

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2016**

CALLED TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Deiss at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located in the City Administrative Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Deiss, Council Members Kempf, Wiese, Niles and Uselman.

OTHERS PRESENT

City Administrator Brad Swenson, Chamber of Commerce Director Shirley Uselman, Chamber Board Members Wayne Brasel, Brandi Anderson, Joe Randall, Arlene Paulson & Paulette Ohm.

MEMBERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Wayne Wolden, Dean Uselman & Eric Osberg

CONVENTION & VISTORS BUREAU DISCUSSION

Brad Swenson gave an overview of what has led to this meeting of the City Council stating that back in November of 2015. There was a lot of confusion as to how this CVB Board should work as far as bylaws, agreement between City and Chamber, State Statute, etc. Brad invited City Attorney Jeff Pederson to the CVB Committee Meeting in November to talk about how this all works as far as how it was set up with the enabling legislation of the State Statute, City Ordinance creating the CVB, Agreement between the City & Chamber for management and the bylaws for the CVB Committee. Jeff also talked about quorums and duties of the Chamber Board and duties of the CVB Committee. From that there seems to be a lot of discussion and Jeff suggested that if there was confusion and dissatisfaction as to how things are working that maybe a couple representatives from the City Council, Brad Swenson and maybe a couple members from the Chamber Board and Shirley Uselman should get together to meet and discuss concerns and try to work them out. That meeting was held and from that it was decided that the City Council and the Chamber Board should talk about where the CVB Board will go into the future and what are the expectations. Brad turned the meeting over to Council Member Deb Wiese who gave a handout and reviewed the proposal to completely nullify the relationship between the City Council and the Chamber and create an independent CVB which incorporates a broad range of communities and organizations in Wadena. Deb went through background information, A Mission and a Vision, goals for the CVB, process to move forward, expected outcomes, and evaluations. There was quite a bit of discussion about pros and cons of doing that.

Wayne Brasel, representing the Chamber of Commerce, gave a proposal from the Chamber Board stating that the Chamber Board would like to see the CVB Committee eliminated and that the powers of that committee be transferred to the Chamber Board and they would take care of all the spending decisions, budgeting, etc for the CVB. Wayne stated that this group has functioned for 18 years and it seems dysfunctional at this point and time. He also stated that if the Chamber were to not be in charge of the CVB that they would also not be in charge of June Jubilee going

forward. Deb Wiese stated that CVB Meetings are very poorly attended and felt that that was the problem. There was discussion about an option to revamp the current committee purpose to what the makeup of the committee should be and what their mission should be.

Mayor Deiss asked members from the audience for comments.

Eric Osberg was present and stated that he was on the Chamber Board for 6 years, 2 of which were as President, he was also on the CVB Committee. He asked that the Council not make a decision on this tonight. He is concerned that doing this would have long lasting implications. He encouraged the Council to meet some more and try to get on the same page and work this out.

Wayne Wolden gave some comments stating that it seems like both groups want the same goal. A lot of good things happening. Wayne also said that Eric Osberg said it well. We don't have a lot of dollars to work with and it's better to be combined and do a combined effort than to be separated and that neither group would be very functional. He felt this would be an opportunity to change things to help make it work better.

Bruce Uselman, City Council Member, said that he isn't in favor of severing ties. He wanted to know why it is dysfunctional. He wanted to know if the City is micromanaging this. He said we need to respect each other opinions and ideas. What will this change really accomplish? Maybe we need to bring someone in to mediate this to help make the changes.

Don Niles stated that he didn't want to sever the relationship either. He feels we should continue discussions on what to do. If we want to revise to bylaws to make changes we should do that.

George Deiss stated that he liked what Eric & Wayne had to say and that the City and Chamber need to work together. If we separate it will create hard feelings in the community and feels we should continue to do discussions.

There was discussion about the need for a new mission statement. Should we be looking at bylaws for possible changes? Should we be getting documents from other cities on how they manage their Chambers?

Wayne Brasel asked what does the Council want the Chamber to do before another meeting.

George Deiss suggested that we have a committee of himself, Brad Swenson, Shirley Uselman, Jeff Pederson, Brandi Anderson & Deb Wiese to sit down and meet to talk about these issues. After they meet then come back to this full group and have some suggestions or recommendations. George also stated that he would reach out to other Mayors and possibly the League of MN Cities.

Brad Swenson stated that he would send out an email to this smaller committee to try to get a meeting set up within the next 2-3 weeks. Once that is done we will call a group meeting again hopefully sometime in March.

Dean Uselman thought he was hearing a lot of the same things just with different words and wondering if the Chamber should come up with a mission annually along with their budget.

ADJOURMENT

Motion by Niles, second by Uselman to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Don Niles also thanked everyone for their community service.

Upon voting Mayor Deiss, declared the motion carried. All members voting aye.

Bradley A Swenson
City Administrator

George Deiss
Mayor