

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
HELD SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at 5:30 P.M. with the following members present: President Johnson, Commissioners Tim Heisler, Craig Stromme, Rick Morse and Dale Robbins. None were absent.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve the minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held August 18, 2014 and of the budget meeting held August 18, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse, and the motion carried unanimously.

5:30 P.M. – This was the time set for the bid opening for a sand/salt building. The following bid was opened and read:
Structures Unlimited LLC, Stratford WI Bid \$76,410

Discussion was held on if the pricing was reasonable in comparison to other buildings of the same type. The Public Ways Supervisor stated the FAA still has not approved the request, which was sent in March, to place the building near the airport. The Public Utilities Supervisor will research the pricing and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Commissioner Heisler moved to table the bid as read and refer it to the Public Ways Supervisor for further review and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

5:30 P.M. – This was the time set for a public hearing to review the final plat for Sunny Estates, a Replat of Outlot A, Replat of Block 3, Smith's Subdivision, located on 16th St SE. Hearing and receiving no comments, President Johnson closed the public meeting.

Commissioner Heisler moved to approve the final plat for Sunny Estates, a Replat of Outlot A, Replat of Block 3, Smith's Subdivision, located on 16th St SE as recommended by the Devils Lake Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stromme, and the motion carried unanimously.

Jessica Ramey appeared before the City Commission to inquire about cresol, oil refinery and trains.

The Fire Chief indicated city personnel will work with Lake Region District Health on a disposal site for the cresol.

President Johnson stated the trains are traveling at 30 mph, and the railroad is working on safety issues and fencing. Quiet zones have been mentioned, but it is \$400,000 just for the electronic upgrades needed for the two crossings.

Doug Broden appeared before the City Commission for the vacation of Brooks St. The Planning Commission has tabled the vacation request.

Commissioner Heisler – The City Engineer stated work continues in the City.

1. Work is essentially done on 5th Ave S, 5th St S, 4th St NE and 5th St NE
2. Work continues on 6th St NE.
3. The top lift should be completed at Highland Park this week.
4. Agassiz roadway is completed.
5. There is a punch list for the embankment. The drainage contracts will not be let this year.
6. The former Black Construction building is being used as storage since it is out of the 100-year floodplain and out of the vegetation free zone. Outside building work may be needed to "dress it up". In the future some of the equipment from the old pumping stations may be declared surplus and sold.
7. The Public Utilities Department and Midland Excavating will be installing pipe to replace the culvert on 14th Ave NE this week. The intersection and part of the bike path will be closed.

The City Assessor said everything was fine.

Commissioner Stromme - The Police Chief held interviews for the two police officer openings. One individual from Wisconsin accepted a position, and the Police Chief is working on an individual from Montana for the other opening.

The Sanitation Supervisor reported everything was fine.

Commissioner Robbins – The Public Ways Supervisor stated the GPS unit has been installed for the mosquito spraying. Some adjustments need to be made.

The Public Utilities Supervisor said everything was fine in the Water Department.

Commissioner Morse – The Public Utilities Supervisor said everything was fine in the Sewer Department.

The Public Ways Supervisor stated the downtown light pole project will start next week. Parking spots will be blocked as they go.

The Fire Chief reported Shade Tree has 92 trees left to be taken down as of last Wednesday. This number does not include the cemetery trees. The Fire Chief will work with the Public Ways Department to cut down the rest of the trees.

President Johnson – The City Auditor stated the canvas meeting for the election will be held on October 13th. The committee is comprised of the City Auditor, the Mayor, the City Attorney, and two Commissioners. Consensus of the Commission was to have Commissioner Robbins and Commissioner Stromme attend the canvassing meeting.

The Fire Chief stated the new fire truck was received. Edmore picked up old truck and will receive training.

The City Attorney stated he is getting ready for the Bednarz case on September 17th, and he has the three nuisance cases ready.

The Public Ways Supervisor stated no mosquitoes have been in the traps; however, spraying was increased back to four nights after complaints were received.

The City Auditor reviewed the 2015 Budget Overview.

Following are the significant items or changes discussed during the 2015 budget meetings.

1. Cost of living increase for January 1, 2015 is 2%. Steps L and M will be changed from 0% to 2%. A market adjustment will be made for the Police Officers, and a consultant will be hired to do a comprehensive salary survey specific to Devils Lake.
2. The family insurance plan will increase to \$1,350/month and shared at 80/20. The City pays \$1,080, and the employee pays \$270.
3. Increased LEC Boarding from \$110,000 to \$250,000 (\$75/day).
4. Lemna loan was paid off.
5. Equipment purchase includes one pickup for \$25,000.
6. The water usage charge increases from \$3.00/1000 gallons to \$3.20/1000 gallons.
7. Residential utility (6000 gallons/2can service) accounts will increase approximately \$1.20/month.
8. \$900,000 is budgeted for infrastructure projects.
9. The net decrease in the City mill levy is 6.2 mills, and property tax dollars levied are slightly below CPI for last ten years.
10. Sales tax is budgeted at \$3.4 million versus \$3.3 million in 2014.

Commissioner Stromme moved to approve the 2015 preliminary budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve the consent agenda which included the following:

1. Appointment of election workers for the special election: Mercedes Schmidt, Inspector; Terry Johnston, Judge; Gail Klein, Judge; Barb Ash, Clerk and Sue Davidson, Clerk; and designation of the Memorial Building as Precinct 1.1 for all City residents;
2. Appointment of Lori Broschat as a member of the Lake Region Public Library Board for an unexpired, three-year term expiring June 30, 2017;
3. Appointment of Gary Conkins as a member of the Parking Authority for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2017;
4. Appointment of Paul Thompson as a member of the Devils Lake Shade Tree for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2017;
5. Game of chance permits for the month of August 2014;
6. Parade permit submitted by Devils Lake High School for Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 10:00 A.M.;
7. Public dance permit submitted by Karen Tollefson for a 70th birthday party to be held September 6, 2014 at the KC Hall; and

8. Reappointment of Cary Eriksson and Trent Tarvestad as members of the Board of Adjustment for three-year terms, expiring June 30, 2017 and reappointment of Richard Jorgenson as an alternate of the Board of Adjustment for a one-year term expiring June 30, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heisler, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Heisler moved to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield contract for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse, and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Engineer reviewed the construction easement for Gary and Mary Haugland. A portion of their property is being used to stockpile material for the embankment. The drainage projects will not be completed this year; therefore, this easement needs to be renewed.

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve the construction easement for Gary and Mary Haugland for use of their property for the embankment project for an 18-month period for a net cost of \$2,250.00 as recommended by the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stromme, and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Engineer reviewed the payment estimate for Strata on the Highland Park project.

Commissioner Heisler moved to approve payment of Estimate No.1 to Strata Corporation for Street Improvement #48-13 – Highland Park in the amount of \$387,706.55 as recommended by the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stromme. On roll call all Commissioners voted aye, and the motion carried.

The City Engineer reviewed the payment estimate for Strata on the Agassiz project.

Commissioner Stromme moved to approve payment of Estimate No.1 to Strata Corporation for Water & Sewer Improvement #51-11 – Agassiz Subdivision, Phase 2 in the amount of \$469,676.21 as recommended by the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins. On roll call all Commissioners voted aye, and the motion carried.

The City Engineer reviewed the payment estimate for Elshaug for Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk.

Commissioner Heisler moved to approve payment of Estimate No.4 to Elshaug Concrete Construction for 2014 Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk in the amount of \$20,822.34 as recommended by the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stromme. On roll call all Commissioners voted aye, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Morse moved to approve payment of the list of bills as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stromme. On roll call all Commissioners voted aye, and the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:18 P.M.

LINDA LYBECK
CITY AUDITOR

RICHARD S. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT