

Velva Special Commission Meeting

July 25, 2022

Special Meeting – 5:00pm

Velva City Hall

SPECIAL MEETING: Velva City Commission Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Commission President Mike Schreiner at the Velva City Hall. Roll Call: Mike Schreiner – President of the Commission; Ben Zietz – Water/Sewer Commissioner (speakerphone – joined meeting at 5:06pm); Dave Keller – Street/Water Commissioner (absent); Mary Liz Davis – Finance/Sewer Commissioner; Gene Jenson – Street/Cemetery Commissioner; Ron Nagle – City Assessor; Jenny Johns – Auditor. Also in attendance Heather Tudor, Velva Area Voice.

MINUTES

1. Schreiner asked for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Change 2022-02 (Sec. 4-12(a)(2) License-Classes of and fees). Davis/Jenson made a motion to approve the 2nd reading of the ordinance change as follows: *Off-sale liquor and beer licenses*. One license may be issued for every ~~750~~ 500 (five hundred) residents of the city, or fraction thereof equal to or exceeding one-half, according to the last available federal census. Roll Call: Davis-aye; Jenson-aye; Schreiner-aye ~ Motion carried.
2. Johns presented a liquor license application – Class B - Off sale beer & liquor – submitted by Velva Foods Inc./Matthew and Brenda McCasson. Davis/Jenson made a motion to approve the Class B liquor license application for Velva Foods Inc. Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried.
3. Jenson gave a description of mud-jacking and the potential to lift and fix several areas in town, specifically along curbs, which affects drainage to storm sewers throughout town. Jenson noted that these repairs need to be made prior to armor coating/chip sealing. Jenson and Jemtrud have located many areas that need attention. Jenson has marked the majority of town and will get lineal footage to the contractor for a bid on the project.
4. Johns submitted a nuisance complaint for a property located at: 6-2nd Street E in Velva. There have been several verbal complaints submitted by neighboring property owners, this spring and summer. Letters and phone calls have already been administered, but the property seems to be getting worse, not better. Johns would like to know how the commission would like her to proceed. Schreiner and Jenson have both addressed the problem with the property owner a few times over the past 5-days. Schreiner will continue to monitor the situation. Johns is to revise the nuisance ordinance to allow phone calls and physical notices at the home and lower the timeframe to a 48-hour abatement period.
5. Johns presented amended Resolution 22-01 pertaining to the alley and avenue vacation in Commercial Addition. The County rejected the resolution in May, and asked that verbiage be added. Attorney VanGrinsven added: *Pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 40-39-08, the recording of this resolution shall have the effect of conveying to the abutting property owners all the right, title and interest of the City of Velva to the property vacated.* VanGrinsven also adapted the map per the county's request. Jenson/Davis made a motion to approve Resolution 22-01, as amended. Roll Call: Jenson-aye; Davis-aye; Zietz-aye; Schreiner-aye ~ motion carried. Johns will resubmit the resolution to the county.
6. Discussion ensued on the preliminary budget for 2023. Johns discussed the mill value increase per Nagle's valuations. Discussion on the very slight increase from last year, although a 3rd

public works employee was added for half the year, and two (2) lift station projects have been completed without a special assessment. Johns also commended the past commission for the commitment to paying off high-interest debt services; and lowering the city's indebtedness. Johns went through the general fund, and each fund thereafter, including the levied funds: cemetery, emergency, JDA, library and fire reserve. Discussion on the enterprise funds and the great job achieved by the past commission to bring these funds out of debt. Discussion on sustaining these funds now, without any drastic increases to homeowners. Jenson/Davis made a motion to approve a water rate increase, effective January 1, 2023, to \$7.10/1,000 gallons (from \$7.00/1,000), after the first 1,000 gallons which are included in the base rate; *and* a sewer base rate increase for commercial and residential properties of \$0.50 due to the lift station replacement projects being done. Roll Call: Jenson-aye; Davis-aye; Zietz-aye; Schreiner-aye ~ motion carried. Discussion on the city audits. Davis stated that a letter should be sent to our legislators, asking them to increase the maximum levy amount, established by law, which prohibits the ND State Auditor's office to do city audits; also to hire auditors for this department, as several ND cities are struggling to get their audits done. Johns is to draft the letter and present it at the next meeting. Discussion on garbage fund/appliance dump ground. Davis/Jenson made a motion to purchase and place "no trespassing" and "violators will be prosecuted" along with cameras at the dump area due to theft. Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried. Discussion on sales tax revenue vs. expenditures and the percentages received by the VCDC, park, infrastructure and water/sewer. Davis/Jenson made a motion to approve the 2023 preliminary budget. Roll Call: Davis-aye; Jenson-aye; Zietz-aye; Schreiner-aye ~ motion carried.

With no other items to discuss, Schreiner adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.

*****Minutes are subject to amendment and approval*****

Mike Schreiner
Commission President

Jenny Johns
Auditor