

Minutes of the Devils Lake City Commission

February 6, 2023

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held on February 6, 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 17, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce, and the motion carried unanimously.

President Moe recognized and thanked Michael Holden for 10 years of service with the City of Devils Lake.

Law Enforcement Center - Peggy communicated that they sent out the Joint Powers Revenue Request for both the LEC and 911. This is a quarterly payment, and the monies mostly go to the personal costs. Some of these funds go towards equipment needs as they are needed within the dispatch center itself. Starr communicated that the jail is now allowed to have 80 inmates. They have also hired a custodian for janitorial needs. They will be inspected again in three months to review moving to 80 inmates.

Commissioner Hamre – The City Engineer communicated that there is no update for the Utilities Department.

Commissioner Hach – The City Engineer communicated that there is no update for the Sanitation Department. The City Assessor communicated that the board of equalization meeting is usually held separately from a City Commission meeting, but this year they are looking to hold them together on April 3.

Commissioner Robbins – The City Engineer communicated that there is no update for the Engineering Department. He also communicated that there is also no update for the Street Department other than they are still working on snow cleanup.

Commission Pierce - The Fire Chief communicated that the fishing derby went out fairly well. They did not have as many people on the ice this year, but it went off pretty well. Commissioner Pierce mentioned that the people he has talked to mentioned that it was a great weekend, and the firemen did a great job.

The Police Chief communicated that they are still writing parking tickets. They have had new body cameras for a few months now and he mentioned that they are working really well.

The City Administrator communicated that every 3 years the City changes to a new insurance company. We will be transitioning to Itry Insurance. The National Opioid case came in and was \$3,239.85. He mentioned that we will have financials reports at the next meeting, and we will do these every month on the second meeting of the month. He also mentioned that they are working on getting City IDs for City employees. He

communicated that we will be purchasing new desks for most employees. The Auditing Department desks are falling apart, so they need to be upgraded. Commissioner Hamre asked if every other department would be able to buy new desks using the same fund and the City Administrator communicated that they would be able to. Commissioner Hach mentioned that there is ergonomic grant money out there that we would be able to use for the desks through WSI.

President Moe wanted to remind everyone that this week is Giving Hearts Day. There is a list of all the organizations on their website.

LEC Rent – Commissioner Robbins communicated that 2 years ago the LEC changed the rent they were charging for the PD and Sheriff's department. Commissioner Hamre and Commissioner Robbins were on the LEC board at the time, and they approved the increase and brought it to the City Commission budget meeting. The tactic was taken that the city will not be paying the increase and will only pay the old amount. A year later, the LEC put their budget together and kept it the same as the previous year. The city is now 2 years past due on the new rate of rent. This was talked about at the last LEC meeting and needed to be brought to the City Commission meeting to rediscuss. The city received a bill for the past due amount in of \$48,965.62. Discussion continued on this topic and if the city will be paying the past due amount. Commissioner Robbins made a motion to pay the past due rent to the LEC. Commissioner Hamre seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 on a roll call vote.

Growth Fund/Forward Devils Lake – Brad Barth gave an update on Forward Devils Lake. He communicated that over the past four years he has had many projects. 11 of those projects were carryovers, 65 new projects, and 17 that had never happened. He mentioned that \$400,000 goes towards childcare initiatives and \$400,000 goes towards a mobile career exploration classroom. Commissioner Robbins communicated that he wants Forward Devils Lake to give \$250,000 to the Devils Lake Park District to match the funds that the City gave. The money that would be used for this is City money and would come out of the growth fund. Kale Stromme gave an update on how the project is going. The additional funds will not hinder the project, but every dollar helps the project. Looking into the future, they are hoping to continue expanding. They are almost at the end of their design phase and within the next two months they are hoping to start construction on the project. Mayor Moe communicated that he would like the Forward Devils Lake board to discuss the funds going towards the Park District project. Commissioner Robbins made a motion to give the Devils Lake Part District \$250,000, which would be coming out of the Lake Region Growth Fund. This would be paid up front and be a 10-year sponsorship for the project. Commissioner Hach seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Robbins and Hach communicated that they would like to do \$25,000/year for the next 10 years. President Moe, Commissioner Robbins, Hach, Pierce, and Hamre all motioned to vote no on a roll call vote. Commissioner Robbins motioned to obligate \$250,000 to the Devils Lake Park District project in the amount of \$25,000 for the next 10 years, which would come out of the Growth Fund.

Commissioner Hamre seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Domestic Fowl - The City Administrator communicated that there was a discussion held at the last City Commission meeting regarding a chicken ordinance. The City Assessor did a lot of research on surrounding towns/cities to see what they have as an ordinance to allow domestic fowl within city limits. The City Assessor gave an update on the research that he gathered while he did the research on the surrounding cities. The City Administrator communicated that tonight we can pursue an ordinance if that is what the Commission would like to see. Commissioner Pierce motioned to pursue an ordinance change. Commissioner Hach seconded the motion. Commissioner Hamre communicated that it would be a good idea to have citizens of the community on an at large group. President Moe communicated that he will establish a committee.

1st Reading – Special Event Alcohol Permit Ordinance - The City Administrator communicated that this is an ordinance recommended by the City Attorney.

Authorization of Purchase of Treasury Bonds and Certificates of Deposits – Water Source Replacement Fund – The City Administrator communicated that there is 3.4 million dollars in a water source replacement fund. He mentioned that we are seeking authorization to purchase treasury bonds and the interest earnings would be directed to the sewer equipment reserve fund. Commissioner Hamre made a motion to direct the interest earnings to sewer and wastewater only. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Leave Carryover Request - The City Engineer communicated that the county declared a disaster declaration for our area and the City crews worked significant hours to clear snow. There are a few employees that will be losing their vacation hours due to not being able to use them. It is recommended that the vacation time being lost be rolled over the comp time. Commissioner Pierce motioned to approve the vacation hours be converted to comp time. Commissioner Hamre seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

SPENCER HALVORSON
CITY ADMINISTRATOR/AUDITOR

JIM MOE
PRESIDENT OF CITY COMMISSION