

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present were: President Dennis W. Johnson, Carson Steiner, Shirley Dukart, and Joe Frenzel

Absent were: Gene Jackson

STANDARD MOTIONS**III. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

President Johnson asked for any changes to the order of business for this Special Meeting of July 15, 2009, seeing no changes President Johnson will precede with the meeting. Johnson states the primary purpose of this meeting is for budget requests from outside city government and also a disaster recovery update.

IV. 2010 SUBSIDY REQUESTS**A. Convention and Visitors Bureau**

Terri Thiel Executive Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) thanked the Commission for their support for the year 2009. Thiel is requesting for the year 2010 the total occupancy tax and \$110,000 of the hospitality tax. The CVB employees three full time employees and some $\frac{3}{4}$ time and part time employees. The CVB promotes the City and much of the surrounding communities. Ms. Thiel also works very closely with the Dakota Dinosaur Museum which has been a great marketing value for the City of Dickinson. Ms. Thiel explained to the Commission that with the additional money received from the hospitality tax in 2008 street banners, community awareness programs and visitors bags were purchased. Ms. Thiel states that the Bureau does have six months worth of reserves which is currently \$150,000. Ms. Thiel feels that the Old Red Trail and other scenic byways which the Bureau normally contributes to shall receive additional contributions should the economy bring in more revenue.

Commissioner Dukart feels the Convention and Visitors Bureau should be more conservative in the amount of money being spent each year.

President Johnson feels that the way lodging is progressing in our community that there will be quite an income from the hospitality tax in 2009.

B. Arts on the Prairie

Kristi Pechtl, Executive Director of Art on the Prairie thanked the City Commission for their continued support for the Arts on the Prairie and would like to ask for the continued support of \$8,000.00 for the year 2010 and the use of the office space. Ms. Pechtl also invited everyone to the Band-Aid Relief on Sunday, July 19, 2009. Ms. Pechtl stated Arts on the Prairie will continue to host the band shell concerts which continually have a good turnout. Also the *Dickinson's Got Talent* which is hosted at Prairie Hills Mall has been a profitable funding raising event for Arts on the Prairie and they will continue with this endeavor. Ms. Pechtl would like to try to host a blue grass festival in the future. Commissioner Dukart thanks Ms. Pechtl for keeping the same budget for the year 2010.

C. Dickinson State University (DSU) – Theodore Roosevelt (TR) Symposium

Sharon Kilzer, Project Manager thanked the City Commissions for their past support and would like to continue to receive \$20,000.00 for the year 2010. Ms. Kilzer stated the money has allowed them to create an excellent program. The program started in 2006 with 512 participants and reached 649 in 2008. DSU TR Symposium allows DSU and the community to continue the TR adventure and educational history alive. Ms. Kilzer states that she does not know of how much revenue this symposium brings in as she has just become the project director last fall. She does state they have between 40-70 out of state guests and many from the eastern part of the US. Again, Ms. Kilzer thanks the City for their support and is looking forward to next year.

D. Elder Care

Fred Gengler who is an Elder Care Management Board Member spoke to the Commission in regards to the Elder Care – Public Transit Program. Elder Care took over Public Transit on April 1, 2009. On July 10, 2009 Elder Care - Public Transit extended to full hours of taxi service operation. The transit program continues to hire and train new staff daily. The City sold their transit vans to Elder Care – Public Transit on July 1, 2009. Gengler states the need for taxi service in this community is very strong. Elder Care – Public Transit assisted the City with the tornado disaster in providing two vans for meal delivery and transportation of volunteers. Mr. Gengler would like to see an increased subsidy for the remainder of the year of \$3300.00 a month. For the budget year 2010 Mr. Gengler would like to see Public Transit receive a subsidy from the City of \$6,000 per month. Gengler did thank the City for its past support.

Colleen Rodakowski, Executive Director, informs the Commission the taxi fares have not changed. Colleen has done some research in the surrounding states for the

taxi fare rates and there is quite some discrepancy in them. She states this is a very costly operation.

President Johnson and the Commission support a transportation system in our City. Johnson encourages Elder Care – Public Transit to adjust their fares accordingly and allow the City to provide a reasonable subsidy. Johnson feels that \$72,000 a year is rather unreasonable.

E. Sunrise Youth Bureau

Rich Wardner Chairman of Sunrise Youth Bureau explained Sunrise Youth Program to the Commission. Sunrise Youth Bureau is an alternative to sending youth through the juvenile court system. This program gives the parents and officers the opportunity to resolve the issues without going through juvenile court. Attendant Care is also a program of the Youth Bureau. This service houses juvenile for no more than 48 hours until juvenile services decides where they will be placed. This service is available to the eight surrounding counties. The Sunrise Youth Bureau is asking for \$15,000.00 in addition to the county funding that they receive.

President Johnson asked if there was any chance for state aid for this kind of youth group. Johnson states this issue of housing youth is more county wide than a city issue. Money is already dedicated to the program through the county mills and the City contributes money to those mills.

F. Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Kelsey Bless, Director of RSVP from Bismarck and Bev Hafele Project Coordinator for the RSVP in Dickinson spoke about the RSPV and RSVP+ program. This program has been in Dickinson for 36 years. This program focuses on the needs of older adults. This program is about volunteerism and service for people 55+ years old and recently expanded service to individuals younger than 55. This has evolved because of the community's need and interest. Volunteers in the community work at House of Manna, Arc-Aid, library, hospital, nursing homes, etc. Kelsey and Bev were both very appreciative of the past support, thanked the Commission and would like to ask for \$25,000 for the 2010 budget. This amount is the same as the 2009 funding.

G. Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center

Darianne Johnson, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center. Darianne informed the Commission about the services of Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center and how it provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault along with their children and to support the homeless families. They work very closely with Community Action, Dickinson Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Social Services and Badlands Human Service Center. They

serve an eight county region encompassing 10,000 square miles. Ms. Johnson thanked the City Commission for past support and requested the same amount of \$12,000 for the year 2010. Commissioner Dukart asked Ms. Johnson if they are experiencing a housing shortage and Ms. Johnson agreed that there is a shortage of housing as they are also a shelter for the homeless.

H. Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Ray Ann Kilen of the Mayor's Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities asked the City Commission for their continued support of \$1,000.00 for the year 2010. Ray Ann also thanked the Commission for their past support. President Johnson and Ray Ann spoke about Diversity Days which is held in the elementary schools which allows students the opportunity to experience disabilities and to become sensitive and comfortable with persons with disabilities. Ray Ann states this group also recognizes employers who employ persons with disabilities; recognize individuals with disabilities who have overcome personal challenges and recognize people who work in this area. This committee also recognizes buildings that have become accessible to persons with disabilities. The Optimist Club also supports the Mayor's Committee.

I. Stark Development

Gaylon Baker, Executive Vice President of Stark Development Corporation gave a presentation to the Commission highlighting the activities and accomplishments of the organization. Mr. Baker informed the Commission that due to the closing of American Express the revenue for 2010 will hit the bottom line. Also an industrial site study will be completed and this is an unknown cost at this time. Mr. Baker feels the interest income will be cut by about 25%; projected revenue will fall from \$825,000 in 2008 to \$575,000 in 2010. Mr. Baker thanked the Commission for the continued support and would like to continue to receive 14% of the 1% City sales tax. Baker is working to fill the American Express building with a company that does not pay minimum wages. He also feels that a marketing agent may need to be hired to fill the building. Discussion had taken place on the damage to the building since the 7/8/09 tornado and that the building is not marketable at this time.

J. SouthWest Community Service

Trasa Diem, Program Coordinator for the Southwest Community Service and Restitution Program had explained the SW Community Service program. Trasa states this program was started in 1994 and it is a non-profit organization. This program is an alternative to incarceration for low risk and violent offenders. Trasa said this program arranges work for offenders and provides them with more opportunities to better themselves in the community. The program relies on continued support from the city and counties. These offenders are held accountable for their crimes with the least possible burden on the citizens. President Johnson informed the public this

service provides an alternative method other than putting people in jail. For example if a person has constructions skills they will do their community service for the weatherization projects, etc. Ms. Diem informed the Commission there have been more clients in July than there has been in the first three months of the year. Ms. Diem thanks the Commission for their past support and would appreciate their continued support in 2010.

K. Victim Witness

Linda Presler, Victim/Witness Coordinator of the Stark County Victim/Witness Program could not make it to the meeting but did forward a letter to the Commission. Administrator Shawn Kessel stated the program helps people who have been witnesses to the crime and supports them emotionally. President Johnson explained that sometimes the witnesses are reluctant to prosecute the offender and this program makes prosecution more effective.

President Johnson stated these presenters today will be reviewed when the 2010 budget is being built. No decisions will be made today on who will receive funding. Commission Dukart feels this is very good information as the 2010 budget is being built.

V. DISASTER RECOVERY UPDATE

Administrator Kessel updated the Commission on the disaster recovery. The main theme was people helping people. Admin. Kessel has been through several disasters and he is quite impressed with all the people helping others in need. Kessel attributed the quick pace of clean up efforts to the neighbors helping neighbors and how the community pulled together to support each other. He reported there was only one family left in the shelter as of today and ongoing housing is a concern. FEMA will provide mobile homes to the community if necessary but these homes are very costly to heat and water lines are not insulated well. Kessel states the US Forest Service and their volunteers had moved a huge amount of debris, trees and their efforts related to tree cutting and removal was amazing. The landfill has received approximately 890 tons of debris not to include trees. Mr. Kessel stated there were three homes completely demolished during the storm and the demolishing of others is completely a private matter at this time. A representative from the Governor's Office will be attending the weekly recovery meetings.

Commissioner Steiner reminded the citizens to be very cautious in hiring someone to rebuild, install or any work to be done in their homes. Citizens should ask the contractors for their bonding company, certificate of insurance and can call the Secretary of State to see if these contractors are legitimate. He also advises not to pay the contractors in full until the work is completely done and done correctly.

President Johnson states this is excellent advice and would recommend this to aired on Channel 19. President Johnson did sign a Disaster Declaration as a matter of protocol and the commission will reaffirm this at the next commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Shirley Dukart

SECONDED BY: Joe Frenzel

For adjournment of the meeting at approximately 4:15 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: _____