

Dassel, MN

# Regular City Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday, August 18, 2025 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, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone

## 2. Approval of Minutes for City Council meeting July 21, 2025, and Red Rooster Committee July 15, 2025

### Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve Minutes for City Council meeting July 21, 2025, and Red Rooster Committee July 15, 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:

Roger Toft - 139 Highland Circle spoke about the Highland Circle PUD Amendment involving Lot Line Adjustments. Toft stated when he and other residents left the previous meeting they felt negatively about the project but after having a meeting with the Developers now have a better understanding and are in favor of the proposed change.

Nick Corbin - 35 Blue Properties was present to answer questions for council and provided a conceptual plan for council to see of the single-family homes that would be built if the Highland Circle PUD Amendment is approved.

## 5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

### Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to approve the agenda with the addition on 9f. Motion to approve payment to Levanen in the amount of \$15,501.48. Motion carried  
Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to move 9a and 9b to after the Consent Agenda, due to limited availability of the City Planner. Motion carried.

## 6. Consent Agenda

### Minutes:

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

carried.

- a. **Payment of Claims \$725,091.57**
- b. **Accept resignation of Kent Shaker part time Liquor Store Clerks effective July 24, 2025.**
- c. **Accept resignation of Jack Nesselth temporary seasonal part time Public Works effective August 13, 2025.**

## **7. Council & Committee Reports**

### **a. DAHS meeting, July 22, 2025 - Eckerly**

**Minutes:**

Eckerly was not in attendance, nothing to report.

### **b. DAEA Spring Lake Annual Meeting, July 22, 2025 - Mayor Lalone/Landrus**

**Minutes:**

Mayor Lalone and Council Member Landrus were not in attendance, nothing to report.

### **c. Red Rooster Committee meeting, Aug. 14, 2025 - Gaertner**

**Minutes:**

Council member Gaertner reported that everything seems to be coming together. Details about the refrigerated truck are needed along with more volunteers for the bike ride and the pits. City staff has everything in order just finalizing things with Committee members. MNDOT is going to open the road so that traffic can flow better during the event.

## **8. Staff Reports**

### **a. Museum Director**

**Minutes:**

Director Holje reported they are having air conditioning issues. Options are to repair the air conditioner or replace it. Daston is working on estimates. Landscaping will be doing the spring and fall work around building. They came last week and cleaned around building so pest control could spray. Looking at some other areas of landscaping concerns. We have a volunteer mowing the lawn. Also working on evaluation of the spaces in the History Center for exhibits. Enhancing the ergot exhibit Upcoming events and exhibits include 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. Tea, Saki, Poetry, No Charge, Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept. 21. 2:00 No Charge Elaine Nordlie – Norwegian Celebration, 200th Anniversary of the Start of Norwegian Emigration Oct. 11, 9 am Rosemaling classes, Paper heart making, Straw Ornaments, Lunch, Displays or exhibits, What’s in a Name? Dassel, Minnesota 55325. -- Aug. 16-Sept. 14 Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept.20 -Oct. 19. Kurt Meyer – Sept. 7 – Oct. 25, level 3. Program Asian. Wall art and fabric, fans, poetry. Can touch. Install Janice and Joyce. Tea. Saki, Poetry.

**b. Liquor Store Manager**

**Minutes:**

Manager Moy reported a slight increase in sales in July at \$114,826.81. Staff has been working on cycle counts and recently upgraded the stores cybersecurity equipment.

**c. Fire Chief**

**Minutes:**

Chief Johnson reported 40 calls in the month of July, of which 13 were within city limits and there has been 271 year to date. Johnson discussed with Council the 2 bids for portable radios, one from Kenwood and another from Motorola. The bid for the Kenwood radios is \$33,044.29 lower than the Motorola. Johnson has checked with the Meeker County to confirm they will work with their system. A couple of the members have been using the Kenwood radios to see how they are and so far, feedback has been positive.

**d. Public Works Director**

**Minutes:**

Director Moy reported Street Dept.: Has been out painting curbs and crosswalks as weather allows. They had about a weeks' worth of clean up from the storms we got. Lots of debris in roadway and resident cleanup that followed. We still have some follow up areas to do as time allows. We did have to hire Wimmer Specialties to come remove a couple hung up limbs that were taken down during storm. They were hung up in tree higher that we could reach. We have been out pothole patching. The city streets have been taking quite a bit of abuse with Hwy 12 being closed. They have been out street sweeping to clean up with all the storms. We should be installing the RRFID on 1st and parker this week. We have been out vaccing and jetting storm basins and the Vactors. We will be closing parking on 2nd street this week to do the parking changes around the Fire Hall. Not positive on day yet with weather. I will notify businesses in area prior to plan. Water Dept.: We have been doing regular sampling and testing. We did have a third party with the Department of Health out to do some PFAS chemical sampling. Sewer Dept.: We had Quality Flow out to replace the pump at 5th St Lift station. After further inspection they had decided that it was a good possibility that the electrical surge was the cause of failure. With that we were able to submit that invoice in with our insurance claim. We have been having to do repairs to pivots and spray heads in fields. This is just to be expected with age of the system. We will be getting a Pivot repair company out to do a repair and also do some training with us as well as Ted Ahlgren will be there. Siding at Main lift has been put on hold for a little bit to ty and catch up. We have very little left to finish just not the time. We will be waiting until Fall to begin on 5th St. With the weather we have been struggling to get water out. With that when we are able to, we have been running late into the night. We are in no danger of overflowing just having issues getting rid of it. Equipment: We did have to bring the Vac back to DC Diesel for a warranty alternator. We had new tires installed on 2015 Ford. The air compressor at top shop died. We purchased a new smaller model that we

can load up and use. Personnel: Jack's last day was 8/13/25. Will continue to utilize the part time staff (Stan and Dale) into Fall. We have been a little short staffed with people taking time off, but we are getting through it.

Parks: The Maple tree behind the Band Stand has been removed. The company will be out at a later date to grind all stumps at same time. While they were here I had him trim a little on other larger maple tree. The remaining trees at Breed's Park should be getting removed before Labor Day as long as weather agrees. The tree that we decided to wait on that over hung the bathroom at Breeds had to come down. After the storms it was discovered that it cracked in the split and would crush the restroom. So, we had them come out and chain together until they could remove it. The hydro seeding at Summit Park is complete. We will be installing the benches when the grass gets going. Building/Property: The sod and irrigation are completed at the Mushroom Building. We will be working on repairing and replacing the landscaping there this Fall. Red Rooster: We have had a lot of time into replacing the grating for the chicken grates and baskets. We are preparing for the event. Gathering supplies and cleaning up town.

**e. City Engineer - will not be in attendance**

**f. City Administrator**

**Minutes:**

Administrator Eckerly reported Tracey Bergum, and I attended MCFOA meeting at the City of Kingston. We learned about MN Paid Family Leave law, Cybersecurity and how cities are utilizing AI to do tasks. It was interesting to hear how other cities are handling these items. It was very informative. The city hosted with the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce a free training session on MN Paid Family Leave law presented by Stacey Neuhaus, Vinna Human Resources at the History Center to 29 business. There was great feedback on the 2-hour meeting. Administrative staff has been working a lot on Red Rooster Days celebration. The Committee needs at least 35-40 volunteers for the Labor Day weekend. We are down to the final tasks. Anyone interested in helping with chicken dinner, bike ride, walk/run please call city hall. Also attended the following meeting: DAHS meeting, Municipal Impact website training, EDAM – Block 52 Redevelopment in Monticello – awesome webinar, Department Head meeting, Robyn Hoerr, MN Rural Water – Wellhead Protection. Administrative staff did research into the Heritage Preservation Committee Ordinance. Tracey Bergum attended the meeting with Cokato-Dassel Lions, Dan Landrus and Kyle Moy regarding selecting a location for the donated covered picnic table. Eckerly stated they may need a Special City Council meeting to approve the Joint Trail reconstruction bid, bid opening for the project is August 20th at 11:00 am with a Joint Trail Board meeting on August 21, 2025, to approve and recommend the bid to City Council.

**g. City Attorney**

**Minutes:**

Kurt Greenley discussed with Council the various options for the Historic Preservation Commission and gave them the information he received in regard

to the issue from Michael Koop, MN State Historic Preservation Office. Council decided to table the discussion until a later date.

**h. Sheriff's Department**

**Minutes:**

Deputy Bonnicks reported 115 calls for the month of July. 56 traffic stops, 6 resulting in citations. They are still monitoring the parking on 2nd St. N.

**9. Business Items**

**a. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-020 PUD Amendment and Lot Line Adjustment for Block 5 (Lots 1-4 and 13-28) in Highland Circle**

This item was tabled at the July 21, 2025, Council meeting.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve Resolution 2025-020 PUD Amendment and Lot Line Adjustment for Block 5 (Lots 1-4 and 13-28) in Highland Circle. Motion carried with Thurn voting no.

**b. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-019 Approve Vacation of Drainage & Utility Easements in Highland Circle**

This item was tabled at the July 21, 2025, Council meeting.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to approve Resolution 2025-020 PUD Amendment and Lot Line Adjustment for Block 5 (Lots 1-4 and 13-28) in Highland Circle. Motion carried with Thurn voting no.

**c. Discuss Bill Ward and Kurt Greenley presentation regarding the Dassel Heritage Preservation Commission (Ordinance 156 Historic Preservation.)**

**Minutes:**

Council requested Eckerly, City Administrator to check with Meeker County Historical Society to see if they have a member that would be interested on an appointment to the Dassel Historic Preservation Commission. Eckerly will reach out to the City of Litchfield and inquire on their process to certify a property historic and see if there is someone on the Litchfield Historic Preservation Commission that would come and educate the City Council on the duties/tasks of the Commission. Administration staff is to contact Michael Koop regarding deficiencies.

**d. Motion to approve the purchase of 25 Kenwood Viking 7/800 MHz Portable Radios for Fire Department**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Lalone, seconded by Thurn to approve the purchase of 25 Kenwood Viking 7/800 MHz Portable Radios for Fire Department in the amount of \$61,520.75, utilizing the 2023 Public Safety Aid (one time only) in the amount of \$64,984.00 that the City of Dassel received December 2023. Motion carried.

**e. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-021 Setting and Approving the Annual Fee Schedule for 2025**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to approve Resolution 2025-021 Setting and Approving the Annual Fee Schedule for 2025 without the Irrigation Box fee. Motion carried.

- f. **ADDED: Motion to approve payment request #5 to Levanen Underground LLC in the amount of \$15,501.48.**

**Minutes:**

Council meeting was adjourned and action was not taken on this added item.

**10. Announcements / Dates to Remember**

**Minutes:**

Eckerly reported the upcoming dates to remember: Meeker County Public Hearing for Variance Application - Tim and Mary Jo Read, 22667 708th Ave Dassel on August 19, 2025, at 5:00pm Government Center. Joint Trail Bid Opening, Wed., Aug. 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Dassel City Hall Reception for Erica Bakke, 2026 Aquatennial Princess, Wed. Aug. 20, 2025, 7:00 p.m. History Center Joint Trail Board Meeting, Thurs. Aug. 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Dassel City Hall DAHS meeting, Tues. Aug. 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center - CANCELLED next meeting is in September Red Rooster Committee meeting, Tues. Aug. 26, 2025, at 6:00 pm at City Hall Red Rooster Day Festival Fri. Aug. 29, 2025, - Mon. Sept. 1, 2025. Labor Day, Holiday - City Hall Closed Sept. 1, 2025 Dept Head meeting, Tues. Sept. 9, 2025, 7:00 a.m. at City Hall Fire Advisory meeting, Wed. Sept. 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m. at Dassel Fire Hall City Council meeting, Mon. Sept. 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

**11. Adjourn**

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to adjourn at 8:29 pm. Motion carried.