

## **Official Proceedings, and Minutes Thereof, Dassel City Council**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Dassel City Council convened in regular session Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dassel City Hall.

Councilmembers Present: Flachmeyer, Wilde, Lalim, and Dunn.

Councilmembers Absent: Lalone

Admin. Present: Mc Grath

Also present for parts of the meeting: Ward, Ryberg, Roz Kohls.

On motion by Wilde, seconded by Lalim; approve the minutes of the, September 6, 2005 regular meeting, carried unanimously.

**Citizens to be heard** - Dennis Alberts appeared before the council to state his concerns regarding a backup of the sanitary sewer at his residence. The incident occurred on Monday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005. During that evening there was a rainfall of approximately 5", and a power outage across the entire city for 3.5 hours. Mr. Alberts called into question the design of the sanitary sewer manhole at the corner of Willis and Lake Streets which has a 12" and 15" line coming in with a single 15" line for outflow. He felt that a check valve (he believes to be in the line) failed and caused the backup to occur. Staff indicated that it will inspect for the check valve and replace or install it. An additional check valve may be possible in the lift station that serves the Alberts residence. The second would give some redundancy and therefore more protection. The design of the corner will be discussed with the City Engineer for potential to ease the flow buildup.

Glenn Moe appeared before the Council regarding the problem of erosion that appears to be occurring at his residence. Mr. Moe stated that over the past 10 years there has been visible loss of material in his yard. Specifically with in the past 4-5 years the erosion seems to have escalated. He is noticing a sinking of areas within his yard and is concerned that it is having an effect on the overall structure of his home. Mr. Moe stated that he has requested the city to look into this problem several times but no satisfactory information has surfaced. The Mayor and City Administrator will meet at the property to inspect the problem and what steps might be taken.

**Street Lighting Options** - Jim Pederson of Illumination gave a presentation on a street lighting project that many communities are undertaking. The project would replace the old lights within the central downtown with new poles and lights. The new installation would be a means to make Dassel's downtown more attractive. The company does a design study and takes special care to assure high quality along with the right fixture and poles for the setting. Staff will send Illumination a map of Dassel's downtown from which it can work out a preliminary proposal to allow the Chamber of Commerce and any other interested parties to have a snap shot of the scope of the project.

**DC Ice Arena Update** – Steve Benda was in attendance and spoke to the Council regarding the efforts underway to build the DC Ice Arena near the corner of HWY12 and HWY 15. There is a sign near the site indicating fund raising success. Issues that are under consideration are: Site Access and approval from MNdot, Platting of the site for improvements to facilitate the project, and Fund Raising. There will be a major fund raising effort occurring on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 at Hojies restaurant in Dassel. The event will culminate with a raffle drawing for over \$18,000.00 in cash and prizes. The fundraising and pledges have reached a sum of nearly 1 million dollars. The project is on track to fulfill its agreement when the site was acquired.

**Business Items** - On motion by Wilde, seconded by Dunn; authorization is given to call for RFP's to provide Refuse and Recycling services to the residential property within the City of Dassel, carried unanimously. The current agreement with Waste Management has been extended until the end of 2005 at which time it expires and a new agreement with a refuse service provider will take its place.

**Staff Reports** - Lakeside Community Home: Administrator Bill Ward reported on the operations of the Dassel Lakeside Community Home and Apartments. The building project which brought the apartments up to building codes was at a total cost of \$206,034.00. The on going building project for the care facility is still under development. A synopsis of issues that will need to be addressed is being prepared by staff and should be available to the council at its next regular meeting. The 2005-06 budget has been difficult, and it is the first time during the Administrators time in Dassel it has contained a negative bottom line. The board is considering some alternatives such as decertifying beds and/or putting a layaway on certified beds to help the cash flow. Admission policies will not allow registered offenders to be admitted to the facility. The census shows 7 empty beds in the Nursing facility and 2 empty apartments. On motion by Lalim, seconded by Dunn; the administrators report, facility claims, and board minutes are approved, carried unanimously.

**Council** - Mayor Flachmeyer noted that the next regular meeting of the Dassel City Council on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 will contain a closed session as the last business item, to consider the City Administrators probation period and performance.

**Administration** - Administrator Mc Grath gave an update regarding the cable channel. The Charter Cable channel assigned to Dassel is 20. There is some equipment failure keeping the channel from being broadcast at the present time. The Cable Commission chair and attorney have been notified of the situation. It is hoped that the equipment problems will be corrected in the near future. A Council work session to discuss 2006 Utility Fund Budgets is scheduled for Monday September 26, 2005 at 7:00pm.

The Administrator briefly discussed some observations he has made of the Water billing methods currently used by the city. There are 3 recommendations he wishes to bring forward for Council consideration. 1. The current policy of setting utility accounts at 3 months in arrears should be updated to billing for current month usage. 2. The current policy of billing the renters/tenants rather than the property owners for the utility bill should be realigned to bill property owners and let them deal with their renters/tenants. 3. The City should consider the benefits of re-metering the entire utility system. This would allow for accuracy and a fresh start for the entire billing system.

Under Minnesota State Statutes training is required for a minimum of one member of the local board of review. The Council was asked for volunteers to take the training, Dunn and Lalim consented to attending the course. The Administrator asked for permission to proceed with developing a Request for Proposal document to be used in soliciting auditing services for 2005 and beyond. This document will be reviewed with the Council in October.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

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Ava Flachmeyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Myles Mc Grath, Administrator