

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
HELD JANUARY 22, 2019

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. with the following members present: President Dick Johnson, Commissioners Dale Robbins, Shane Hamre, Rob Hach and Jacob Volk. None were absent.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Volk moved to approve the minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held January 7, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hach – The Sanitation Supervisor said everything was fine.

The City Assessor stated everything was fine.

Commissioner Hamre - The Public Utilities Supervisor said everything was fine in the Water and Sewer Departments.

Commissioner Volk – The Public Ways Supervisor stated the Street Department was sanding and cleaning streets. The downtown will be cleaned tonight.

Commissioner Volk discussed cell phone use in city vehicles and reminded employees not to text and drive.

Commissioner Volk reported Devils Lake Transit provided 439 rides for veteran medical appointments in 2018.

Commissioner Robbins – The City Engineer said everything was fine.

The Police Chief indicated new striping will be used on the vehicles.

President Johnson - The City Auditor stated everything was fine.

The City Administrator said everything was fine.

The Fire Chief indicated the fishing tournament is this weekend.

The City Attorney said everything was fine.

The City Engineer stated the ND Department of Transportation opened bids on the downtown project. The low bid was \$6,595,717.65. Discussion followed on how to pay for the overage and on keeping the assessment amounts the same as what was in the probable letters sent to the property owners.

The following comments were received about the downtown project.

Tom LaMotte – He is not against improvement, but the project frightens him. Now may not be the right time for the project. Ultimately it is the people’s money being used to pay for it. The project is a burden on downtown merchants, not only because of the special assessments, but because of the downtime during construction.

Cyndy Sitar – She moved her business downtown because of the downtown initiative. She wants to grow the downtown.

Commissioner Volk – He believes the building fronts are the bigger issue downtown. The property owners need to improve the buildings first and then consider improving the streets and sidewalks.

Kelly Swenseth – Owners of the buildings that need work have no reason to sell the properties because they are paying nothing now. Some of the vacant buildings are being used for storage by the owners since it is cheaper than paying for a storage unit. If special assessments were on the properties, maybe the owners would be willing to sell.

Todd Thompson – He is concerned with timing and cost issues. He questioned if money could be saved by reducing the number of colors involved in the design and using pavers instead of concrete. Using fewer colors would save money and have a quicker turn around time.

Discussion followed on what the impact would be on other projects if the City moves ahead with the downtown project. Some projects will be postponed for future years.

Commissioner Robbins moved to concur with ND Department of Transportation to award the bid for the downtown project to Ti-Zack Concrete Inc of Le Center, MN in the amount of \$6,595,717.65 as recommended by the City Engineer with the City absorbing the overage of \$400,000.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamre. On roll call Commissioner Robbins, Hamre and President Johnson voted aye. Commissioners Volk and Hach opposed. The motion carried.

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

1. Authorizing the City Auditor to cancel Check No 115008 dated September 18, 2018 in the amount of \$23.00 to DL Historic Preservation (DL Historical Preservation Fund – Nondepartmental - Miscellaneous Expense).
2. Reappointment of Kristen Kenner, John Dumont and Vicky McMullen as members of the Devils Lake Historical Preservation Commission for two-year terms expiring April 30, 2020; and
3. Three gaming site authorizations submitted by Lake Region Community College Foundation of Devils Lake from March 1, 2019 through April 1, 2019 at Lake Region State College – 1801 College Dr N; for May 9, 2019 at the Quentin Burdick Sports Arena – 501 6th St NW; and for October 18, 2019 at the Memorial Building - 524 4th Ave NE.

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

The Police Chief requested to declare vehicles as surplus and offer for sale with the proceeds going towards the purchase of a transport vehicle from State Surplus. The vehicle would cost approximately \$8,000.00.

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve declaring the 2008 Chevrolet Colorado Pickup, 2012 Ford Expedition and 2010 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus and offer them for sale with the proceeds going towards the purchase of a transport vehicle from State Surplus. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Volk moved to approve the Pledge of Assets and a Certified Copy of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes submitted by Bremer Bank and Ramsey National Bank and Trust Company as recommended by the City Auditor. At this time no City funds are deposited with American Bank Center, Horizon Financial Bank, US Bank or Western State Bank. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hach, and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Engineer reviewed the request for proposals for a construction engineer and materials testing for the downtown project.

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve advertising for a request for proposals for construction engineering services for the downtown improvement project with proposals being due February 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hach. Commissioner Volk opposed. The motion carried.

Commissioner Volk moved to approve a yearly credit on the Park Board's sewer bill for the ice making system based on the meter readings with the credit for 2018 being \$511.36. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamre, and the motion carried unanimously.

Cyndy Sitar appeared before the City Commission to request the addition of a beer license for a retail business. She would like to include beer on-sale and off- sale. The City Attorney will draft an ordinance for the next City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Volk moved to approve the resolution creating Street Improvement District No 69-19 (8th Ave NE between 1st St NE and 10th St NE and 9th St NE between 8th Ave NE and 10th Ave NE) and ordering the preparation of a preliminary report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hach, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hamre moved to approve the resolution creating Street Improvement District No 70-19 (Walnut St E between 8th Ave NE and Elk's Drive, 1st St NE between 6th Ave NE and 8th Ave NE, 8th Ave NE between 1st St NE and Railroad Ave SE) and ordering the preparation of a preliminary report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

President Johnson acknowledged the following report:
Municipal Court monthly report.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

LINDA LYBECK
CITY AUDITOR

RICHARD S. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT