

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Decker called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present were: President Scott Decker, Vice President John Odermann,
Commissioners Jason Fridrich, Suzi Sobolik and Robert Baer

Telephone: None

Absent: None

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**2. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

MOTION BY: Robert Baer

SECONDED BY: Suzi Sobolik

To approve the February 20, 2024 meeting as presented.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY: John Odermann

SECONDED BY: Jason Fridrich

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes dated February 6, 2024.

B. Approval of Accounts Payable, Commerce Bank and Checkbook

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

4. ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE**A. 2023 Uncollectible Accounts Receivable Discharge Report**

Deputy City Administrator Linda Carlson presents the 2023 uncollectible accounts receivable discharge report. She states each year the uncollectible accounts mean the collection efforts being exhausted, death or bankruptcy. She states staff has cross referenced the current accounts and presents the final for review. Deputy City Administrator Carlson states the larger receivables are on a payment plan and will continue to make payments. She states the discharge of \$7,678.00 uncollectible accounts receivable balances through June, 2022 is presented.

MOTION BY: Robert Baer

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

To approve the discharge of \$7,678.00 uncollectible accounts receivable as of June, 2022.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

B. Monthly Financial Report

Deputy City Administrator Linda Carlson presents the monthly financial report which shows the checking to be slightly down due to annual maintenance being paid at the beginning of the year. The checking account is earning 3.82%. Investments are up. The total for CD's is \$4 million. The 1% sales tax is up at \$490,000. Ms. Carlson discussed the Hospitality and Occupancy Tax along with Oil Impact Revenue.

MOTION BY: Suzi Sobolik

SECONDED BY: Robert Baer

To approve the Monthly Financial Report as presented.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

5. PUBLIC WORKS

A. Urban Forestry Committee Members – Appointment and Reappointment

City Forester Blake Johnson presents for consideration of appointment and reappointment of the Urban Forestry Committee Members. He states the committee meets two times per year. The committee is being rebuilt on consistency and establishing relationship. He states the City is looking at rebuilding over the next three years.

MOTION BY: John Odermann
SECONDED BY: Suzi Sobolik
To approve Jacob Zettel and Craig Pearson to three-year terms.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

Commissioner John Odermann feels the other should be appointed to 1- and 2-year terms then all would be staggered.

MOTION BY: Suzi Sobolik
SECONDED BY: John Odermann
To approve Ty Nordby and Kurt Froehlich to one-year terms. Also, to appointment Nute Bishop and Chris Augustin to two-year terms.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

City Attorney Christina Wenko states the code does provide that initially the individuals be appointed to 1, 2 and 3 years. She feels the Commission is in compliance.

Forester Johnson is requesting one Commissioner be on the committee also. Commissioner John Odermann volunteered.

B. Bid Openings

1. Book Mobile

Public Works Director Aaron Praus presents two bids for the Dickinson Library Book Mobile. He states after extensive research he is recommending a Summit Bodyworks bid a 2025 Freightliner M2 106 chassis in the amount of \$506,050. He states the estimated delivery time of February 3, 2025. He states this unit will be replacing the current 2009 Thomas Built Bookmobile. This is a 2024 budgeted equipment purchase of \$300,000 with an additional reserve of \$206,000 as of December 2023. The City has also applied for the ND Clean Diesel grant to provide approximately 25% reimbursement of the purchase. This is the second time this book mobile was bid out. Director Praus states if the City does receive the grant, it would be around \$130,000.

Commissioner Robert Baer questions if any counties will be helping the city pay for the bus. He does have a problem that people in the City do not receive any services with the book mobile. He feels that if the City is going to use tax payer's funds to pay for the book mobile that he would like to see it stop at places in the City.

Deputy City Administrator Linda Carlson states the county has put away a certain amount for their books to be coming to their counties. The counties included are Stark, Slope and Billings. Ms. Carlson states the bus does not stop in the city. The book mobile is to support the SW region and the library is open 6 days a week for people to come to the library.

Commissioner John Odermann does like where Commissioner Baer's head is at and he will bring this issue up to the library board at the next meeting. He states that maybe the book mobile will be able to stop at those places in the City. He would like to see some financial commitment from the counties as well.

MOTION BY: Suzi Sobolik
SECONDED BY: John Odermann
To approve the purchase of the book mobile from Summit Bodyworks bid a 2025 Freightliner M2 106 chassis in the amount of \$506,050.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 4, Nay 1 (Baer), Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

2. Roll Off Truck for Solid Waste and Recycling

Public Works Director Aaron Praus presents one bid for the roll off truck and feels there was only one bid due to the shortage of supply and issues of Covid. The bid was received by Northland Truck Sales bid a 2024 Freightliner 114SD Plus with an Ampliroll body for a total cost of \$249,990. It is the recommendation of Public Works city staff to purchase the 2024 Freightliner 114SD Plus chassis with an Ampliroll body bid by Northland Truck Sales for a total cost price of \$249,990, which is the only bid received. Director Praus states the City already has three of these in the fleet. Mr. Praus did reach out to Minot and Fargo for bids.

MOTION BY: Robert Baer
SECONDED BY: John Odermann
To approve the purchase of the 2024 Freightliner 114SD Plus an Ampliroll body for \$249,900 from Northland Truck Sales.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

3. Compact Loader for Buildings and Grounds

Public Works Director Aaron Praus presents Compact Loader Quotes opened on February 12, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. MST. The following bids were presented:

Titan Machinery bid a 2024 Case 221F V2 HS at a total cost of \$115,000

Butler Caterpillar bid a 2024 Caterpillar 906 at a total cost of \$118,100

RDO Equipment bid a 2024 John Deere 244P at a total cost of \$128,800

Titan Machinery bid a 2024 Case 221F V2 HS with a snowblower attachment at a total cost of \$121,800. Director Praus states the bid specifications did not require a snowblower attachment as part of the bid, therefore eliminating this bid. Director Praus states it is the recommendation of Public Works city staff to purchase the 2024 Case 221F V2 HS from Titan. The machinery for a total cost price of \$115,000, which is the lowest bid received. They feel that the purchase of this unit will be of the best interests to the City of Dickinson and will fit into our operations to perform the necessary duties. Additionally, we plan to purchase a double auger snowblower from SkidPro in the amount of \$15,931.

This is the only company that we found to provide a double auger blower for a unit of this size. The total for both units is \$130,931. This is a 2024 budgeted capital purchase for the amount of \$100,000.00 on a 5-year lease. Although we are over budget on this purchase, thus far we are under budget by \$40,319 in all other capital purchases made for year 2024. The loader can be delivered in this March.

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich
SECONDED BY: Robert Baer
To approve the purchase the 2024 Case 221F V2 HS from Titan along with the SkidPro snowblower.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

C. Public Works Monthly Reports

Public Works Director Aaron Praus reminds the community of the City's services. He discusses the water usage application. This application is now linked it to the Dickinson Works application. There were 76 service requests for the month. He states forestry is quite busy with tree removals. Director Praus states building and grounds discusses the Ventrac Unit which is used for mowing and snow removal which can be used on side slopes. There were 79 work orders. He states solid waste has been working through the alleys to try eliminating trash. Director Praus states the City was voted best garbage services for 2024. They have been baling as much as possible. There were 5 water breaks

in January, 130 OT hours in water, 44 hours of OT in street in regards in to snow and ice control. He introduces Dennis Fields which is a new employee in the street department.

6. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

A. Fire Department

Reports:

None

B. Police Department

1. IT Dispatch Contract

Police Chief Joe Cianni presents an IT dispatch contract with Stark County. This contract would be for IT services with computer hardware, software and IT would provide full services to the dispatch center. All the equipment in the dispatch area is owned by Stark County and the City takes care of it and mans it. Chief Cianni states the IT support assorted with dispatch has traditionally been the responsibility of Stark County accomplished through private vendors. The cost for the County would be \$5,000 annually for services rendered.

MOTION BY: John Odermann

SECONDED BY: Robert Baer

To approve the IT Dispatch contract between the City and Stark County.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

2. SW Narcotics Drug Task Force Year End Report

Police Chief Joe Cianni introduces SW Narcotics Drug Task Force Chris Kimmerle and Travis Holding Eagle.

Mr. Travis Holding states they had recovered two actual meth labs in the City and this was a pretty unique challenge as they do not see a whole lot of them anymore. He states the Fire Department had helped them out quite a bit. He states the overall seizing of drugs are up. This is due to a continued cooperation and ties with the Southern border. These have ties into Mexico itself. He states the main item they continue to see is over doses as they had 17 last year and 3 fatalities. These were three fatal overdoses in 2024 and close to 10 that required hospitalization. Travis Holding Eagle states fentanyl is a large issue in the community. He states when they were fully staffed last year, they were able to investigate cases that were significantly larger than in the past. At this time, they are finding 10-15 pills at a time. These gentlemen are working in conjunction with Bismarck, MT and others and seizing several criminals. Mr. Holding Eagle states that the number of pills coming through the post office are large amounts. Fentanyl and Meth in the area is outstanding. Since they are not fully staffed it is difficult to maintain. He states that when they do seize a package there is normally a large number of drugs in it. Mr. Holding Eagle states the fentanyl and meth in the area is astounding. He states pills are upward from \$30-\$80 dollars a pill in the Dickinson area. He states when the task force is not fully staffed it is very difficult. He states they are looking for people who have five years of experience and not an entry level career. He states they have had some turnover the last few years and filling positions is difficult and having other priorities in agencies takes people away. Money is not really an issue. The hospital is not required to report the overdoses.

Mr. Chris Kimmerle thanks the Commission and the community for all their support. He states meth is most of what they seize most of now. He states this is a physical addiction and if they don't get the pills, they really get sick. This originally starts with a doctor's prescription and then they need more and more after the prescription is completed. Mr. Kimmerle states some people are using 10 pills a day. This is when they see the rise in crime and especially in property. He states they run into a lot of hurdles like HIPPA laws and there are a lot of people that go to the hospital and the task force does not get notified and some people are getting Narcan and doing it themselves.

President Scott Decker states the community needs to be more on watch especially what is going through the post office.

Commissioner John Odermann states the drug people are preying on desperate people. Once you get hooked, people can't function.

The Commissioners thank Mr. Kimmerle and Mr. Holding Eagles for their service.

7. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

A. Engineering and Community Development Monthly Report

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek presents the monthly report to include the transportation and master plan update which is continuing to make progress. He states Planning and Zoning will meet on the second Wednesday of each month starting in March. Director Skluzacek discusses projects such as the light poles in Legacy Square parking lot have arrived, Sundance Coves lighting and the traffic signal study which continue to make progress. The City has met with DPS and THS last week. Patterson Lake meeting is scheduled soon. He states the Project Engineer position has been difficult to fill.

Commissioner Robert Baer asks when the 3rd Avenue West Signal Study will come before the Commission so that it can be discussed as there are many concerns.

Director Skluzacek states the intent is to gather feedback. He states if the Commission would like to discuss this item they can discuss this evening, write a feedback or email to Director Skluzacek.

Commissioner John Odermann states the whole process is when those signal lights were put in and there is not less traffic now then there was before. He is struggling the way the DOT is handling this situation and it is obvious that they do not live in in this community and utilize those streets and are not dropping kids off. He states the ideas the DOT have threw out for the plans on the streets makes no sense. Commissioner Odermann has the same concerns as Commissioner Baer. He wonders to what extent can the City say no.

City Attorney Christina Wenko states the ND House bill states the State has to consult with the City should they want to make changes with the traffic signals. Ms. Wenko's opinion is that the City should gather information and relay it to the DOT. She states there is federal funding and federal requirements. She feels the City needs to get the information before making any decisions on this item. The City needs to let the State know the concerns of the citizens.

President Scott Decker does not like that the Federal are holding funding over the City's head while people are in danger.

Commissioner John Odermann wonders how the City will be impacted on future projects if the City says no. What kind of financial standpoint is the City talking about?

City Attorney Christina Wenko states the State and Federal funding that is the most significant question if what the City needs to ask themselves. If not consistent with the State what are the legal and financial ramifications. She asks can they revoke any funds for projects. This could be for projects in the next 5 to 10 years. It is a good thing to get all the answers with this study.

Mr. Jeff Ficek of SW Patriots states he has been receiving a lot of feedback on this issue. He is hoping a representative from the City could come and explain the process that the City is in. He has not gotten any positive feedback on this change. These are all negative feedback comments. He states if the State is not going to pay attention there is not much the City can do.

Commissioner John Odermann states there could be another traffic study. Could be looking at different options.

Commissioner Jason Fridrich questions what the cost would be to the City to maintain these lights and a reason as to why they wouldn't maintain them. He states one kid's life is worth more than \$600,000.

Director Skluzacek states his obligation is to the health and safety of the public. His #1 importance in every intersection of the City. This study did not meet the DOT requirements.

President Scott Decker states the traffic lights have been up for 40-50 years and there is less traffic now. The city has gotten a lot bigger and faster traffic is moving up and down that street. He states St. Patrick's and Berg Elementary and the Chamber of Commerce is the biggest concern. They also want to remove the signal light on Broadway. He is concerned about traffic coming out of TMI and Fisher's. These organizations were unaware that they were going to be affected until recently.

Commissioner John Odermann states the people in Washington are running those guidelines and have not been in Dickinson, ND. The City is going to make a decision because we get free money. It is good that the City gets money from State and Federal but the city is giving up control if they accept money. It is terrible if the State and Federal are going to hold funds from us for future projects. If the answer is yes, then we need to get State Legislatures involved in this as this is not okay.

President Scott Decker states that he does not believe this is not how the USDOT wants to go.

Resident Jeff Ficek states that where his son was run over on Villard is a concern. He states is a dangerous spot and this was where a light was removed. He states the Commission is right on the mark with being concerned of the removal of traffic signals. He states the statistics are for the federal and not for Dickinson, ND.

8. PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON AGENDA – 5:00 P.M.

A. Public Comments not on Agenda

Resident Dean Kluver questions the cost of the book mobile. He is concerned about this amount and that it is not for individuals to use. Mr. Kluver states St. Benedicts has a new transport vehicle with a hoist and the cost of this vehicle was \$120,000. This is a brand-new vehicle. He is concerned that the cost of the book mobile is and that is hauling books around for a half million dollars. He is a bit concerned and confused. Mr. Kluver states that most people have iPad and Kindles and having something that is still tangle and have a hard copy that this is something of the old style.

Commissioner John Odermann states the circulation through the book mobile has at least stayed steady. Commissioner Odermann is biased as when he was growing up and being a rural ranch kid and to check out books was special. He states it was a nice oasis of entertainment once a month to get something new. Commissioner Odermann states that internet is not always reliable and high-speed internet is not an option for many of those people. Having a book mobile is an opportunity for families where high-speed internet is not an option.

9. COMMISSION

Commissioner John Odermann states the Youth Commission will be conducting a survey of students with various high schools to include home schoolers. This survey will be from grades 9-12. This survey will be asking the students what they would like to see in the community. He feels that this would be good to use for the youth in area.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Suzi Sobolik

SECONDED BY: Jason Fridrich

Adjournment of the meeting was at 6:00 P.M.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote... Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed.

OFFICIAL MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Rita Binstock, Assistant to City Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Dustin Dassinger, City Administrator

Scott Decker, President
Board of City Commissioners

Date: March 5, 2024