

**City of Dexter
Minutes
February 5, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Dexter City Council was held on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dexter city hall. Council members present: Mayor Justin Forthun and council members Casey Erwin, Tim Taylor, Diane O'Connor and Christian Padilla. Others present: Southland Superintendent Scott Hall, Trey Mork, Nick and Candi Naatz, Gary Schroeder and Natalie Carroll.

Mayor Forthun brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Scott Hall attended the council meeting in an effort to be more visible to the communities in the Southland school district. Hall updated the council on a strategic plan that had been devolved which included developing a business partnership; addressing an increase in student enrollment and re-purposing classrooms in order to accommodate the growth; staffing shortage; busing and other challenges the school is facing. Mayor Forthun mentioned reaching out to a labor union for job training for trade workers. Hall said he would look into the suggestion. Council thanked Hall for attending the meeting and encouraged him visit again.

Trey Mork was at the meeting to ask council about splitting his property located at 244 Pleasant Street into 2 separate parcels. Mork said that Nick and Candi Naatz have agreed to buy a portion of the property that Mork wants to split off from the house. There are concerns with the parcel split due to the driveway and water main that runs through the property and serves the house to the North. Mayor Forthun said that Mork would have to provide an easement for both the driveway and water main. Clerk was concerned about any possible future development and who would be responsible for the cost of the street and watermain improvements/repairs if needed. Mork was informed that a public hearing would need to be held prior to any action being taken on the request to split the parcel and that he would need to provide the city with a legal description and utility easements.

Council discussed what action to take regarding the Keim properties located at both 158 and 143 North Main Street. The city has been in litigation with Keim due to Ordinance violations. To date, the city has been unsuccessful in getting Keim to take any action on his ordinance violations. The city's attorney suggested that the city either continue onto a court trial, which would be very expensive, or consider condemning the properties. Motion by Padilla and second by Erwin to stop court proceedings against Gary Keim and begin the process to condemn the properties. All yeas. Motion carried. Clerk will contact the city attorney.

Motion by O'Connor and second by Padilla to pay the February bills and accept the January minutes and financial statements as presented. All yeas. Motion carried.

Council discussed upcoming projects.

Schroeder informed council that during a water shut-off call he discovered that a property had their sump pump going into the sanitary sewer system. This is an ordinance violation. Motion

by O'Connor and second by Taylor to authorize the clerk to send a violation letter to the property owner.

Erwin, on behalf of the Dexter Fire Department, informed council that the fire department will be purchasing a grass rig sometime this month and requested that the city clerk issue a check in the amount of \$50,000-\$55,000 when it is time for the truck to be picked up. Motion by O'Connor and second by Taylor to authorize the city clerk to issue a check out of the firemen's slush fund for the invoiced amount when needed. Erwin and Padilla abstained. Forthun voted yea. Motion carried.

Motion by O'Connor and second by Padilla to adjourn the meeting. All yeas. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Natalie Carroll
Clerk