

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 Robert Baer
Commissioners Jason Fridrich and John Odermann

Telephone: None

Absent: Joe Ridl

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

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

To approve the February 4, 2025 meeting as presented with the removal of Community Development 7C - Dept of Water - Mann's Damn.

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY: Joe Ridl

SECONDED BY: Jason Fridrich

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes dated January 7, 2025

B. Approval of Accounts Payable, Commerce Bank and Checkbook

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

4. ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE**A. City Boards/Committee Appointments**

City Administrator Dustin Dassinger states several City board memberships have expired at the end of 2024. Administrator Dassinger states they would like to be reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Board, Aaron Johansen, Mike Schwab, Richard Haugen, Valerie Decker, and Zach Keller.

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich

SECONDED BY: Robert Baer

Approval the Planning and Zoning Board Appointments

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

B. Recall Election Update

Deputy City Administrator Linda Carlson presents the recall special election on March 11, 2025 needs to have approval of the Inspector in Charge and Absentee Ballots Officer; these positions were approved on January 21, 2025. Ms. Meduna had to step down due to family matters. Therefore, JoAnn Heiser will be the new Recall Election Absentee Officer. She has verbally accepted the position at \$21 an hour. Ms. Carlson explains the absentee ballot process which is located on the City's website.

5. PUBLIC WORKS

A. None

6. PUBLIC SAFETY**A. Fire****1. MOU between DSU and Dickinson Fire Department – Simulation**

Fire Chief Jeremy Presnell presents a MOU between Dickinson State University and the City of Dickinson for the use of their Hi-fidelity simulation lab. This agreement does not

charge for the use of their facility but does charge \$50 an hour for a technical fee and \$50 an hour for maintenance agreement.

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

Approval the MOU with Dickinson State University for the Simulation Lab.

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

2. Annual Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Jeremy Presnell presents the annual Fire Department report. He reviews the services provided by the Fire Department. Incidents for 2024 were at 2,102 and highest for incidents were fires. He states EMS and rescue calls make up most of the call volume. Chief Presnell states response times are still pretty good but there is an increase in time during the busiest time which is 7-9 a.m. as there is a lot of traffic which slows them down and also over the lunch time. The Fire Department is close to the 5.20 second response time. The busiest day of the week is Wednesday's. There were 9,525 hours of training in 2025. Also 1,157 routine inspections, 891 prevention activities, 25 Certificate of Occupancy. He reviews the departments activities. Chief Presnell states that language barrier has become quite a problem and concern at this time. He states there are 7 to 8 calls per month where there is a language barrier. He states Dispatch and the Police Department use language line. He states this is an issue that is not always easy to get through.

B. Police

1. Quarterly Police Department Report

Police Chief Joe Cianni presents the quarterly Police Department report. He starts off by discussing the language barrier in that they are experiencing with earbuds as they did get a grant for this. This is a translation into the body camera system. They have been struggling with a lot of telephone services especially for criminal services. He states this is constantly with every other day barrier. Chief Cianni reviews the fourth quarter dispatch has received 989 calls. The department averages 2,168 calls for service. The traffic stops have been a little bit down with 975 stops with 457 citations and 424 warnings. A total of 206 accidents. There were 472 arrests and normally do have some form of violence. There were 42 callouts for criminal investigations; 67 new cases each month and closed out with 48 cases per month. They are carrying about a 28-case load per month. Chief Cianni reviews the number of hours of training for the quarter. The animal shelter has had 124 calls for service. He reviews the SRO investigative reports which still shows a grand problem with tobacco and vaping along with behavioral health issues. The Community Services Coordinator has been very busy this quarter. There was a \$1,000 donation from Dickinson Police Association to the Thanksgiving dinner. Chief Cianni gives a shoutout for the support staff. He then shows a video of Shop with a Cop which services over 50 people.

7. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

A. Code Enforcement Officer II Job Description

Building Official Leonard Schwindt presents a Code Enforcement Officer II Job Description. He states this would be a promotional opportunity. Building Official Schwindt discusses the requirements for the position which include minimum of 3 years of experience, work with food truck licensing, contract work, manufacturing homes.

MOTION BY: Robert Baer

SECONDED BY: Jason Fridrich

Approval the Code Enforcement Officer II Job Description.

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

B.MOU for ND Department of Health for Manufactured Mobile Home Parks

Building Official Leonard Schwindt presents an MOU with the ND Department of Health for Manufactured Home Parks. This MOU would include mobile home parks along with campgrounds. The MOU has been reviewed by the City Attorney. Building Official recommends approval.

MOTION BY: John Odermann

SECONDED BY: Robert Baer

Approval the MOU with the ND Department of Health for Manufactured Mobile Home Parks.

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

C. DWR Cost Share Request for Approval Letter of Mann's Dam

Removed from Agenda

D. DWR Cost Share Request for Approval of Queen City Dam

Senior Engineer Kris Keller presents for consideration as letter of support for the North Dakota Department of Water Resources cost share application. The letter will authorize the City of Dickinson to submit the project for cost sharing with the DWR. The project is included on the 2025-2027 DWR Water Development Plan which increases the probability of successfully being awarded the cost share. The cost-share maximum is 80% from the DWR, and 20% from the City of Dickinson. Anticipated to be for **\$144,000**, and the City of Dickinson cost share is estimated to be \$36,000 for a total cost of \$180,000. This letter of support is a new requirement from the DWR in 2025. City Engineering staff recommends approval.

MOTION BY: John Odermann

SECONDED BY: Jason Fridrich

Approval the DWR Cost Share Request for Approval of the Queen City Dam.

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

E. DWR Cost Share Request for Approval Letter for Dickinson Drainageway

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek presents for consideration a letter of support for the North Dakota Department of Water Resources cost share application. The project is included on the 2025-2027 DWR Water Development Plan. The municipal cost-share is a maximum of 60% from the DWR, and 40% from the City of Dickinson. Based on the current project needs, we plan to combine the two City projects; Northwest Regional Pond and the Dickinson Drainageway, into one project. The cost-share application for the two combined projects is anticipated to be **\$510,000**, and the City of Dickinson's cost share is estimated to be \$340,000; for a study total of \$850,000. This letter of support is a new requirement from the DWR for 2025. The funding by Gross Production Tax (GPT).

MOTION BY: Robert Baer

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

Approval the DWR Cost Share Request for approval letter for Dickinson Drainageway.

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

F. FEMA Community Rating System Recertification

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek presents a National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System recertification submittal package. Since 2017 the application submittal and approval has provided our citizens a 5-percent reduction in their flood insurance premiums. Our classification is determined by our engagement in 19 categorized including Public Information, Mapping and Regulations, Flood Damage Reduction, and Warning and Response.

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

Approval the FEMA Community Rating System Recertification.

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

G. ESRI GIS Software Contract Renewal

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek presents aa contract with ESRI to provide GIS software for one year for a total amount of \$13,005. The City Attorney has reviewed this task order, and has no comments. This contract includes several software licenses. Users would be Police, Public Works, Engineering and at times others to access and edit features and attributes through both web and desktop maps and/or application.

MOTION BY: John Odermann

SECONDED BY: Robert Baer

Approval the ESRI GIS Software Contract Renewal.

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

H. Contract Amendment for Grant Writing Services

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek presents a task order amendment for KLJ Engineering LLC to perform grant writing services for 2025 for an hourly not to exceed amount as specified in the contract of **\$73,602.00**. The individual projects will fund the grant writing services which were included in the 2025 capital improvement project budget. City Engineering and Public Works staff recommends approval.

MOTION BY: John Odermann

SECONDED BY: Jason Fridrich

Approval the contract amendment for Grant Writing Services with KLJ.

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

I. 2025 Sidewalk Program Special Improvement District

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek presents a resolution for the 2025 Sidewalk Special Improvement District. This Resolution is to create the sidewalk special improvement district of the City of Dickinson and authorizing the improvements and assessments as a voluntary funding option for all citizens. The SID is payable over a 5-year period at an interest rate of 3.7%. Special assessments paid in full by October 1, 2026, will not be charged interest and no penalty will be levied for paying the special assessments early. Historically this isa five-year project program. The city has been doing this program for quite some time.

Commissioner Jason Fridrich states this is a voluntary program and has always been voluntary. Commissioner Fridrich is not opposed to a 10-year option.

President Scott Decker states whoever is left in the budget after the citizens use the funds, they are normally used to pave some of the city sidewalks. This program has taken care of the empty lots in the city. This is used outside of the CIP program.

Commissioner Robert Baer questions if more people would use the program should this be a 10-year option for assessment.

MOTION BY: Robert Baer

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

Adopt Resolution No. 05-2025 with a 10 year assessment instead of 5 year assessment.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-2025
A RESOLUTION CREATING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
202510-1 OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON AND AUTHORIZING THE
IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

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

J. NDSU Utility Easement Dedication

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek presents a watermain easement dedication located within SE1/4 of Section 32, Township 140 North, Range 96 West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, City of Dickinson, Stark County, North Dakota. The intent of the 20-foot watermain easement is for the City of Dickinson to take ownership of the newly constructed watermain and appurtenances which was constructed by North Dakota State University to supply fire and domestic water supply to the buildings within the property. By taking ownership of the watermain, the City will be maintaining the newly installed fire hydrant. Historically, there has been challenges from the lack of maintenance completed to privately owned fire hydrants. The city engineering staff recommends approval.

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich
Approval the NDSU Utility Easement Dedication.

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

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

K. APEX – Houston Dickinson Drainageway Task Order Award

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek a task order with Apex Engineering Group, Inc., in collaboration with Houston Engineering, Inc., to perform engineering services for the City of Dickinson's Project Number 202410, Dickinson Drainageway Project, for an hourly, not-to-exceed fee of \$6,700.00, as specified in the task order. Based on current estimates, the anticipated cost-share application for the combined projects is \$510,000, with the City's portion estimated at \$340,000, for a total study cost of \$850,000. The City Engineering staff recommends approval.

MOTION BY: John Odermann
Approval the APEX – Houston Dickinson Drainageway Task Order Award.

SECONDED BY: Robert Baer

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

L. Monthly Report

Engineer and Community Development Director Joshua Skluzacek updates the City Commissioners on the monthly activities in the Engineering and Community Development Department.

8. PUBLIC HEARING – 5:00 P.M.

A. Resume back to City Business – For Informational Purposes Only

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON AGENDA

Mr. Ryan Messano states it is an ominous sign that the greatest defender of free speech is not at the Commission meeting and that is Joe Ridl. So, this doesn't get attacked on free speech of American two weeks ago.

President Scott Decker states people are free to be free of Mr. Messano and don't have to listen to you. President Decker asks Mr. Messano to bring items before the Commission

that pertains to the City and that they can correct them. President Decker is not going to silence his speech.

Mr. Messano recommends critical thinking. The whole purpose of transparency of the City.

President Scott Decker states that live video is for the people that could not attend the meetings and this is a courtesy of the City. He states this room is hard to hear in and streaming is the courtesy and it has been provided since Covid and before that time the City did not have streaming and that Mr. Messano is not going to use the City as a platform.

Mr. Messano states the first reaction is hatred. He states the corrupt system would come crashing down if they knew the truth. He states President Decker should be ashamed of himself for silencing him. He states President Decker is going to be replaced and works are weapons and President Decker is going to lose. He states the right to speak is from God. Mr. Messano states that he has the right to say what is on his mind. He states the City's media is corrupt.

Commissioner Jason Fridrich asks Mr. Messano what this information has to do with the City. He states not to use your media publication to spew your worthless dribble.

Took a recess – 5:40 to 5:48 p.m.

Mr. Messano states there is freedom of speech and unrestricted free speech. People are interested in the truth that he tells. He states when he dies, he wants his conscious and God. He states to President Decker that he has no courage to be the Mayor. He states without the Mayor having courage he is not a man and without courage the Mayor is a woman and states that the Mayor needs to wear a dress.

Mrs. Tonya Yorgensen states Mr. Messano speaks about freedom of speech. She does not agree with his views and they are hateful and dangerous. She states these comments from Mr. Messano are not helping the City in any way. She states there is a point in time when you ignore something long enough you become complacent. She is asking the Commission to now allow Mr. Messano to speak at any other meetings and our community does not need this and we are better than this.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

A. None

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich

SECONDED BY: Robert Baer

Adjournment of the meeting was at 6:05 P.M.

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:

Dustin Dassinger, City Administrator

Scott Decker, President

Board of City Commissioners

Date: February 20, 2025