



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

11/28/2023 - Minutes

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSION

The Board of City Commissioners met in special session on November 28, 2023, at 3:00 PM in the Tom Baker Meeting Room, City/County Office Building, 221 North Fifth Street, Bismarck, North Dakota. Commissioners present included Cleary, Connelly, Marquardt, Zenker, and Mayor Schmitz were present.

Call to Order

1. Consider recommendation of City Administrator to terminate employment of Charlie Jeske.

Administrator Keith Hunke provided an overview of the information he considered, the individuals he consulted with, and the findings of the City Ethics Committee which led to his recommendation to terminate the employment of Charlie Jeske.

Mayor Schmitz stated that the task of the Commission is to evaluate whether business ethics have been violated and to determine whether the conduct of Mr. Jeske is ethical or if there was a perceived violation of the ethics policy.

The group discussed at length topics relating to Mr. Jeske's performance including the Event Center Locker Room Remodel Project, the task of securing a facility naming rights sponsor, the etix contract and vendor-sponsored conference attendance, general contract management, and the alcohol vendor contract for events at the Event Center.

Attorney Jesse Walstad, addressed the Commission on Mr. Jeske's behalf.

Mr. Jeske addressed the Commission to provide his perspective on the topics listed above.

Commissioner Zenker motioned to deny the recommendation of City Administrator Hunke and to reinstate Charlie Jeske as the Event Center director in addition to creating a fact-finding commission, consisting of two commissioners other than Commissioner Zenker and a third other individual appointed by Mayor Schmitz with Direction to report back to the Commission at the January 9, 2024, meeting on progress moving forward with Mr. Jeske's performance and a plan to implement checks and balances relating to business practices and contract management and commissioner Marquardt seconded.

Commissioners Cleary and Connelly volunteered to be on the fact-finding commission.

Mayor Schmitz asked if it is up to the committee to address disciplinary actions and Attorney Amy Oster informed the Commission suspension, termination, demotion would need to be an action of the City Commission if it is a recommendation of the sub-committee.

Upon a roll call vote, Commissioners Marquardt, Zenker and Connelly voted aye.
Commissioner Cleary and Mayor Schmitz voted nay. M/C.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM.

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