

# Velva Regular Commission Meeting

April 21, 2025

7:00pm

Velva City Hall

Velva City Commission meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Commission President Mike Schreiner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll Call: Mike Schreiner – Commission President, Street/Finance; Dave Keller – Vice President, Police Commissioner (including Cemetery oversight); Mary Liz Davis – Police/Finance Commissioner; Ben Zietz – Water/Sewer Commissioner; Gene Jenson – Commissioner of Streets/Improvements (including Cemetery oversight); Jenny Johns – City Auditor; Kelly Jemtrud and Schad Prellwitz – Public Works Department; Brian Julius – Ackerman-Estvold Engineering; Heather Tudor – Velva Area Voice. Mark Johnson and Connie Bryant – Farmers Union Insurance.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Keller/Davis to approve the minutes from the March 17 regular meeting and April 8 & 9 special meetings. Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried.

**PAYROLL & BILLS:** Davis/Jenson made a motion to approve the bills paid and bills to be paid in the amount of \$36,212.85 and Payroll for \$39,754.80. Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried. (SRT 601.28, Acme 189.53, Am. Welding 67.16, AutoValue 311.12, BAG 224.93, ChemLab 20.39, Circle 7017.75, Dakota Fluid 41.23, Dakota Fire 178.09, Enerbase 437.68, 1stDistrict 60, Gooseneck 525.33, Hawkins 1931.02, jjohns 170.40, Lenco 3400, lwalter 72.69, mldavis 170.40, McGee 1802.50, MouseRiver 646.19, Napa 115, ND Sewage 1000, NSCCU 2650.54, ND State Auditor 810, Ottertail 4792.28, PJemtrud 450, Runnings 21.67, Ryan Chev. 33.19, sprellwitz 94.73, Schocks locks 5497.75, Sign solutions 593.85, SRT 616.62, Swanston 1759.68, Comp. Store 55, VCDC 297.94, VFF 171.96, Library 297.94, Verizon 483).

## **Reports of The President/Finance & Street Commissioner**

Schreiner had no business to discuss.

**Personal Appearances:** Schreiner presented the documentation submitted by Mark Johnson of Farmers Union Insurance. Johnson has asked that the commission consider hiring his agency for all of the city's insurance needs. Discussion on coverage and deductibles. Johnson assured that everything will stay the same, or he will try to lower it. Keller/Jenson made a motion to move the city's insurance needs to Farmer's Union Insurance Agency with Mark Johnson in Velva. Roll Call: All – aye; motion carried.

**Additions:** Schreiner addressed the speed bump installed last fall on Central Avenue East. There are now vehicles that avoid the speed bump by driving onto the toe levee, causing damage to the area. Public Works fears this may compromise the levee and put the city into non-compliance with the Corp of Engineers. Public Works would like to remove the speed bump now that the radar signs are installed to avoid penalties from the Corp. Lonnie Sather and Brad/Tracy Christenson were in attendance to dispute the removal. Discussion. Jenson asked that temporary barriers be placed until the situation could be rectified and to spare the levee toe from further damage. The Commission rested on the matter.

## **Communications:**

-Schreiner stated there were no complaint letters submitted.

-Schreiner presented the police report from the McHenry County Sheriff's Department.

-Discussion on the membership due request submitted by the SBPC. The Commission concurred to table until receiving further information.

-Ulteig Engineering submitted project number 4-052 – US 52 4-lane from approximately 2.3 miles west of junction 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE to Voltaire; the total length of the study area under consideration is approximately 22 miles.

## **Reports of Officers, Boards, Committees**

**Commissioner Davis:** Davis had nothing to address.

**Commissioner Keller:** Keller had nothing to address.

**Commissioner Zietz:** Zietz had nothing to address.

**Commissioner Jenson:** Jenson had nothing to address.

**Engineer's Report:** Brian Julius gave an update on: the walk through of the water plant completed by Ryan Ackerman and the Public Works Department employees, the lead service line inventory project; the trees allocated for the cemetery and the bridge project, which is out for bid again now.

**Auditor's Report:** Johns presented the final audit reports from the state for 2020, 2021, 2022, bringing the city into compliance. This will allow loans to be taken out, if needed, for failing infrastructure. Johns asked if she and Wyche could do the audit for 2024 internally. Johns stated that 2026 budget preparations have started, and asked for suggestions for purchases at this time.

**Assessor/Building Inspector:** The building permit list was in the packet for the Commission's review. City Assessor Bourdeau has offered to enforce ordinances, such as visual and other nuisances, if the Commission will allow.

**Public Works Report:** Jemtrud gave a rundown of current projects, including: crack sealing, street sweeping, levee repairs, etc. The speed bump was previously discussed. Discussion on fluoridation to the city's water supply. Due to a recent federal court ruling that found that fluoride in drinking water, at levels used in the U.S., poses an unreasonable risk to vulnerable populations like infants and pregnant women. The EPA has recently removed regulations regarding fluoride and sent it to state and local levels. Zietz/Jenson made a motion to cease fluoridation of Velva's water supply due to the mounting scientific evidence that the chemical harms children's health and provides little or no dental benefit. Roll Call: Zietz, Jenson, Schreiner – aye; Keller, Davis – nay ~ motion carried.

**Introduction & Adoption of Resolutions/Ordinances:** Ordinance change Section 20-21(a). Determination and Enforcement of Nuisance Violations – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was discussed. Davis/Keller made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of ordinance Section 20-21(a) as follows:

### ***Sec. 20-21(a). Determination and Enforcement of Nuisance Violations.***

*At the discretion of the City, or its authorized agents or employees, the existence or continuation of a condition constituting a nuisance, as defined under this chapter, may be determined to constitute a finable offense.*

*(1) Upon failure, neglect, or refusal of any property owner to abate the nuisance condition as specified in the notice provided in accordance with Section 20-20, within ten (10) calendar days of receipt thereof, or personal service thereof, said owner shall be deemed in violation of this chapter and subject to the following schedule of fines:*

- a. For a first offense, a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00);*
- b. For a second offense, a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00);*
- c. For each subsequent offense, a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per occurrence.*

*(2) Each day that a violation continues beyond the time specified in the notice shall constitute a separate and distinct offense, subject to additional fines as set forth herein.*

Roll Call: Davis, Keller, Jenson, Schreiner – aye; Zietz – nay ~ motion carried.

**Personal Appearances:** Personal appearances were previously addressed.

**Additions:** Discussion on the seasonal employee position. Jenson/Davis made a motion to appoint K. Prellwitz to the position at the budgeted wage. Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried.

**New Business:** City-wide cleanup week has been scheduled for June 9-15, immediately following the garage sale weekend. The efforts will run exactly like last year with 10-hour/day dumping available after obtaining a key from the city office. The employees will also coordinate some night and weekend shifts for residential convenience.

**Adjournment:** With no other business to discuss, Schreiner adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.

*The next Commission Meeting will be Monday, May 19 at 7:00pm.  
If you would like to be on the next agenda, the deadline is Thursday at noon before a meeting.  
**\*\*Minutes are Subject to Amendment and Approval\*\****

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**Mike Schreiner**  
**Commission President**

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**Jenny Johns**  
**Auditor**