

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Decker called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were: President Scott Decker, Vice President Jason Fridrich
Commissioners Nikki Wolla, Suzi Sobolik and John Odermann.

Absent: None

3. ORDER OF BUSINESS**A. Youth Presentation**

Karen Goyne with SW District Health and Susan Westfall have been working with the Dickinson High School Health Science and Health Career classes. She is suggesting the City needs to be aware of these issues the students will be bringing to the Commission.

Kyle Brilz, Jaycee Frank, Sydney Binstock, Abigail Semerad, Jaydin Decker and Paige Jarrett present to the Commission that the biggest struggle is mental health. These students had a survey at the school and about 300 students took the survey and there were 82% of the students are stressed and 40% suicidal thoughts. The pandemic did take a toll on a lot student as working online for the students did somewhat poorly with their grades. They stated they do not feel that high school prepares them for the real world. They state there is only 3 school counselors and they do not have time to meet with all the students. They discuss how social media has taken over life and that 55% of the students spend 408 hours on screen time. They do not feel school administration is listening to them. Social media is unhealthy habit. They are asking for more activities downtown as this may stop parties, alcohol and drugs and may help those students that stay at home and play video games. They are requesting more activities for people in their own age group.

President Scott Decker questions whether these students talked to the school board and actually visits with them about intramural activities. These activities would be good for mental health and asks them to talk to Parks and Rec about more activities. President Decker states the City is working diligently on mental health issues that are affecting the City.

Commissioner John Odermann states these students did a good job in their presentation. He feels the City can do something for them and asks them to be part of the conversation. Commissioner Odermann visits about things to do in the community for the youth and how to structure those activities.

Commissioner Nikki Wolla states the youth need a voice in the community. They need to feel important and asks those students to rally the troops and to let the City know how they can help out.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states everyone whom is sitting there tonight has been in the same situation and they are listening to the students right now and their voice matters. This is a never ending goal post of missing out and when you do get to the goal celebrate it. Administrator Winningham visits about creating a youth commission and see what the vision is they have and to allow them to make decisions for the City. He states equality that all voices matter. He does thank the students for the presentation and intends on moving forward and to make up similar commission to Leadership Dickinson but not as stuffy as the commission meetings.

B. Downtown Square PIO- City Employee

City Administrator Brian Winningham discusses the need for a City PIO to connect all the information and media that needs to be produced to the citizens. Administrator

Winningham visits about the IT Manager and the informational officer and create a description for this position. He states most cities under 50,000 do not have this position.

President Scott Decker states it will be difficult to find someone who is confident and has a pulse on what is at Facebook, Snap Chat as that is what people are using. He would like to see a uniform message come from the City.

Commissioner John Odermann states the PIO should be more concerned with esthetics and what is important as this is the missing piece. The marketing piece. He would like to see someone out there selling the City.

President Scott Decker states it has to be someone that will benefit the City, Stark County and all of us. He feels keeping our City open and functioning through the pandemic has really benefited the City. He is hoping to bring a facility on how to house large events such as the oil conference.

Commissioner Suzi Sobolik feels the PIO could tie the City together and consistent marketing. She states so many people want to sell Dickinson but do not know what to sell. She would like to see a PIO create a platform to help foster information that brings people to the City. Commissioner Sobolik states a PIO should be tying everyone together.

Interim City Engineer states a PIO would be good in times of disaster and it would be helpful for one person to go to and reach out to the public.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states it takes 35 minutes to find the link to Dickinson on the CVB website. He states why they would want to link it to our website. He states the city's website needs some work but that is different than a PIO. Administrator Winningham states they will create a job description and bring it back onto a work session.

C. Police Department Reorganization

City Administrator Brian Winningham does agree with Chief Dustin Dassinger and supports the changes that he will be bringing forward. He would like to see the ability to get upper management the right to make decisions. He states the Police Department can handle very complex decisions on the ground to match any city. He states that the City needs to step back and look strategically where the department is going.

Police Chief Dustin Dassinger stated in December, 2020 a Captain retired and the Police Department stepped back and took a look at the administration, control, supervision and staff and what it was all made up of and where it will provide growth in the future. He states there will be future retirements and the Police Department would like to prepare for the next 5-7 years. He would like to take the open Captain position and leave it vacant and create two Lieutenant Positions which the department would have three Lieutenant then. He states Dickinson Public Schools have offered to pay for all three SRO officers 100% and may be asking for a fourth SRO officer once the CTE center opens. Chief Dassinger states this will be a \$55,000 cost savings. Chief Dassinger would like to look into the vacating the Captain position and hire the two Lieutenants and the budget would take a \$28,000 hit which is not accounted for in the 2021 budget. This change would create some opportunity to enhance supervision and allow the Lieutenants to take on some supervision of the training program. Chief Dassinger states the Police Department is very young department and eventually would like to add on a training sergeant. He was hoping in 2021 to hire two additional Lieutenants, vacate the Captain position and create a power shift with four additional officers in peak hours which is from 3:00 p.m. to early morning hours. Police Chief Dustin Dassinger has visited with Administrator Winningham and Deputy City Administrator Carlson and would like to move forward with these changes. He states the power shift would be a 12 hour shift. Chief Dassinger states the three Lieutenants would be divided up as such: 1 Lieutenant would be in charge of the non-sworn staff; 1 Lieutenant would be in charge of CIU, Drug Task Force, SRO and 1 for training. The

impact this year would be \$28,000 plus the \$55,000 that is cost savings from the Captain position. He states the power shift is not budgeted at this time and would like to add this into the future budget.

Commissioner Odermann asked what the budget would be for 4 officers.

Deputy City Administrator Linda Carlson states the \$56,000 plus 30% benefits which would be \$64,000 plus any new vehicles and equipment per officer.

Police Chief Dustin Dassinger states these employees would need guns and vehicles and this can be taken out of operating budget. He states most certainly and often times the bench is depleted at this time. Obviously the Police Department has had entire shift out of action for a period of time. There will be overtime at this time as the department is still dealing with medical leave, maternity leave and Covid along with vacations but we are meeting the minimum man power that the City needs and expected. The City's Police Department needs to move forward and continue to hire for the positions and hopefully with the adjustments made to the wage scale this will help. The city has been getting out and recruiting at job fairs. If the City does receive good applicants in 2021 than they would like to squeeze four additional officers but this could be difficult.

Commissioner Jason Fridrich questions what the City would do if a person came to apply with seven years of experience.

Police Chief Dustin Dassinger states if someone came and applied with this talent then he would run it by Administration but he states the department does have the authority to make that adjustment.

City Administrator Brian Winningham discusses the grade plates and feels some grade plates are out of the sequence of the wage scale. He feels these changes may need to be changed in the future. He will present these changes in the 2022 budget. Administrator Winningham discusses the three positions that will be paid by the school system. He states quality over quantity.

Police Chief Dustin Dassinger states at this time the SRO officers are paid by the City a reimbursed by the schools. SRO officers do anything from counselors, presentations, and assisting with security and chaperones.

Deputy City Administrator Linda Carlson states the SRO positions the school is paying for is also a highly paid Sergeant that they are paying for. Ms. Carlson state that they are paying for a higher officer so that a lower paid officer would be able to be hired.

HR Coordinator Shelly Nameniuk states adding the Lieutenants will add retention capabilities into the department for people to grow and have less chances of them leaving to another place.

President Scott Decker gets the general feeling the Commissioners would like for this idea to be brought forward for approval at the Commission meeting. The City can have a budget amendment at the appropriate time.

Police Chief Dustin Dassinger states on the money savings of the positions this will come out of the budget equally in 2021.

Commissioner John Odermann was questioning if items that were not listed on the agenda could be discussed.

City Attorney Christina Wenko states the City would have the requirement to adhere to the laws and it would be a good idea to have the Commissioners bring their ideas forward prior

to the agenda being advertised. Attorney Wenko states this would be for the public to view and transparency.

Commissioner Jason Fridrich states if it was up to him the City would not have work sessions at all.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states he does not like work sessions as they seem to be mini Commissions meetings. He suggests possibly doing them on a quarterly basis or to take a four hour day to discuss topics. He suggests to possibly have quarterly retreats which would be open to the public but more a collaborative meeting and would be abiding by open records laws.

Commissioner John Odermann states he is comfortable visiting about issues at the regular commission meeting but feels the conversations are limited when the City has time tables and they interrupt the flow of items being discussed. He feels this flow is the formality of the meeting at this time. He feels the work session would be more productive if it was less formal. He wishes the regular meeting was more informal.

President Scott Decker states this work session started out at a learning dinner but no one attended these sessions. Then this is how the work sessions morphed.

Administrator Brian Winningham states the work sessions provide the City with direction. He states the City is very adaptable and if this is not works best for the Commission it can be changed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

Adjournment of the meeting at approximately 4:05 PM.

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Rita Binstock, Assistant to City Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Brian Winningham, City Administrator

Scott Decker, President
Board of City Commissioners

Date: June 1, 2021