

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Decker called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

3. ADMINISTRATION

President Scott Decker states the initial reason for this meeting was to discuss the City Administrator resignation and request for severance. President Scott Decker asks Mr. Winningham if he is asking for severance. President Decker states the Commissioners need to visit further about the date of transition and decision. He would like to have assurance for continuance of Mr. Winningham to perform his daily duties.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states he is not seeking severance pay. He did commit to April 8, 2022 for termination and is prepared to continue his duties until that time.

President Scott Decker would like to be alerted immediately if Mr. Winningham cannot complete his daily duties, then the process would be stepped up.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states he feels it is prudent to maintain the timeline until that date. He states there is no formal recommendation for an interim. He will formalize his duties until April 8, 2022.

Commissioner Jason Fridrich states he would like to go into executive session to review the city administrator's contract, options and decisions. He does have questions for the attorney.

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich

SECONDED BY: Suzi Sobolik

To approve an Executive Session for City Administrator contract resignation and severance discussion pursuant to NDCC § 44-04-19.1(2) and 44-04-19.2 at 2:45 p.m.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
 Motion declared duly passed

MOTION BY: John Odermann

SECONDED BY: Jason Fridrich

To approve an exit of the Executive Session for City Administrator contract resignation and severance discussion pursuant to NDCC § 44-04-19.1(2) and 44-04-19.2 at 2:45 p.m.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed

President Scott Decker asks Mr. Winningham to reaffirm that he is not asking for severance pay.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states he is not asking for severance pay.

President Scott Decker states that transition of city leadership discussion to move onto a timetable and may need to expedite this process at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner John Odermann wonders if April 8, 2022 is an appropriate time for transition for the new person.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states this is unknown, and it is six weeks away. He states it is up to the Commission on how fast to move to find an interim person. He does feel this is a sufficient amount of time.

Commissioner Jason Fridrich asks Mr. Winningham if April 8, 2022 is the end date so he can start his new job on April 11, 2022.

City Administrator Brian Winningham asks if that the basis for this discussion. City Administrator Brian Winningham feels this is going to be the transition time. City Administrator Winningham indicates that if the Commission want to talk about things that are inappropriate we can do that as he has enough to share. City Administrator Winningham feels it is better for the City to continue with this timeline.

President Scott Decker to asks for one other commissioner and President to discuss with executive team of whom should be appointed for the interim. He would like this process to start on Monday. Personal feelings to have someone in place by the 15th. Discuss the process of hiring on the 15th and formulate a plan for full time.

Commissioner John Odermann states he would be willing to be on the committee.

Commissioner Jason Fridrich states this may need to be expedited.

Commissioner Suzi Sobolik feels naming someone in 2 weeks then it will be 2-3 weeks to work with Mr. Winningham. Commissioner Sobolik states Mr. Winningham has done a lot of good for the City over the past 1 ½ years and hopefully things go good from here.

Commissioner John Odermann states emotions are raw, and it is important for the Commission and executive team to stay positive and be a positive example and not forget all the good things that Mr. Winningham has done for the City and staff. Commissioner Odermann states he cannot imagine the weight of the situation and of the decision he has to make. He had led the City with kindness and empathy.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states it has been 16 months and states that he has worked for the best interest of the City of Dickinson. He states this was a challenge to come forward and to have the Commission come forward and harm him and ask to resign. He is hoping that the public sees this. He states he has done nothing to harm anyone. He states this decision was in the best interest of his family.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states he has asked for help and how dare a Commissioner grandstand and states that is wrong.

Mr. Winningham states he can make his resignation immediately but this is not how he lives his life. He asks for 3 small things everyday:

1. **Consider one thing to make Dickinson better each day.**
2. **Consider one thing to make your Department and teammates better each day.**
3. **Consider one thing to make yourself better each day.**

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: Jason Fridrich

SECONDED BY: John Odermann

Adjournment of the meeting at approximately 11:35 AM.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote... Aye 5, 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: March 15, 2022