

f. City Administrator

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported the Housing Infrastructure grant application was filed. I had a meeting with 35 Blue Properties and Sarah Swedburg and Mitchell Lease regarding the need for a Planned Unit Development amendment for Highland Circle. Sarah Swedburg and I had a meeting with Dave T Anderson, Kennedy & Graven for about 30 minutes to confirm the city's position. The Public Hearing and Planning Commission meeting for the application for a Planned Unit Development amendment for Highland Circle is scheduled for July 7, 2025. I attended the following meeting: Building Official and Sarah Swedburg on lot line adjustment issue, League of MN Cities – Legislative Session update, Interviews at Liquor Store, Municipal Impact website demo, Planning Commission meeting, Department Head meeting, and Special City Council meeting – Grant/Truck purchase. City staff has been taking a lot of calls regarding the Hwy 12 project. The unofficial detour of County Road 4 (7th St S) and 6 (3rd St S) has caused an increase in speeding and jake braking in the area

of these County roads. Deputies have increased patrols in these areas also. The speed limit on these roads in city limits is 30 mph. Food Trucks – The Mexican Grill truck will not be coming to Dassel until the Hwy 12 project is complete in August. Eckerly reminded council if they want to attend the Coalition of Greater MN Cities Summer Conference in July they need to book a hotel ASAP. Eckerly also asked council if they wanted to take further action on the Safebuilt presentation and at this time they were not interested in doing so. Council responded they did not.

g. City Attorney

Minutes:
Greenley, City Attorney was not present.

h. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:
Deputy Kelly reported there were 0 burglaries, 0 thefts and 62 traffic stops in the month of May.

9. Business Items

a. Discuss Irrigation, Sod and Asphalt estimates at Mushroom building.

Minutes:
Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to approve the purchase and installation of an irrigation system and sod for the property at the Mushroom Building not to exceed \$7,500.00 with monies coming from 101-45000-492 and Park Capital Improvement. Motion carried.

b. Discuss removing No Truck Parking sign on Centennial Ave.

Minutes:
Motion by Suchy, seconded by Gaertner to repeal the 2015 "No Trucks" sign on Centennial Ave. Motion carried.

c. Returning business item from April meeting. Discuss approval of bid.

Minutes:
Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to remove the necessary trees in Bandstand Park and Breed's Park at a cost of \$6,400.00 from Wimmer Specialist LLC. Motion carried.

d. Discuss adopting wording to address jake braking.

Minutes:
Administrator Eckerly will get the new wording for updating the ordinance regarding jake braking ready to be posted for the 10 days for the next meeting.

e. Motion to approve the Lot Line Adjustment Application for PID 23-0756000 1000 Sunrise Circle, Dassel.

Minutes:
Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to approve the Lot Line Adjustment Application for PID 23-0756000 1000 Sunrise Circle, Dassel. Motion carried.

f. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-017 Declaring Red Rooster Celebration as a City Festival on August 30, 2025.

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to approve Resolution 2025-017 Declaring Red Rooster Celebration as a City Festival on August 30, 2025. Motion carried.

10. Announcements / Dates to Remember

Minutes:

2024 Population and Household Estimates from the MN State Demographer 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. DC Trail Meeting, Mon. June 23, 2025, 4:30 p.m. Dassel City Hall DAHS meeting, Tues. June 24, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center League of MN Cities Conference, June 24 - 27, 2025, Duluth Convention Center Holiday – 4th of July, Fri. July 4, 2025, City Hall will be closed. Planning Commission meeting, Mon, July 7, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Dept Head meeting, Tues. July 15, 2025, 7:00 a.m. at City Hall City Council Meeting, Mon., July 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall

11. Closed Meeting

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Lalone to recess the meeting at 9:09 pm. Motion carried. Motion by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to open the closed session at 9:10 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 23-010300 465 2nd Street, Dassel, Minnesota To develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to close the closed session and reopen the regular meeting at 9:16 pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Gaertner to reject the offer to purchase part of the property at 465 2nd St. N., Dassel, Minnesota. Motion carried.

12. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm. Motion carried.