

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
HELD NOVEMBER 18, 2019

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held Monday, November 18, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. with the following members present: President Dick Johnson, Commissioners Rob Hach and Jacob Volk. Commissioners Dale Robbins and Shane Hamre were absent.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Volk moved to approve the minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held November 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hach, and the motion carried unanimously.

5:30 P.M. – This was the time set for a public hearing to issue a Class IX wine and beer license to Mary Lou Kurtz dba The Vintage Nest located at 405 4th St NE. Hearing and receiving no comments, President Johnson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Volk moved to issue a Class IX wine and beer license to Mary Lou Kurtz dba The Vintage Nest located at 405 4th St NE as recommended by the Police Chief. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hach, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Volk – The City Engineer stated a held snow removal meeting last Thursday.

Commissioner Hach – The City Assessor stated everything was fine.

The City Engineer stated the Sanitation Department is working on signage for the recycling center.

President Johnson – The City Engineer stated downtown ornamental lights for 4th and 4th are being installed now. The other architectural lights will be done in the spring.

The Police Chief inquired if the City Commission is interested in doubling the fines on moving violations. During the last legislative session municipalities were given the ability to double those fines. The consensus of the City Commission was to proceed with changing the fines and implementing the changes when the new rates and fees are done in December with an effective date of January 1st.

The City Engineer reported a leak was repaired on the transmission line south of Doyon.

The City Auditor reported everything was fine.

The City Administrator indicated applications for accounts payable/payroll were being reviewed and interviews would be held.

The Assistant Fire Chief requested to ask for bids for bunker gear with the Fire Department and the Devils Lake Volunteer Fire Department sharing the cost.

Commissioner Volk moved to approve calling for bids for bunker gear for the Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hach, and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Attorney stated everything was fine.

Commissioner Hamre received the contract for the fireworks display. The contract needs to be signed and returned along with a 50% down payment.

Commissioner Hach moved to approve the fireworks display contract with Pyrotechnic Display Inc and sending payment for \$6,750.00, (half of the contract price). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk. On roll call all Commissioners voted aye, and the motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 962 – Vaping was read.

The City Attorney stated the fine for minors cannot be higher than the State so it will be changed to \$25.00.

Brad Barth, Executive Director of Forward Devils Lake, presented a request for assistance to Sunnyside Childcare and for a childcare incentive fund.

Sunnyside Childcare has indicated they will be closing at the end of their lease in April 2020. Discussion followed on the improvements the childcare owner had done to the building and whether the City would reimburse \$18,000.00 since normally leasehold improvements are paid for by the building owner. Also discussed was the childcare center incentive fund which Forward Devils Lake would fund from membership fees. It would be for public centers with 30+ children and would pay so much per child/per year. An advisory committee will be formed to help with workforce issues.

Commissioner Volk moved to approve \$18,000.00 for Sunnyside Childcare for leasehold improvements as recommended by Forward Devils Lake. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hach. On roll call all Commissioners voted aye, and the motion carried.

Brad Barth requested the City's help in applying for CDBG funds for the main street program. The City would need to designate an area in which 25% of the buildings must meet the blighted/slum definition. A building owner could receive assistance of up to \$100,000 (50% loan/50% grant). Forward Devils Lake would need help from the Assessing/Building Department to inventory the buildings in the designated area. The consensus of the City Commission was to move forward with the project.

Commissioner Volk 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 6:15 P.M.

LINDA LYBECK
CITY AUDITOR

RICHARD S. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT