

The Mandan City Commission met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on November 17, 2009 in the Ed “Bosh” Froehlich Room at City Hall. Commissioners present were Helbling, Tibke, Gangl, and Jackson. Department Heads present were Finance Director Welch, Police Chief Bullinger, City Attorney Brown, City Administrator Neubauer, Fire Chief Nardello, Business Development Director Huber, and Engineering Project Manager Bechtel. Absent: Commissioner Serhienko, Director of Public Works Wright and City Assessor Barta.

MINUTES: *Consider approval of the minutes for November 3, 2009 meeting of the Board of City Commissioners.* Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Gangl seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval of the members present.

PUBLIC HEARING:

BIDS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. *Consider the following abatements:*
 - i. *Joyce Potter – Homestead Credit*
 - ii. *Patrick Hammerel – Homestead Credit*
 - iii. *Thomas Berger – Homestead Credit Abatement*

The Board approved the abatements as listed above.

2. *Consider for approval a Special Sunday opening for November 29 and December 13, 2009 for Mandan Eagles.* The Board approved of a Special Sunday opening for November 29 and December 13, 2009 for Mandan Eagles.
3. *Consider approval of monthly bills.* The Board approved of the monthly bills.
4. *Consider approval for out of state travel for personnel within the Engineering Department.* The Board approved the out of state travel for personnel within the Engineering Department.

Commissioner Tibke moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval of the members present.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Bismarck Mandan Development Association*
 - i. *2009 activity:* Russ Staiger, Bismarck Mandan Development Association (BMDA) presented a status update of the activities related to the calendar year 2009 activities. He alluded to the closing of the Bobcat Facility which has created a lot of employees without jobs. Efforts are being made to re-employ those people within the community as they close the plant on December 23, 2009. In terms of affecting the unemployment rate within the community, Staiger indicated that it appears it may be negligible. He stated that BMDA is working with the vendors that supplied Bobcat in the

past in order to continue a business relationship in the future with them in some other areas of the community. Staiger pointed out that during this time, many positive things were going on that probably have been overlooked. In particular NISC expanded and added 55 people. Thermal-Line Windows is currently expanding and proposes to add 20-35 people. Coventry is in the process of adding 90 jobs which will increase their employee status to 490 people by the end of the year of which 115 of those people are “telecommuting” – working out of their homes that include 16 communities in this area. Aetna is adding 50 jobs, bringing their employee ratio to 650 plus. They have 159 people telecommuting – from Fargo to Belfield that include 30 communities. Executive Air is doubling the number of their employees, going from 25 to 47 people. Staiger said that at the end of the year a report will be generated that will address the economic situation and how it has affected the Bismarck-Mandan community which will outline the trend and future projections.

ii. 2010 Work Plan: Richard Mower, Bismarck Mandan Development Association came forward to present the 2010 Work Plan. He stated there are a couple of activities from the 2009 Work Plan to address: (1) Increased communication with the economic development portfolio holder– BMDA will continue to work on this issue. The BMDA Annual Report will be presented that will include the Business Retention Report and Convention, Tourism and Retail Business Expansion and Annual Report. Mower stated that the 2009 and 2010 Work Plans are basically the same that cover five major points.

- (1) BMDA/Commission Communication
- (2) Industrial / Retail Development Site(s)
- (3) Business Attraction and Marketing Program
- (4) Business Retention and Expansion Program
- (5) Mandan Tomorrow

He stated that one of the projects worked on in 2009 was the Event Center Committee Project. In 2010, consideration will be given to the Mandan Tomorrow Plan which will involve working with Strategic Planning. Focus will be on an Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Committee of which will be incorporated into the 2010 Work Plan.

Commissioner Tibke and Mayor Helbling commented that they are pleased with the working relationship and communication efforts that have come forward from the BMDA.

2. This Item was removed from the Agenda: Tentative – discussion regarding possible transfer of former Mandan Jr. High building to the City of Mandan.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Consider approval of site authorization for Denise Schmalz (Comeau) at Five Nations Gallery & Gifts (from Nov. 18, 2009 to Dec. 9, 2009). City Administrator Neubauer presented a request for a site authorization for Denise Schmalz (Comeau) at

Five Nations Gallery & Gifts (from Nov. 18, 2009 to Dec. 9, 2009). Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the site authorization for Denise Schmalz (Comeau) at Five Nations Gallery & Gifts (from Nov. 18, 2009 to Dec. 9, 2009). Commissioner Tibke seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval of the members present.

2. Police Chief Bullinger presented information for an upcoming event scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2009. The Mandan Moose Lodge is having a family evening between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. They are hosting horse-drawn wagon rides from the Moose Club to the 700 block of First Street Northeast. The Police Department has been requested and will be providing escort services for the event.

3. Susan Beehler, a Mandan City resident, came forward and inquired about the joint agreement on the old junior high building between the City of Mandan and the School District. She stated that the newspaper stated there have been two meetings with city officials and she inquired who the city officials were. Mayor Helbling replied that Mr. Neubauer and Mr. Volesky have discussed the matter and that he is not aware of any City Commissioners being involved at this time. Beehler stated that this weekend, a craft fair is going to be held at the Community Center. She voiced concern that after this year, that event will be lost to Bismarck due to not having the Community Center available in the future for these types of events. She expressed concern about giving up community events created by the loss of the Community Center (to the School District). She inquired as to what the City plans to do about the scheduling of events in the future that have been held in the Community Center building.

Mayor Helbling replied that this matter has been a work in progress for over a year and he stated that he did not believe at the start of this process that the School District would have been interested in the Community Center.

Mayor Helbling agreed that there will be a need for an event center; however, financially it is not a consideration at this time. He clarified that the results of this decision came from the three public entities discussing what would be in the best interests for the community as a whole.

There being no further actions to come before the Board, Commissioner Tibke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. Commissioner Gangl seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion received unanimous approval of the Board and the meeting adjourned.

/s/ James Neubauer
James Neubauer,
City Administrator

/s/ Timothy A. Helbling
Timothy A. Helbling,
President, Board of City
Commissioners