Minutes of the Devils Lake City Commission

January 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held on January 17, 2023 with the following members present: President Moe, Rob Hach, Dale Robbins, Jason Pierce, and Shane Hamre.

Commission Hamre moved to approve the minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on January 3, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

Lake Region Heritage Center – Request for Funds – Lisa Crosby gave an update on the Heritage Center. She mentioned that their roof is holding from the repairs they did. They also had a mock trial with the 7th and 8th graders in the court room. They have a puzzle competition coming up for Shiverfest weekend. Their foot traffic has been slower but that is due to the weather. They are having their Gala in May and the theme this year is Murder Mystery. Commissioner Robbins motioned to release the funds for the Lake Region Heritage Center. Commissioner Hamre seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Commissioner Pierce – The Fire Chief communicated that they are still working on the fishing derby. They are monitoring the ice conditions daily and hoping that everything goes smoothly. They hosted an exploratory day for Central Middle School.

Commissioner Robbins – The City Engineer communicated that there is no update for the Engineering department. The Street Department is working on moving more snow in town, making the roadways wider.

Commissioner Hach – The City Engineer communicated that there is no update for the Sanitation Department. The City Assessor communicated that they need the homestead credit applications back by February 2nd.

Commissioner Hamre – The City Engineer communicated that the Utilities Department are working on marking fire hydrants.

The Police Chief did not have an update for the Police Department.

The City Administrator communicated that the ND League of Cities is watching the house bills regarding NDPERS. He communicated that we need to watch the employer contribution and if the plan does change, the employer contribution will increase by 1%. He also communicated that we can change the quarterly payments to one payment. Commissioner Hamre mentioned that he thinks it is a better idea to keep it as quarterly. He mentioned that the water source replacement fund is at a high amount, so we could look at getting that into the market and this will be brought to a future meeting.

The City Attorney communicated that the Special Event permits for alcohol sales at special events is outdated – the fee was higher than the century code allows, so that has been corrected. We will revisit this at a future meeting.

Village Business Institute Contract – The City Administrator communicated that this was previously approved by City Commission subject to City Attorney review and approval. He mentioned that they are prepared to sign the contract now that it has been reviewed. Communication continued on the village business institute contract.

Amendment to Commissioner Portfolios and Appointments to Law Enforcement Center Board – President Moe communicated that he is looking to reappoint a member of the community to the Law Enforcement Board. President Moe communicated that he would like to appoint Jeff Wahl to the Law Enforcement Board. Jeff Wahl mentioned that he would like to give back to his community and he feels that he can help the LEC. Discussion continued on the appointment to the Law Enforcement Center Board. Commissioner Robbins motioned to approve Jason Pierce to the Law Enforcement Center Board. Commissioner Hamre seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote. Commissioner Hamre made another motion to appoint Jeff Wahl to two-year term effective July 1, 2023 to replace Commissioner Robbins. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Authorize Call for Bids – Stromquist Addition Storm Sewer – The City Engineer communicated that last year bids were much higher than the engineer's estimate and was rejected. Commissioner Hamre motioned to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Hach seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Engineering Report & Resolution Directing Preparation of Plans – Water Main 28-23 – 3rd St SE, 4th St SE, 5th St SE, 6th St SE, & 7th St SE – The City Engineer communicated that these watermains were installed in the 1950's. He mentioned that these lines should be replaced in advance of the roadway improvements that are planned for this area. Commissioner Pierce motioned to pass the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

Engineering Report & Resolution Directing Preparation of Plans – Water Main 29-22 – 2nd St NE between 6th Ave & 12th Ave – The City Engineer communicated that these are some of the oldest watermains being used in the City. He mentioned that these lines should be replaced in advance of the roadway improvements that are being planned for this area. Commissioner Pierce motioned to pass the resolution. Commissioner Hamre seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to Amend Rates and Fees – Permit to Sell Alcoholic Beverages at a Special Event – The City Administrator communicated that ND Century Code sets the fee at $25 and the City is currently charging $75. Commissioner Robbins motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hamre moved to approve the list of bills as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

SPENCER HALVORSON
CITY ADMINISTRATOR/AUDITOR

JIM MOE
PRESIDENT OF CITY COMMISSION