

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Dennis Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were: President Dennis Johnson, Commissioners Gene Jackson, Carson Steiner and Scott Decker

Absent were: Klayton Oltmanns

STANDARD MOTIONS

III.

A. Sunrise Youth Bureau

Holly Praus, Sunrise Youth Bureau Director thanks the City for its past support of the Sunrise Youth Bureau program. Ms. Praus states the Youth Bureau is asking for the same subsidy as 2015 of \$12,500. Ms. Praus states the current program is a diversion, education and prevention of school children. Sunrise Youth Bureau receives referrals from the school and juvenile court. The children then receive appropriate consequences for actions they have taken. This program is to keep juveniles out of the juvenile justice system. This program also provides crisis intervention. Ms. Praus states in school counseling is done for prevention. She states this program is a great asset to the school. Ms. Praus also explains the Attendant Youth Program which houses runaways and keeps children safe until further arrangements can be made. She explains other funding to the program which they receive from 8 other counties. Ms. Praus thanks the City for their continued support.

B. Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Plus

Rick Gordon and Bob Sivak for RSVP+ spoke about the RSVP+ program. Gordon states this program provides volunteers for critical needs. The program focuses on people 55 years of age and older. RSVP services the 7 surrounding communities in SW ND. This year Mr. Gordon states they have taken over the Devils Lake program. Gordon states RSVP has become a program throughout the entire state of ND as of July, 2014. This program is generally federally funded through grants and foster grandparents. Mr. Gordon states 35,000 hours of volunteer work were provided last year. Mr. Gordon is requesting \$25,000.

Bob Sivak who is the Advisory Council President state the volunteers are deeply committed to this program. He states he had joined this program prior to turning 55 and it has been quite an experience and learning process. He states the involvement of volunteers are in the Amen Food Pantry, Backpack Program, Fingerprint Program and many more. Mr. Sivak states RSVP are very good stewards of the money received.

C. Roughrider Commission

Duane Wolf and Justin Olson representing the Roughrider Commission state that part of reason for coming to ask the City for money is to continue to support the fireworks display on the 4th of July. The fireworks have become a great part of the 4th of July celebration. They are asking for \$15,000.

President Dennis Johnson asks why there such a large amount of cash in the general fund for the Roughrider Commission.

Duane Wolf who is the treasurer states the amount in the checking is to cover the cost for 2 years of events. Mr. Wolf states due to the downturn in the economics in Dickinson the events were down a little bit this year. He also states they would like to receive some funding for the future outdoor complex.

D. Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway

Sister Phoebe Schwartz from the Sacred Heart Monastery in Richardton presents a request from Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway. Sister Phoebe states all this is an all-volunteer group which started in 2006 and became the Scenic Byway in 2008. She states the funds that is requested will be used to help maintain the talking trail signs. These funds will also pay for the brochure program, placements and trail brochures. She stats the group does do advertising and an annual rummage sale. The Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway is requesting \$1,000.

E. Dickinson Convention and Visitors Bureau

Terri Thiel whom is the Executive Director of Dickinson Convention and Visitors Bureau introduces a new program to the Commissioners so the program does not get stale. The CVB will be creating a new Block Grant within the program to use multiple annual events which are hosted by one organization during the year. Ms. Theil gives examples of these programs such as the Alive at 5. This funding is requested in addition to the \$60,000 already received in the 5 year contract which will lend in 2016. CVB is asking for additional \$45,000. Ms. Thiel states funds are normally carried over from year to year to use for different functions outside of their normal budget such as the Cal Ripken Tournament. Ms. Thiel thanks the Commissioners for their continued support.

F. Dickinson Downtown Association

Kristi Schwartz, President of Downtown Association is requesting \$100,000 from the City in order to establish an organization with a hired director in order to continue with grant writing and marking of ongoing events. Ms. Schwartz explains the Downtown Association which was established in 2013. Their vision is business, government, and community working together to enhance the vitality of the downtown for the benefit of the Dickinson community. Their goals are to encourage more effective cooperation, communication and collaboration between downtown businesses. Ms. Schwartz is requesting the City to support the Downtown Associations Efforts to support the City.

G. Western Wellness Foundation, Inc./Best Friends Mentoring

Kris Fehr, Director of Western Wellness Foundation would like to thank the Commissioners for the past funding to Western Wellness Foundation/Best Friends Program. The City's current contribution means seven kids have social skills training, role modeling and tutoring. This program is a prevention program as it keeps kids from getting in trouble now and later on. The program serves kids at risk. Ms. Fehr states the community has been changing from prior issues of unsupervised children running around town to today of unsupervised children whose parents are working longer hours and showing an increase of drug arrests which have led children being placed in foster care. Ms. Fehr states more than 94% of youth in the Best Friends Program improve their academic competency, behavior, attitude and social skills. Ms. Fehr states supporting this program will impact the future of the kids in Dickinson. Ms. Fehr and the Best Friends Mentoring Program is asking for \$15,000.

H. Bakken Community Organization

Emanuel Ezeh of the Bakken Community Organization presents to the City Commissioners the improvement of living conditions in Dickinson through the

Bakken Community Organization. Mr. Ezeh plans on hosting the second annual diversity picnic this fall. He states the organization has been involved in afterschool programs, helping kids, mentoring them and assisting student from Dickinson State. Mr. Ezeh states the organization has helped counsel employment seekers, help them interview and fill out application forms. He states many people have had difficulties in locating a job and need to work 2 or 3 jobs make their ends meet. Mr. Ezeh states his organization needs an office with at least 2 rooms, 2 printers, 2 computers and 2 officers on a full time basis to assist individuals. Mr. Ezeh states they have helped up to 60 people a month. He states they do use the library and Job Service. Mr. Ezeh and the Bakken Community Organization is requesting \$50,000.

President Dennis Johnson took a 15 minute break.

I. House of Manna

Board President Chris Winhold from the House of Manna is requesting \$20,000 for a non-profit organization whom assist the needy. The House of Manna does provide household goods, furniture and clothing. They do ask that individuals take no more than they need and leave a donation if they can. Mr. Winhold states if some objects cannot be used it is donated to God's Child Project. The House of Manna does have 2 paid employees and many, many volunteers. He feels the need has increased with the amount of transient families. He states some arrive without winter clothing or no beds. Due to the increase needs the House of Manna limits households to one visit per week. He states an average of 77 people walk through their front doors daily. Mr. Winhold states even with the downturn of oil impact the House of Manna still has a relatively stable clientele.

J. Dickinson City Band

Bob Keogh from the City Band states the City Band has provided a place for musicians to play. They provide an outlet for people to play their instruments after high school. There is no age limit. City Band has been around for quite a few years already and would like to recruit more members. Keogh states Dickinson State University students have joined the City Band this year. Their request is \$1,200. Mr. Keogh states there are many members who do not have horns and normally these horns are rented from the college. Keogh states they have two community concerts per year.

K. Theodore Roosevelt Symposium

Sharon Kilzer, Project Manager, thanked the City Commission for their past support. Kilzer thanks for the support of the Presidential Library and for having the vision and commitment to Theodore Roosevelt. Ms. Kilzer invites the Commissioners to the Theodore Roosevelt and the Law Symposium on September 17-19, 2015. Ms. Kilzer states over 16 states were represented last year at the Symposium. Kilzer states the TR Symposium has drawn many visitors from different states and last year's symposium was compiled of 16 state representatives. Ms. Kilzer stated the trial of Theodore Roosevelt will be highlighted. Kilzer's request for 2016 is \$20,000. Ms. Kilzer states in order to recognize Dickinson's contribution announcements are made of the sponsors and also listed on the registration.

L. Elder Care

Collen Rodakowski, Director spoke to the Commission in regards to the Public Transit Program. Rodakowski is asking for \$240,000 which would support both meals as well as public transit. At this time there are 20 meal sites which provide a meal at noon. Elder Care would like for the 60+ years old individuals to stay in their home as much as possible. She does state the public transit offers prescheduled and on demand rides in Dickinson and go to Bismarck on Tuesdays. There are the only

entity that offers Medicaid rides for reimbursement and a wheel chair lift. Ms. Rodakowski state it cost about \$130,000 to run Elder Care each month. She explains the Café 60 site which opened in Beach. This allows elderly to get vouchers to eat the restaurant in Beach either lunch or supper. This has been a very valuable program for the elderly as they had over 100 meals in the past month.

M. Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center

Rhonda Dukart who represents Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center for Darianne Johnson. Ms. Dukart reads a note from Ms. Johnson which served 152 women and children in 2014. At this time, six months into the New Year, they have served 94 women and children and facilitated protection orders for 30 women and 2 men. They have seen 14 human trafficking victims and the youngest was 13. Ms. Dukart states Domestic Violence has worked with women who have been strangled to near death. This happens in front of the children and they feel that this is the way of life to be abused and there is nothing else to do about it and this horrible cycle continues. The Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center is expected to do more and more with less and less staff. Domestic Violence is requesting \$25,000.

Ms. Dukart states that when she visits with people about Domestic Violence they think this program is federally funded. The program actually relies on grants and funds provided privately. Ms. Dukart feels violence is much more drastic than previously. She states human trafficking victims are real. They are still looking at their dream of a new shelter with adequate size to house the abused.

N. Dickinson Municipal Airport

Airport Manager Kelly Braun updates the Commission on the parking lot expansion for the airport. Mr. Braun discusses the finances as related to the airport and states the airport only has \$168,000 to expand their parking lot. Mr. Braun states the parking lot is not eligible for federal funding and is looking for funding to get the project moving along.

President Dennis Johnson asks Mr. Braun if he would consider a loan.

Airport Manager Mr. Kelly Braun is open to any assistance the airport can get. He states the projected 2016 parking income is \$512,540. Mr. Braun states airport expenditures have decreased somewhat but still have a full parking lot.

Commissioner Gene Jackson feels the City of Dickinson may possibly get some funding from the legislatures as Williston got a good chunk of money the last session.

Mr. Braun states they will be asking for a sum of money and lists some enabling projects. They will possibly ask for \$40 million. The entire project of the parking lot would be \$125,000 and this would allow for 100 additional parking spaces.

O. United Way

Pat Severson who is the Vice President of United Way is asking the City of Dickinson for some help. Their funding has come up short for 2016. Mr. Severson states all the month which is brought in only \$2,500 stays in Dickinson. This year the campaign only brought in \$148,500. Mr. Severson states the people pledged the money and now that the oil economy has dropped people cannot pay the pledges. He states any financials at this time would stay locally. The goal for 2015 of \$300,000 was not met. He feels with the new director the following year will be better. United Way is requesting \$20,000.

P. Southwest Homeless Coalition

Joe Wanner, Southwest Homeless Coalition states they are looking for a permanent solution to the homeless housing. Wanner states people coming here have no home, no insurance and really no identification. Wanner states the people who are coming to this community do not realize the work is hard here and expertise is needed. Their request is \$12,500. They will be using these funds for a grant writing program.

President Dennis Johnson states the Commission has heard all the requests and will be making recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Carson Steiner

SECONDED BY: Scott Decker

For adjournment of the meeting at approximately 3:30 PM.

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Rita Binstock, Assistant to City Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shawn Kessel, City Administrator

Dennis W. Johnson President
Board of City Commissioners

Date: August 4, 2014