



Regular City Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting was 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:

Council members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone.
Members absent: None.

2. Approval of Minutes for City Council meeting August 18, 2025, Special City Council meeting August 25, 2025, Dassel-Cokato Trail Committee meeting June 30, 2025, Red Rooster Committee meeting August 14, 2025

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy Ato approve the Minutes for City Council meeting August 18, 2025, Special City Council meeting August 25, 2025, Dassel-Cokato Trail Committee meeting June 30, 2025, Red Rooster Committee meeting August 14, 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.)

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Lalone to approve the agenda with the addition of 9e. Daston Mechanical quote for the HVAC unit at the History Center in the amount of \$43,345.00 and 9f. Resignation from City Attorney Kurt Greenley and the bill submitted by Greenley for the work recently done on the Heritage Preservation Committee.
Motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

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

- a. **Payment of Claims \$245,968.24**
- b. **Accepting the resignation of Andrea Juneau, part time Administrative Assistant, effective September 4, 2025.**
- c. **Approving Liquor license and Sunday Liquor application for Thirsty's Bar & Grill LLC for October 1, 2025, to Sept. 30, 2026.**

7. Council & Committee Reports

- a. **Fire Advisory Meeting, Wed. Sept. 10, 2025 - Thurn**

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported the Board met on September 10, 2025, and toured the fire hall. Collinwood Township and the City of Darwin were absent. The Firefighter Committee put together a presentation with information from other communities and the costs of their projects. A motion was made to move forward with Darwin Township being the only entity opposing. Eckerly will email the presentation out and there will be an opportunity for elected officials to tour the fire hall on October 6th at 7:00 pm during the Officers meeting. A report was given on the new fire truck, they will be meeting next May to go over specifications and looking at 1st quarter of 2028 for delivery, Eckerly has been working with USDA to get financing options for a new fire hall if it is decided to go that route.

- b. **Cokato Dassel Lions/Rotary picnic table project, August 2025 - Landrus**

Minutes:

Council member Landrus reported that he, Public Works Director Moy and City Clerk Bergum met with Dan and Beth Janish to discuss the options for the picnic area. It was explained why the area in front of City Hall is not a good option and looked at an area in Breeds Park that would work. City Administrator Eckerly received an email stating the area in Breeds Park did not fit the Lions/Rotary vision.

8. Staff Reports

- a. **Museum Director**

Minutes:

Director Holje reported they are still experiencing issues with their HVAC unit and have received some estimates to have the unit replaced.
Upcoming programs and exhibits include: 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, levels 1, 3 and the Lobby. Asian Fusion Asian. Wall art and fabric, fans, poetry. Can touch. Install Janice and Joyce. Tea. Saki, Poetry, Fungus Fall

Play – Cyrano de Bergerac Opens Nov. 7.

b. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Manager Moy reported sales are down a little over the previous month. A couple of quotes were received to repair the gutter issues on the building. Moy's recommendation is the quote from Vos Construction, this will be decided later on in the agenda.

c. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported 38 calls for the month of August 17 within the city limits. This brings the calls for the year to 308, 60 higher than last year. The department held training in which they were able to tour a residential property as well as a commercial property which are both currently under construction.

d. Public Works Director

Minutes:

Director Moy reported in Streets: The completion of the parking changes on 2nd St. by the Fire Hall. Have been sweeping as needed. Will be having to repaint all crosswalks along Hwy 12 due to MNDOT not including this in the project. Have had lots of clean up this year due to storms. The construction company hired us to sweep Hwy 12 prior to Red Rooster Days Water: ISO was out in town for some hydrant flow testing. Regular maintenance and testing are being done, and we have ordered the new screen for our testing machine. Wastewater: We were able to pump a lot out last month into the fields. This has put us in a much better position to finish out the season. We have also lost a lot of trees in the fields to be cleared this fall. We had to have a company out to repair Pivot 3. We had an issue with Maple Lift Station that we ended up having a repair company out to repair. Parks: The trees at Bandstand and Breeds Parks have been removed. With the rain, we have been holding off removal of the stumps to reduce damage. Summit Park hydro seeding has been taking off well. We will be installing the benches at Summit Park this week. Equipment: We spent a lot of time last month repairing the cooking grates and baskets for Red Rooster Days. We have been continuing to maintain and repair equipment as needed. Buildings & Property: The seeding has been taking off at the city shop.

e. City Engineer

Minutes:

Engineer Lease stated they are now just waiting on trail contracts to come through.

f. City Administrator

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported Tracey Bergum, and I attended League of MN Cities webinar on Paid Family Leave. I will be working on updating the

Personnel Policy and scheduling a Personnel Committee meeting. Working with departments to utilize Banyon to clock in/out for auditing trail for Family Leave. Tracey Bergum and I are working on updating security at City Hall due to staff and vendor changes. Met with Chuck DeWolf and Mitchell Lease, City Engineers regarding Spring Lake environmental issues status. Met with Chuck DeWolf, Mitchell Lease, Kyle Moy and new owner of Lakeview Ranch property regarding water access for sprinkler system. Administrative staff has been working a lot on Red Rooster Days celebration. The last week of August was crazy busy. Red Rooster Days Weekend was a success! Special thanks to Nolan Nelson, Public Works for his help with the refer semi for the chicken. I attended the following meeting: Trail bid opening, Joint Trail meeting, Special City Council meeting, Red Rooster meeting, DAHS meeting cancelled in August, Department Head meeting and the Fire Advisory. Tracey Bergum has reached out to Michael Koop but has not received a call back regarding the Heritage Preservation Commission. I had a great information sharing meeting with Lisa Graphenten, Meeker County EDA Director. We are going to work on a couple of projects to see if they are a fit for Dassel such as a Small Cities Redevelopment grant. The City of Dassel was awarded \$100,000 for the Greater Minnesota Small Cities (Tier II Cities) for the Housing Program. The Administration staff is short-handed and is working hard to adjust the additional work between us to get everything covered. I have been working on the Dassel Frolic set for Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025. I have been working on preliminary 2026 budget.

Eckerly asked council which dates work best for them for a Special City Council meeting to take action on a variance request that is having a Public Hearing at the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, September 24, 25 or 30th. Council chose September 30th at 6:00 pm.

g. City Attorney - not in attendance

h. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:

Deputy Bonnicks reported 93 calls for service for the month of August which included 1 theft, 2 DWI arrests and 42 traffic stops.

9. Business Items

a. Motion to approve the quote from Vos Construction of \$3,500.00 to mitigate the issues with the gutter system on the Liquor Store building. Money from account 609-49750-401.

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Thurn to approve the quote from Vos Construction of \$3,500.00 to mitigate the issues with the gutter system on the Liquor Store building. Motion carried.

b. Discuss Amy Gaertner, Shear Elegance Salon Revolving Loan Request

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to approve the Loan Agreement & Promissory Note to Amy Gaertner in the amount of \$5,000.00 at zero percent

interest for a term of 60 months. Motion carried with Gaertner abstaining.

c. 2026 Preliminary Budget & Setting Truth In Taxation Hearing date

Minutes:

Motion by Lalone, seconded by to set Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. as the date and time for the cities Truth In Taxation Hearing. Motion carried.

d. Discuss Draft Chapter 96 Ordinance Prohibiting Hunting, Discharge of Fire Arms and Use of Dangerous Weapons

Minutes:

Council decided to table the ordinance and individually review it and return with recommendations.

e. Daston Mechanical History Center HVAC quote \$43,345.00

Minutes:

Eckerly reported that Museum currently does not have a Capital Improvement account for repairs this would come out of the General Fund. Museum Director Holje stated the option to share the bill with the city is something she is willing to take to the DAHS board which meets again on September 23, 2025. It was decided that this will be put on the Special Council meeting agenda for September 30, 2025, for action.

f. Resignation of City Attorney Kurt Greenley & Heritage Preservation Commission bill

Minutes:

After some discussion council decided to send a letter to Greenley opposing the Heritage Preservation Commission bill. Eckerly will bring an RFP for Attorney services.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy to accept the resignation of City Attorney Kurtis Greenley. Motion carried.

10. Announcements / Dates to Remember

Minutes:

Eckerly reported the following announcements and dates to remember: Xcel Energy - Notice of Application to increase Electric Rates CGMC 2025 Fall Conference, November 13 - 14, 2025, Grand Rapids, MN. Charter Communications, Spectrum Channel Lineup and Programming Changes/Additions. Dassel Fall Frolic Craft & Flea Market Festival, Sun. Sept. 21, 2025, from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm on Atlantic Ave W Planning Commission Meeting, Tues. Sept. 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. DAHS meeting, Tues. Sept. 23, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center Red Rooster Committee meeting, Mon. Sept. 29, 2025, at 6:00 pm at City Hall Dept Head meeting, Tues. Oct. 14, 2025, 7:00 a.m. at City Hall City Council meeting, Mon. Oct. 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

11. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to adjourn at 7:21 pm. Motion carried.

Contact: Renee Eckerly (renee.eckerly@dassel.com 320-275-2454) | Minutes published on 11/18/2025, adopted on 10/20/2025