

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD JANUARY 19, 2021

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. with the following members present: President Dick Johnson, Commissioners Shane Hamre, Dale Robbins, 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 4, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

James Uhlman, ND Department of Environmental Quality, presented information to the City Commission on the study of Covid-19 in wastewater. Mr. Uhlman went through the process for gathering and testing the samples and then went through the results of the study so far. The department is trying to secure funding to continue the study through June of 2021, and he would like the City of Devils Lake to continue participating in the study. Following questions from Commissioners, the consensus of the City Commission was to continue to participate in the study.

**Commissioner Hach** - The City Engineer reported the cameras have been installed at the tree disposal site.

The City Assessor stated the new flooring at the daycare building has been installed, and the homestead credit application process is being done remotely.

**Commissioner Hamre** - The City Engineer said there is an issue with a boiler at public utilities.

Commissioner Hamre inquired if the City mask mandate was going to be discussed tonight since the Governor let the State mandate expire. Discussion followed on getting public input on whether to continue the mask mandate or just having the Commissioners make a decision, involving health officials especially with the new strain, holding a special meeting to discuss it, treatment of those who cannot wear masks, and whether masks help.

Commissioner Robbins moved to wait to decide on the mask mandate until the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hach. On roll call, Commissioners Robbins, Hach and President Johnson vote aye. Commissioners Volk and Hamre voted nay. The motion carried.

**Commissioner Volk** – The City Engineer reviewed the schedule for snow removal for the week.

**Commissioner Robbins** – The Police Chief stated they have an opening so he will be starting the hiring process.

The Police Chief reported the department has been awarded an ergonomics grant from Workforce Safety. The grant is for \$19,000.00 with the City needing to provide \$6,000.00 in match. The City will need to expend the funds upfront and then be reimbursed the \$19,000.00.

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve accepting the Workforce Safety ergonomics grant for the Police Department and authorizing the Police Department to incur expenses up to \$25,000.00 for the grant with \$19,000.00 being reimbursed by the grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Police Chief inquired about moving an employee up a step due to compression in the department. With the elimination of the AA step and hiring officers with experience at a higher step, an officer who has been there for a few years and takes on extra work is making the same as officers recently hired. Discussion followed on the process used in the Public Works department to address the compression issue there and possible repercussions. Consensus of the City Commission was for the Police Chief to bring the request with the supporting documentation to the next meeting.

The Police Chief asked about the possibility of a new building for the Police Department. It was noted that the request will be discussed under the infrastructure plan.

The City Engineer said everything was fine.

**President Johnson** - The City Administrator addressed the request for amending an existing class of liquor license or creating a new class for a possible restaurant to be located at City Plaza. The consensus of the City Commission was to have the individual making the request attend the next City Commission meeting.

The Fire Chief requested permission for out-of-state travel for 5 members to travel to South Dakota on February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 3<sup>rd</sup> for the preconstruction building of the new truck.

Commissioner Hamre moved to approve out-of-state travel for 5 members to travel to South Dakota on February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 3<sup>rd</sup> for the preconstruction building of the new truck as recommended by the Fire Chief. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Fire Chief indicated it will be decided on Saturday if the fishing tournament will be held. Discussion followed on the ice condition, the thickness required and how the drawing would take place.

The City Attorney said everything was fine.

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

1. Appointing Jeb Oehlke to a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2025 as a member of the Devils Lake Parking Authority; and
2. Appointing Paulette Paulson to a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2023 as a member of the Lake Region Public Library Board.

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

The first reading of Ordinance No 969 –removing and replacing curb and gutter was held.

The City Administrator reviewed the infrastructure plan. The plan includes projects for the next six years and lists the funding sources for each project. Discussion followed on the miscellaneous projects – Police Department building, Public Works Building and City Hall remodeling. The infrastructure plan is more for the streets and water projects and not buildings. Discussion continued on the Police Department building, how much the City currently pays the LEC for rent and IT services, and how moving the department out of the LEC would financial impact the LEC. The building projects would require a separate sales tax bond. The City Engineer stated some of the roadways will require a reconstruction if the City does not prioritize the funding for the street projects. For several years, the City did not have funds for streets due to the flooding and water source projects. Commissioner Volk inquired about adding the Firebird logo to the water tower since it is scheduled to be painted. The City Engineer explained why it would be expensive to add the logo. Discussion returned to the Police Department building. The City would rather buy land and build than to rent a new building from someone else. Consensus of the City Commission was to have the City Administrator due a cost analysis for the Police Department building for the second meeting in February.

Commissioner Hamre moved to approve the 2021 infrastructure plan as recommended by the City Administrator. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk, and the motion carried unanimously.

The bills from Lake Region E-911 Authority for \$165,177.00 for joint powers revenue and from Lake Region Law Enforcement Center (LEC) for \$45,486.00 for percentage of use revenue were reviewed.

Commissioner Hamre moved to approve paying one quarter of the amount budgeted for the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center for percentage of use revenue and the Lake Region E-911 Authority for joint powers revenue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

Paula Vistad, Executive Director of the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce, informed the Commission that the Chamber is applying for the 2021 Main Street Grant to expand the work on Phase II of the Bridgestone Park project. The grant request will be for \$15,000.00 from the grant along with a 50% match of \$7,500.00 from the Beautification Committee for a total of \$22,500.00. The grant would help provide much needed visual elements, such as planters, benches and tables to attract visitors to sit and enjoy the Downtown area.

Commissioner Hamre moved to approve supporting the Chamber 2021 Main Street Grant application and the match of \$7,500.00 from the Beautification Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robbins moved to approve the 2021 mileage rate of \$.56 if using own vehicle because City vehicle is unavailable. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Volk moved to approve payment of the list of bills as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robbins. 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 7:05 P.M.

**LINDA LYBECK**  
**CITY AUDITOR**

**RICHARD S. JOHNSON**  
**PRESIDENT**