

# Dassel, MN

## Special City Council Meeting

### Minutes

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm

#### 1. Call to Order

##### Minutes:

Mayor Lalone called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

##### a. Roll Call

Council members Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone

##### Minutes:

Members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone

Others present: Nick Corbin, Bob Wilde, Katie Josephson, Jena Levandowski, Fatima Miller, Emma Miller, Marah Janke, Rodger Pruitt, Levi Janke, Rhiannon Janke, Molly Hovda, Rachel Degn and Becky Nelson

#### 2. Business Items

2024 Library Construction Grant Opportunity

##### Minutes:

Engineer Lease reported that he contacted MN Dept of Education grant administrator and confirmed that the grant could be used at another publicly owned building. This has been received in writing. The letter to the Legislature stating the city is planning to proceed with the project needs to be submitted prior to May 19th.

Administrator Eckerly discussed the financing options with council and stated she spoke with Perennial Bank about the option of a loan for the grant portion of \$187,500, and they would be willing to work with the city on the project. Eckerly explained to council the impacts to the budget this project would have on the cities reserves. It was asked if there was a cost estimate of the project yet and Lease stated it is difficult to get a price when no design has been decided on. Beth Cronk, Regional Librarian with Pioneerland stated the Friends of the Library plan to do fundraising and apply for some grants to help with the cost of some of the furniture and items needed in the space. Cronk also noted that Community Chest would be giving a donation to the library. Eckerly has been in contact with Pro-works about the project and they explained the process they have to go through to have a new location approved. Eckerly gave them the contact information for the new owners of the Red Rooster Foods building as that may be a location they can move into, as it would be nice to keep them in town.

Nick Corbin, owner of the Red Rooster Foods building presented council with a concept idea of moving the library into part of the recently purchased building, Corbin stated they would like to sell approximately 1/3 (approximately 2,880 sq feet) of the building to the city specifically for the library. There is approximately 8,000 square feet of space. They are in the early stages and do not have any figures to present to council. This space would not provide the added storage space for the museum that is on the plans at the liquor store location.

Members of the public voiced their concerns about relocation the library to the same property as

the liquor store and being moved away from the downtown. Other concerns were the traffic on Hwy 12, possible intoxicated people coming and going from the liquor store, lack of crosswalks in the area. Lease had contacted MNDOT about the possibility of adding ped ramps and crosswalks near the location as part of their upcoming project and they stated they are too far along in the planning process to change plans. This is an option the city can look into and would cost around \$30,000.00.

It was a consensus of the Council to add a closed session for potential purchase of real property to the May 19, 2025, City Council agenda at the end.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to approve Resolution 2025-015 Authorizing Grant Acceptance MN Department of Education. Motion carried with 4 voting in favor and 1 opposing (Landrus).

### 3. Adjourn

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Landrus to adjourn at 6:50 pm. Motion carried.

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Contact: Renee Eckerly (renee.eckerly@dassel.com 320-275-2454) | Minutes published on 05/15/2025, adopted on 05/19/2025