



DRAFT

Regular City Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Lalone at 6:02 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 Oct. 20, 2025, Closed City Council meeting Oct. 28, 2025, Special City Council meeting Nov. 13, 2025, DAHS meeting Sept. 23, 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.)

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Thurn to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

a. Payment of Claims \$267,323.93

b. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-026 accepting a donation to the City of Dassel from Dassel Firemans Relief Association Gambling Account in the amount of \$60,000.

c. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-027 accepting a donation to the City of Dassel from Gary & Doris Kyllonen in Honor of Orland Nelson in the amount of \$20.

7. Council & Committee Reports

a. DAHS meeting, Tues. Oct. 28, 2025 - Eckerly

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported at the October 28th meeting the Ergot panels will be coming to the next board meeting, they cost about \$200.00 each. Carolyn, Julie and Mary will be working on the wording for the panels. Membership letters have been sent out. Janis has been working on trying to reach out to more people on social media and getting the website to be more user friendly, she is also continually working on updating the tv in the entry way.

b. Closed City Council meeting, Tues. Oct. 28, 2025 - Mayor Lalone

Minutes:

Mayor Lalone reported that Jana Sullivan, attorney with Kennedy and Graven was present to go over the allegations made by a former employee. Council decided that all staff take part in respectful workplace training. Council member Landrus stated they have been looking into different options and feels that in person training would be more beneficial. Eckerly stated we need a minimum of 25 employees in attendance to have in person and at this time we only have 21. Lalone and Landrus will continue to look for training options best suited for the needs of staff.

c. Special City Council meeting, Thurs. Nov. 13, 2025 - Mayor Lalone

Minutes:

Mayor Lalone reported that interviews were conducted for the 2 firms that replies to the RFP. The individual that would be representing the city and their immediate supervisor. Council decided to make a decision at the regular meeting on November 17th to have a couple of days to think about their decision.

8. Staff Reports

a. Museum Director

Report will be distributed at the meeting. 11/18/25 UPDATE attachments added from Council meeting 11/17/25

Minutes:

Museum Director Holje reported they are working on getting the HVAC issues resolved. Evaluating the spaces in the History Center for exhibits and enhancing the ergot exhibit. The landscapers have completed fall cleanup. Programming and exhibits are slowing down now that winter is approaching, but rentals have continued to increase. Fungus Amongus is performing Cyrano De Bergerac. She is planning for 2026 events and is open to any suggestions.

b. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Manager Moy reported sales are down a little, but the sales of closeout items have been steady. The floor has been polished and staff is setting up for the holidays. Vos Construction started on the gutter project today.

c. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported 34 calls for the month of October, which 19 of these were in city limits. This is 25-30 more calls over 2024. The department received a \$500.00 grant from the Chris Hansen Trust in memory of Ole Nelson.

d. Public Works Director

Report will be distributed at the meeting.

Minutes:

Director Moy reported Street Dept: We have been out street sweeping weekly. It appears leaves are wrapping up for the year so it should be slowing down. We will be billing MNDOT and Meeker County for sweeping this fall as we have done previous years. We have been working with resident on Parker with the remaining storm vector on his property. We are creating a better access the vector for yearly cleaning. We brought in some of the millings to make an access road. The millings that we put on to Pacific Ave. worked out great. Water Dept: The water leak at 1st and HWY 12 has been repaired. In doing this we were able to increase water pressure in an area of town that had lower pressures. MDH did contact us due to low orthophosphate levels on our quarterly samples. At the time we were having an issue with injection pump air locking. I explained this to them and that it has been resolved. We have been working with A Way-Out Sober Living on the new service line they are installing Sewer Dept: We have finished spaying for the year. The ponds are lowest they have in the past couple years. We are currently working on winterizing the fields. We completed sewer flushing for the year. Equipment: We have been continuing to winterize summer equipment and bring out the winter equipment. We have the Ranger listed for bids. I have not received any offers or interest in the loader plow we have on consignment. Parks: We have been continuing to mulch leaves and clean up parks for winter. All parks and properties are winterized. The bathrooms are closed. We have been taking in a lot of leaves and brush at the compost. Would like to remind everyone that it is for residents who live within city limits. Personnel: Stan will be changing to on call status on November 20th and coming back in just for plowing. Moy present council with 2 quotes for 3-year generator planned equipment maintenance. Cummins 3-year quote was \$9,226.11 and Ziegler at \$4,491.84 a year. Motion by Lalone, seconded by Landrus to approve the Cummins 3-year Generator Planned Equipment Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$9,226.11. Motion carried.

e. City Engineer

Minutes:

Engineer Lease updated council on the Dassel Cokato Trail Improvement project stating there is an overage on the project of approximately \$12,000.00 that he is working with the grant administrator on seeing if additional grant funding is available to cover those costs. Lease reported on the Street Capital Improvement Plan and the proposed 2027 Street Improvement Project. He answered questions council had and will get a cost for the feasibility study.

f. City Administrator

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported on October 27, 2025, the City received notification that it was awarded \$234,042 from the MN Housing Infrastructure Grant Program. She completed and filed for a low potency cannabis license for the Liquor store from the Office of Cannabis Management. Deadline was Oct. 31st. Met with Mitchell Lease, Chuck DeWolf City Engineers, Nolan regarding the tile line that goes across Tom Fischer property south of the city again. An estimate to move the tile line into the right-of-way is being research and will come to Council possible next month. She continues to work with Derrick Haase regarding water access for sprinkler system at the Former Lakeview Ranch property. The water line for fire suppression is connected to the city water. The Halloween Trick or Treating at downtown business was a success with 26 businesses participating and about 120 kids. She attended the following meeting: DAHS meeting, Paid Family Leave webinars, Housing webinars, Special City Council meeting, and Department Head meeting. Working on renewal of benefits (Dental, Health, TASC, Flex Spending, Health Savings). Working on renewal of liability insurance and workers' comp policies with the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust. Working on Paid Family Leave policy, posting the notice to employees, setting up Banyon and setting up additional unemployment accounts with the State of MN. She attended the Meeker County Justice Center Open House on Oct. 29, 2025. It was a very informative tour. She is compiling performance evaluation packets for Department Heads.

The date for the joint meeting with the City of Cokato and the School District was discussed and it was decided that December 1st works best if it can be held at the school.

g. City Attorney

h. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:

Deputy Kelly reported 123 calls for the month of October, 0 burglaries, 2 thefts and 68 traffic stops.

9. Business Items

a. Motion to approve Payment Estimate #1 from R & K Industries, LLC dba Diversified Paving in the amount of \$324,153.17 for improvements to the Dassel -Cokato Trail

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy to approve Payment Estimate #1 from R & K Industries, LLC dba Diversified Paving in the amount of \$324,153.17 for improvements to the Dassel -Cokato Trail. Motion carried.

b. Motion to approve 5-Year Street Capital Improvement Plan for 2027-2039 including map.

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Thurn to approve Street Capital Improvement

Plan for 2027-2039 including map. Motion carried.

c. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-028 Ordering Preparation of Report on 2027 Street Improvement Project.

Minutes:

Council requested the cost of the feasibility study. This has been tabled and will be discussed at a future meeting, no action taken.

d. Motion to approve contract with _____ for attorney services for the City of Dassel and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the agreement.

Minutes:

Motion to approve contract with Flaherty & Hood for attorney services for the City of Dassel and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the agreement. Motion carried with Gaertner and Suchy voting no.

e. Update on RFP for Engineering/Architect firm for costs on designing new Fire Station

Minutes:

No action taken on this, RFP not ready.

f. Discuss if City Council wants to increase Meeting Per Diem from \$25.00 starting in 2026 and increase their salary starting in 2026.

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to increase council yearly salary to \$2,000.00 and Mayor yearly salary to \$3,000.00 with the special meeting stipend staying at \$25.00. Motion carried with Landrus abstaining.

10. Announcements / Dates to Remember

Minutes:

DAHS meeting, Tues. Nov. 25, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center Red Rooster committee meeting December 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Dept Head meeting, Tues. Dec. 9, 2025, 7:00 a.m. at City Hall City Council meeting, Mon. Dec. 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Delinquent Utility Account Hearing, Mon. Dec. 15, 2025, 6:15 p.m. at City Hall Truth In Taxation Hearing, Mon. Dec. 15, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall Holiday - December 24, 2025 - Christmas Eve - City Hall Closed Holiday - December 25, 2025 - Christmas Day - City Hall Closed Holiday - December 31, 2025 - New Year Eve - City Hall open 8:00 am - noon Holiday - January 1, 2025 - New Year Day - City Hall Closed

11. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried.