

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
HELD OCTOBER 17, 2016

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held Monday, October 17 2016 at 5:30 P.M. with the following members present: President Johnson, Commissioners Craig Stromme, Rick Morse, Dale Robbins and Ben Sander. None were absent.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Morse moved to approve the minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held October 3, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sander, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sander - The City Assessor stated everything was fine.

Commissioner Stromme – The Police Chief requested declaring two vehicles as surplus and selling them at the city auction.

Commissioner Stromme moved to declare a 2007 blue Ford Explorer and a 2010 blue Ford Crown Vic as surplus and to sell them at the city auction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Sanitation Supervisor stated fall cleanup has been completed.

Commissioner Morse –The Public Ways Supervisor said everything was fine.

The City Engineer stated the ND Department of Transportation opened bids on the west underpass project. The City's share will be \$1,615,611.39 of the bid with options 2 and 3 with the low bid being \$14,343,464.52 from Lunda Construction Company of Black River Falls, WI. Option 4 will be 100% City share for a total of \$10,785.60. Discussion followed on no economic impact funds available for businesses impacted by the construction, on the City's share being less than the normal percentage due to the bridge not meeting the expected life, on Burlington Northern Santa Fe not having to pay, on the project including additional catch basins, on the construction schedule and on the financing of the City's share.

Commissioner Stromme moved to concur with ND Department of Transportation accepting the low bid from Lunda Construction Company of Black River Falls, WI in the amount of \$14,354,250.12 for options 2 and 4 as recommended by the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse, and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Engineer said the East Ditch playground equipment was delivered and assembled last week. Also, the fishing pier was installed for one day before it was removed for the season.

Commissioner Robbins – The Public Ways Supervisor stated everything was fine.

President Johnson – The City Auditor stated everything was fine.

The City Administrator reviewed the Forward Devils Lake request for Flex Funding for Wahl Family Automotive. The project cost is \$725,000.00 with the community share being \$50,000.00 which will be repaid at the end of the loan.

Commissioner Morse moved to approve \$50,000.00 in flex funding for Wahl Family Automotive. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sander. On roll call all Commissioners voted aye, and the motion carried.

The City Administrator met with Bill Fahey, Northland Securities today to go through bond issues and future projects.

Bill Fahey of Northland Securities updated the Commission on the various bond issues and tax increment districts.

The Fire Chief said 300 kids toured the fire station and 250 people attended the open house during fire prevention week.

It was noted the fishing tournament tickets are ready for purchase.

The City Attorney said everything was fine.

The Police Chief stated the taxicab applicant had passed the background check, and it was up to the City Commission to decide if another taxi was needed in the city. Discussion followed on limiting the number of taxis allowed to operate within the city, the current applicant's past work history, the recently revised ordinance for signing and drug testing, and the name of applicant's business.

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

Taxicab license application submitted by Brandon Kanowske.

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

Commissioner Stromme moved to approve Budget Amendment #05-16 – Various. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

Amanda McDonough appeared before the City Commission to request the City review the ordinance prohibiting certain breeds of dogs. She would like the City Commission to consider repealing section 6.32 of the ordinance. She said it comes down to responsible pet ownership. If section 6.32 was repealed, the City has other ordinances in place that could be enforced for dangerous animals without being breed specific. If the City Commission does not want to repeal the ordinance, she would like to have those prohibited breeds allowable under certain conditions.

The City Attorney was directed to draft an ordinance to repeal section 6.32 for a first reading at the November 7th meeting.

Kari Hunt, BCBS representative reviewed the options for the Blue Cross Blue Shield health plans that were presented to the City Commission during the budget meeting. She did add a \$250.00 comp choice plan which would have a max out-of-pocket of \$1,750.00 plus \$1,000.00 for prescriptions. By going un-grandfathered, health mandates would be included which provide additional preventive benefits.

The City Administrator recommended moving the deductible up slowly and to have the employees on single plans and single with dependent plans contribute to the premium costs. Currently, only employees with a family plan share in the premium costs. Discussion followed on how single with dependent plans could have more covered individuals than a family plan, but the single with dependent plans are 100% employer paid.

Kari Hunt noted the average deductible is a \$1,000.00 in North Dakota with the employers paying 76% of the premium.

Also discussed were the outside groups that are on the City's self-insured plan and the impact they have on it. Two of the groups are holding their own, but the third group is more than \$344,000 in the hole. Discussion followed on eliminating the groups from the City's plan, on being able to charge them different premiums to make up the deficits, on the fact that coverage can not be denied to anyone due to the Affordable Care Act, on the outside groups would be small groups; whereas, while on the City plan they are part of a large group, and on these groups would not be able to get the same plan as the City, but would be on metallic plans which are based on age and not claims. If the City decided to drop the groups, a letter would be needed stating why the groups are no longer wanted on the plan. Also, discussed was the additional paperwork involved that the City has to do for these groups because of being a large group and according to IRS regulations the groups do not qualify to be part of the City's filings.

Commissioner Stromme moved to approve the Comp 250 Blue Cross Blue Shield health plan for 2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse, and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Assessor stated Richard Graham had purchased a lot in Roundhouse, but due to unforeseen circumstances he will not be able to build on it. The City would prefer to repurchase the lot than to have the owner sell it.

Commissioner Stromme moved to approve purchasing back Lot 16, Block 10, Roundhouse Subdivision from Richard Graham for \$2,000.00 less recording fees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse, and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Auditor stated the cafeteria plan needed to be updated for the Family Medical Leave Act.

Commissioner Stromme moved to approve the 2017 cafeteria plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve payment of Estimate No. 6 to Elshaug Concrete Construction for 2016 Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk in the amount of \$5,367.36 as recommended by the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse. On roll call all Commissioners voted aye, and the motion carried.

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

President Johnson acknowledged the following reports:

1. City Auditor monthly report;
2. Fire Department monthly report; and
3. Municipal Court monthly report.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

LINDA LYBECK
CITY AUDITOR

RICHARD S. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT