

Legal Notices:

Your right to know

VELVA REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

April 21, 2025

7:00pm at 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-Estvoid Engineering; Heather Tudor – Velva Area Voice. Mark Johnson and Connie Bryant – Farmers Union Insurance.

*Motion by Keller/Davis to approve the minutes from the March 17 regular meeting and April 8 & 9 special meetings. R/C: All-aye; m/c.

*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. R/C: All-aye; m/c. (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, 1st District 60, Gooseneck 525.33,

Hawkins 1931.02, jjohns 170.40, Lenco 3400, Iwalter 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).

*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. Keller/Jenson made a motion to move the city's insurance business to Farmer's Union Insurance Agency with Mark Johnson in Velva. R/C: All – aye; m/c.

*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. The Commission rested on the matter.

*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.

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. R/C: Zietz, Jenson, Schreiner – aye; Keller, Davis – nay ~ m/c.

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

(1) 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. R/C: Davis, Keller, Jenson, Schreiner – aye; Zietz – nay ~ m/c.

(2)

(3) Discussion on the seasonal employee position. Jenson/Davis made a motion to appoint K. Prellwitz to the position at the budgeted wage. R/C: All-aye; m/c. 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.

1. 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** 5/01/2025

VELVA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

In Accordance with NDCC 15.1-09-08, 15.1-09-22 and 15.1-09-31 notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, the annual school board election will be held at the Velva School for the purpose of filling two (2) board vacancies by the expiration of two (2) terms. The candidates for this year's school board election are Lance Selzler and Melissa Haskins. In addition, the ballot will include the following, should the school board minutes be published in the official newspaper within a reasonable time after each board meeting? The polls will be open on the day of the election from 11am to 7pm at the Velva Public School. In accordance with NDCC 16.1-07 If requesting an absentee ballot, please contact Skyler Helseth at Velva Public School.

Skyler Helseth, Business Manager
Velva Public School District #1
701-338-2022
5/01-5/08/2025

City Meeting Continued from Front Page

on the first part of the dike as well as Lonnie Sather's yard which adjoins the dike. Sather, as well as Brard and Tracy Christianson are very concerned about their kids, grandkids, pets, and other residents who have children that live along that road and are scared that somebody is going to get hit by a car or truck going 40+ mph down that road because they won't have time enough to react if a child comes darting out onto the road after a ball or something. If travelers on that road are now driving on the dike and Sather's yard, there will be more consequences to deal with than they think. If that dike starts getting damaged in any way, then the Corps of Engineers will get involved because technically the city has no right to do anything to the dike without the Corps knowledge and permission. It was discussed that maybe the Sheriff's Department would patrol that area a bit more, among other ideas. The city will explore more options about how to reduce the speeding on that road immediately.

The Commissioners had nothing new to report for their committees

at this time. Mr. Schreiner had nothing to add for the police report either, as everything looked the same as previous months as far as hours patrolled and citations handed out.

For the City Engineers report, Mr. Julius mentioned that on April 17th, he brought Ryan Ackerman to Velva to go through the master lift station for the water treatment with himself and Kelly Jemtrud. He wanted to go through some things before Mr. Jemtrud retires. Mr. Julius also mentioned that the service line inventory is an ongoing thing still. There wasn't a huge response to the Engineers from city residents regarding their water lines and taking pictures of what their lines look like, etc. So in an effort to get a better understanding of what kind of lines are in place now and where, they will be going door to door this summer and surveying residents' water lines themselves. If you filled out the survey that was mailed a couple of times within the last year and got a letter back stating the picture quality wasn't good or perhaps paperwork was filled out incorrectly, you may be getting

another visit from the service line survey crew. Mr. Julius also stated that the city will coordinate a time soon with the city and the tree nursery to get the new trees planted since the weather has been pretty nice, and lastly Mr. Julius reported that the bridge project has been in the paper for bids again.

City Auditor Jenny Johns reported that the 2021-2022 audits are back, and the city is now in compliance with the state of North Dakota. Johns is now working on getting the 2024 book work caught up and done while it's still fresh in her memory. Johns also reminded the Commission that she is now getting the 2026 budget preparations started and they need to think about budgets for their committees. Commissioner Jenson mentioned he would like to see a budget started for the cemetery fund and keep a balance in there for repairs, trees, watering, and resetting headstones if possible.

Next on the agenda was the topic of keeping fluoride in the city's drinking water or not. In years past, it was mandated by the EPA (Environmental Protection

Agency) that cities had to have fluoride in their drinking water. It is not mandated any longer by the EPA and cities are now allowed to decide for themselves whether to keep it or not. Kelly Jemtrud mentioned that he does put fluoride in the drinking water for the city because he has a barrel of it, but the amount that he adds to the drinking water is not much at all. The commissioners put it to a vote. Commissioner Zietz made a motion to remove the fluoride from the cities drinking water. Commissioner Jenson to second the motion, motion carried with two no votes and three yes votes.

Since the weather is getting nicer and school will be getting out for the summer within a month, it's time to start thinking about hiring somebody to help the public works with keeping up with mowing, weed eating, etc to keep our city looking nice. Schad Prellwitz mentioned his daughter is 17 years old and looking for a summer job. She knows how to run a bobcat among other machinery. The position is for approximately 300 hours with it being full time

for part of May and all of June and then in July the hours will start to taper off since people will need to start thinking about going back to school. Commissioner Jenson made a motion to hire Schad Prellwitz's daughter for summer help. Commissioner Davis to second the motion, motion carried.

City wide clean up week is set for June 9 – 14th.

Lastly, the meeting ended with the approval of the 2nd reading of Ordinance #2025-01 Sec 20-21 (A). Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the Ordinance change of #2025-01 Sec 20-21 (A) Determination and Enforcement of Nuisance Violations. Commissioner Keller seconded the motion, motion carried.

Next City Commission Meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 7:00pm at the Velva City Hall. If you wish to be on the agenda for this meeting, the deadline is Thursday by 12:00 noon prior to the Monday meeting.

Velva area Voice

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

Ad and article submissions are due in our office by

5PM THURSDAY / 338-2599

vavads@srt.com

USPS 019-156

The Velva Area Voice / #3 North Main Street / P.O. Box 630 / Velva, ND 58790

Ph. 701-338-2599 / Fax 701-338-2705 / Email: vavads@srt.com

Office/Sales Manager Becky Cederstrom

Reporters Heather Tudor / Kathy Holte / Layout/Design DeAnna Frantsen

Published every Thursday at #3 North Main Street, Velva, ND 58790

Periodical postage paid at Velva, ND 58790, and at additional mailing offices.

A weekly publication from: BAG, LLC / 109 Main Street South / Minot, ND 58701

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Velva Area Voice / P.O. Box 630 / Velva, ND 58790

For subscription prices or more info, call 701-338-2599

Email: vavads@srt.com / www.nordaknorth.com

An award-winning member of the

