

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING & EQUALIZATION BOARD MEETING

The City Council of the City of Volga, SD met for a regular meeting Monday, March 20, 2023 at 12:00 PM in the conference room of City Hall; President Ken Fideler presiding. Members present: Stacy Sahr, Kelly VanderWal, Matt Jaquet, and Doug Wermedal. Members absent: Randy Santema and Bev Cotton. Also present: City Administrator Michael Schulte, City Attorney Steve Britzman, Finance Officer Krista Larson, Deputy Finance Officer Ashley VanMaanen, Community Engagement Coordinator Lindsey Grabow, School Board Representative Clay Bastian, Brookings County Equalization Director Jacob Brehmer, Chris Nordquist with DGR, Senator Casey Crabtree with Heartland Energy, Deputy Jeremy Kriese, Sam Algood with the Volga Tribune, and Vickie VanderWal.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Motion by Sahr, seconded by VanderWal, to approve the March 20, 2023 Equalization and Regular Meeting agendas and consent agenda . All in favor. Motion carried 5 – 0. The consent agenda included the March 6, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, approval of Resolution #2023-15 Blend & Consume License – Ramirez, and approval of Resolution #2023-16 Blend & Consume License – Rangel.

RESOLUTION #2023-15 APPROVING BLEND & CONSUME LICENSE CITY OF VOLGA, SD BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with SDCL 35-1-5.5, prior authorization for persons to consume or blend alcoholic beverages on March 25, 2023 at the Volga Community Center under the name of Ramirez is hereby given. All such consumption or blending shall occur during the said event. Said property shall be considered for purposes of the Resolution to be the location of a special license and shall not constitute a public place as defined by Ordinance 145 of the City of Volga. Sale of alcohol beverages shall not be permitted at any time at the above described location. There shall be no consumption of any alcoholic beverage by any individual who is under twenty-one years of age. This permit shall commence at 12:00 AM on March 25, 2023 and shall conclude at 11:59 PM on March 25, 2023. Dated this 20th day of March, 2023. CITY OF VOLGA, SOUTH DAKOTA BY s/Ken Fideler, President, ATTEST: s/Krista Larson, Finance Officer.

RESOLUTION #2023-16 APPROVING BLEND & CONSUME LICENSE CITY OF VOLGA, SD BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with SDCL 35-1-5.5, prior authorization for persons to consume or blend alcoholic beverages on April 1, 2023 at the Volga Community Center under the name of Rangel is hereby given. All such consumption or blending shall occur during the said event. Said property shall be considered for purposes of the Resolution to be the location of a special license and shall not constitute a public place as defined by Ordinance 145 of the City of Volga. Sale of alcohol beverages shall not be permitted at any time at the above described location. There shall be no consumption of any alcoholic beverage by any individual who is under twenty-one years of age. This permit shall commence at 12:00 AM on April 1, 2023 and shall conclude at 11:59 PM on April 1, 2023. Dated this 20th day of March, 2023. CITY OF VOLGA, SOUTH DAKOTA BY s/Ken Fideler, President, ATTEST: s/Krista Larson, Finance Officer.

Annual Equalization Board Meeting

The Annual Equalization Board Meeting was called to order at 12:01pmd by President Fideler. Schulte and Brehmer informed the Council that no appeals were filed to the City or County but that Brehmer is requesting one correction to lower the original assessment value at 318 Kasan Ave.

Motion by Wermedal, seconded by Jaquet, to approve the lower assessment correction to \$74,600 for 318 Kasan Ave to the Assessor Books. Brookings County Equalization Director Jacob Brehmer explained the assessment process. The correction, recommended by the Equalization Department, lowered the assessed value of the home due to the condition of the interior of the home with a recent inspection by an assessor in the department. Due to the amount of parcels in the county, every parcel is reviewed at least once every seven years unless there is a building permit or other reason to review the property due to changes on the property. The Equalization Office must list an assessment of a property within a certain percentage range of market value of the property as required by state law. Neighborhoods of similar-like properties are established to analyze the market sales within the past few years, along with other factors and formulas, to establish assessment values. Due to the price increases in sales of residential, commercial, and industrial properties, many property assessments increased. An increase in a property assessment does not automatically equal a property tax increase; the tax levy is determined by the city in September which is applied to all properties within city limits. Schulte emphasized to the Council that learning about the assessment process provides a greater understanding of how assessments are established, how the market impacts assessments, and how state requirements are met. Many residents called the Equalization Office and City Hall with questions and upon learning the process and how assessments were established, Schulte stated that many people felt more confident, or at least gained a better understanding, after phone calls or in-person meetings discussing the decided assessment for their property as there were no appeals filed. All in favor. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion by Jaquet, seconded by VanderWal to approve the Assessor Books as complete and accurate. Additional questions can be directed to Schulte or Brehmer. All in favor. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion by Jaquet, seconded by Sahr, to adjourn the Equalization Board Meeting at 12:19pm. All in favor. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Regular City Council Meeting

Visitors, Times Items, and Public Hearings

Chris Nordquist with DGR attended the meeting via Zoom and explained the lowest responsible bid recommendation for the Electrical Transmission Tie project. Six bids were submitted for the project. Each bid included a base bid and an alternate bid that included the use of a number of ductile iron poles in the place of wooden poles as the supply cost is projected to be just slightly higher. Ductile iron poles are expected to have a longer life span. Nordquist and Schulte noted the low bidder, Key Contracting, Inc., made a clerical error on their alternate bid submission. Key Contracting did, however, submit the two lowest base bid overall. Due to the clerical error,

Key Contracting stated they would honor the base bid and allow a change order from wood poles to cast iron poles at no additional cost to the change order. Nordquist recommended that the council move to approve the original base bid amount and at future meeting approve a change order to include the use of ductile iron poles in place of the originally quoted wood poles for the original bid price of \$1,273,814.27. The change order would not be a dollar figure change but a supply material change.

Senator Casey Crabtree with Heartland Energy greeted the council and noted a recent successful legislative session.

Public Safety

Schulte stated a meeting is set for Thursday, March 23, 2023 for discussion with the Sheriff Stanwick and the SD DOT regarding pedestrian traffic safety measures on Highway 14 through Volga. Council members recommended inviting a school representative to the meeting. Various options and considerations were shared and will be discussed Thursday.

Community Development

No report.

Public Works

No report.

Parks, Recreation, and Buildings

Grabow gave an update on the Park and Recreation sign-up day and the hiring of seasonal staff. An adequate number of coaches have been found and the season looks promising. Council thanked Grabow for her work and introduction of various new activities to the program.

Electric

Motion by Jaquet, seconded by Wermedal, to approve the lowest responsible bid for the Transmission Tie project to Key Contracting, Inc. of West Fargo, ND in the amount of \$1,273,814.27. On roll call: Fideler, Yes; Sahr, Yes; VanderWal, Yes; Jaquet, Yes; Wermedal, Yes. Motion Carried 5 – 0.

The Heartland Energy Annual meeting will be held on April 13, 2023.

VanderWal, Jaquet, and Crabtree discussed electric vehicle charging stations for residential use. Future discussion will determine best practices and possible incentives for electric charging in Volga. Neighboring towns are in the process of implementing related ordinances. More research will be conducted by Schulte.

Finance and Economic Development

Motion by Jaquet, seconded by Sahr, to approve claims as presented. All in favor. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Vendor	Amount	Comments
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AFLAC	\$740.84	Premiums (March)
AGFIRST FARMER COOP	\$1,062.82	Feb Fuel
ARLENE GRUETH	\$12.60	Customer Deposit Refund
Banner Associates, Inc.	\$6,122.50	Engineering
BLACKSTRAP, INC.	\$2,099.11	Snow - Road Salt
BROOKINGS AREA UNITED WAY	\$30.00	Monthly Contributions
BROOKINGS CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE	\$9,572.32	Contract Law & Animal Control
BROOKINGS DUMPSTER SERVICE	\$10,136.19	Trash Services
CITY OF VOLGA	\$10,479.32	Utilities
CORE & MAIN	\$3,720.00	Iperl Meters 3/4"
CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$83.08	Water and Dispensers
DAKOTALAND FEDERAL CR.	\$1,558.19	Subscription, Supplies, Misc.
DAN OR TIFFANY RUNIA	\$100.00	Park & Rec Refund
DAVES WINDOW CLEANING, INC.	\$60.00	March Window Cleaning
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SER	\$480.84	LIEAP Pmt Return
DOLLAR GENERAL 410526	\$13.75	Office Supplies
EAST RIVER	\$10,712.36	2.2023 Transmission Service
EFTPS	\$1,381.89	Payroll Taxes
EFTPS	\$3,745.84	Payroll Taxes
EKERN HOME EQUIPMENT CO.	\$164,865.76	ERV Installation and Repair
ESCHAT	\$1,316.16	VFD - Communication App
FIRST BANK & TRUST	\$26,212.64	Shop Building Loan Payment
HEARTLAND ENERGY	\$5,834.00	Water Main Loan Principal
HEARTLAND ENERGY	\$398,585.39	2.2023 Transmission Service
JESSICA SCHMUCK	\$25.00	P & R Overpayment Refund
JOSH PRICE	\$50.00	P & R Overpayment Refund
KARIE MEDEIROS	\$176.19	Customer Deposit Refund
LOCATORS & SUPPLIES, INC.	\$88.97	Safety Glasses
LOWES	\$21.83	Shop Ceiling Fan Supplies
M & T FIRE & SAFETY, INC.	\$1,323.93	Air Compressor Service,Hypres Kit, Misc
MCLEOD S	\$52.27	Election Packet Materials
OFFICE PEEPS INC.	\$92.95	Pens, Sticky notes, Supplies
OLD TIMERS DAY COMMITTEE	\$450.00	Donation Reimbursements
PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCT	\$913.25	Payloader Repairs/Filters
ROBYN WORRALL	\$200.00	Customer Deposit Refund
SD DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$26,642.28	Feb Sales Tax
SDML	\$120.00	District 2 Annual Meeting (4 attendees)
SWEENEY CONTROLS COMPANY	\$1,551.20	Low Amp Shutdown/Lockout VFD Blower
US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	\$20,211.83	2.2023 Transmission Service
Valley Fibercom	\$439.93	Telephone & Internet Services
VALLEY FITNESS	\$211.34	Payroll Deduction Memberships

VOLGA POSTMASTER	\$412.56	March 2023 Bulk Billing
WAGE WORKS	\$28.62	Pre-Tax Payments
WESCO DISTRIBUTION, INC.	\$3,866.50	15KV 200Amp Junctions

Motion by Jaquet, seconded by VanderWal, to approve Resolution 2023-17, 2023 Election Judge Pay including the names of election workers and an alternate. All in favor. Motion carried 5 – 0.

RESOLUTION #2023-17 RESOLUTION APPROVING ELECTION WORKER PAY

FOR 2023 CITY OF VOLGA, SD WHEREAS, it will be necessary to appoint election officials in 2023, and WHEREAS, the fee paid to election officials shall be established annually by the Volga City Council. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Volga City Council, that for the year 2023, election officials shall be paid as follows:

Precinct Superintendent Kathy Heylens	\$15.00/hour
Precinct Deputy Cheryl Havrevold	\$14.00/hour
Precinct Deputy GayLinn Eckman	\$14.00/hour
Alternate Deputy or Superintendent	\$14/hour or \$15/hour

Passed and approved this 20th day of March, 2023. CITY OF VOLGA, SOUTH DAKOTA BY s/Ken Fideler, President, ATTEST: s/Krista Larson, Finance Officer.

Public Comments

Deputy Kriese noted that patrolling will be increased around the school to help reduce traffic violations before and after school. A focus has been placed on the no parking zone near the drop-off line; deputies have been issuing warnings.

Adjournment

Motion by Wermedal, seconded by VanderWal, to adjourn the meeting at 1:13PM. All in favor. Motion carried 5 – 0.

s/Ken Fideler, President of the Council, City of Volga

s/Krista Larson, Finance Officer