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VELVA REGULAR
COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 20, 2026 - 6pm
Velva City Hall

Velva City Commission meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Commission President Mike Schreiner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. R/c: Mike Schreiner – Commission President, Mary Liz Davis, Dave Keller, Ben Zietz, Gene Jenson, Jenny Helm – City Auditor; Emma Lavachek – Ackerman-Estfold Engineering, Trey Skager – MCSD, Heather Tudor – Velva Area Voice.

**Schreiner asked for a motion to accept the final 2026 election results from the County. Jenson/Davis made a motion to accept the final election results from the County. R/c: All-aye; m/c. Oath of Office/Organization of Commissioners: Helm asked that the newly elected and appointed officials read their Oath of Office in unison. Officials included: Michael Schreiner, Mary Liz Davis, Dave Keller and Emma Lavachek. All oaths were notarized.

*The commissioners discussed portfolios. Davis/Keller made a motion to accept the portfolios as presented, including: Schreiner – Commission President, Commissioner of Streets/Improvements and Finance/Revenue Commissioner; Davis – Finance/Revenue Commissioner; Keller – Vice President, Police and Waterworks/Sewerage Commissioner; Zietz – Commissioner of Waterworks and Sewerage and Police; Jenson – Commissioner of Streets/Improvements (including Cemetery oversight). R/c: All-aye; m/c.

*Motion by Keller/Davis to approve the minutes from the June 15 regular meeting and special meetings on June 15 and July 17. R/c: All-aye; m/c.

*Ben Zietz entered the meeting at

6:08pm. *Davis/Jenson made a motion to approve the bills paid and bills to be paid in the amount of \$123,515.02 and Payroll for \$54,671.78. R/c: All-aye; m/c. (Acme 645.51, Assured/MN 50, AFisher 119.99, BAG 409.58, Butler 102.48, CBourdeau 32.63, Circle Control 26,827.58, CircleSan 7828.34, DAG 123.75, 1stDistrict 60, Gaffaneys 159.80, GeneOs 550, Gooseneck 128.30, Gustafson 18,810, Hawkins 964.32, ImmenseImpact 812, JAnderson 94.99, McHenry County Aud. 20,325, Menards 518.67, Morellis 88.20, MouseRiver 1557.79, NDLC 1562, NSCCU 3187.23, 1call 17.40, Ottertail 3768.74, PJemtrud 450, Runnings 105.98, Swanston 681.51, TeamLab 800, VCDC 5,254.15, Library 5,254.22, Verizon 274.95).

President Schreiner asked about the city hall cameras. Jenson/Keller made a motion to rescind the updating of the city hall camera system. R/c: All-aye; m/c.

*The police report was in the packet for the commissioners reviewal. Schreiner presented the policing contract for 2027 with the county. Skager was in attendance to answer all questions. Skager stated the county has 10 sworn officers and cover 2,000 square miles. Keller stated his concerns with Velva paying more than Anamoose and Drake per capita. R/c: Schreiner, Davis, Zietz, Jenson – aye; Keller – nay. M/c.

Schreiner asked if anyone would like to attend the NDLC conference in Grand Forks starting September 16-18. Jenson and Davis to attend. Discussion on 3rd Street West and the email received regarding its condition. As it stands, the road would need to be brought into compliance if paved, by adding curb and gutter; a special assessment would need to be created. Helm is to look into the minimum standards for an improvement. Schreiner presented a longevity stipend possibility with Jemtrud's upcoming retirement nearing. Discussion on years, dollar amounts and retirement only options. Jenson/Zietz made a motion to table the issue for further review. R/c:

All-aye; m/c.

Davis had nothing to report. Keller had nothing to report, then mentioned two nuisance filled properties near his home. Helm stated that the McDowell house is to be addressed tomorrow; but we will look into the other one. Zietz stated that he will not run for office again in 2028 due to time restraints. Jenson presented a bid he received for Riverview Road. The bid includes a reconstruction using the city's recycled asphalt and water; the road will be finished using 4 inches of the recycle and 20 feet wide. Discussion on asking for a bid for 3rd St West as well. Jenson will add 3rd street and then have a special meeting.

*Jenson also asked for the commission to create a special assessment district on parts of the south side of highway 52 for a street reconstruction project. Discussion on options. Jenson/Zietz made a motion to start looking at a special assessment district to give homeowners options on potential costs for the improvement. R/c: All-aye; m/c.

Dave Dewanz entered the meeting at 7:04pm. *Lavachek presented updated numbers for the lead service line project, stating they could reduce it down to 1.9 million; with the city receiving the 66% loan forgiveness she applied for, totaling around \$623,000 – worst case scenario, pending the number of lead service lines. By 2027, 10% of the lines need to be identified with a plan of action. Lavachek also stated that Velva is in the next phase of the Mouse River levy improvements; she will keep the city posted as she will likely be on the design team.

*Helm asked for a 2027 preliminary budget meeting to be set; consensus to meet on Wednesday, July 29th at 6pm. Helm is to send out reminders. Jemtrud and Walter asked to increase PW Anderson and PW Fisher's wages by \$2/hour, as their 90-day evaluation saw no issues and their job performance has been terrific. Jenson/Davis made a motion to increase Anderson and

Fisher's wages \$2 per the 90-day evaluation. R/c: All-aye; m/c.

Introduction & Adoption of Resolutions/Ordinances: Schreiner presented Ordinance No. 2026-04 – Sales, use and gross receipts tax, after the passing of a 3% sales tax increase on the last ballot, Sec. 14-120. Sales tax imposed. Keller/Davis made a motion to approve the first reading as presented. R/c: All-aye; m/c.

Helm gave an update on the elevator. We have a different number, after Zietz gave a recommendation to find out who actually pays the property tax bill. However, this led to a dead end as well. Zietz asked if we could get the power turned off to the property. Helm will look into this.

There will be a public hearing for the highway 52 4 lane project, on Tuesday, July 28, starting at 5:30pm at the city hall. Any concerns can be addressed at this meeting.

Schreiner asked the Sheriff's department for a clarification on golf carts being driven in town. Skager stated that technically, they are not allowed at all. However, any ATV or golf cart needs to be licensed and insured with blinkers, tail lights, rear view and side mirrors and a horn to be on the road. The current ordinance also states that they must be driven by a qualified person, meaning a person with a valid driver's license. They are not allowed upon Main Street or any highway at any time, and they must take the shortest route from point A to point

B. Discussion on the current use of golf carts in Velva. Schreiner will meet with Dewanz and Helm to create a Facebook post and signs around town. No unqualified or unlicensed person shall drive upon city streets in the meantime.

*With no other business to discuss, Schreiner adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm. The next Commission Meeting will be Monday, August 17 at 6:00pm. If you would like to be on the next agenda, the deadline is Thursday at noon before a meeting. **Minutes are Subject to Amendment and Approval**

7/30/2026