

On November 12, 2024, a Special Minot City Council and Minot Park Board Meeting of the Minot City Council was held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall (10 3rd Ave SW). Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Tom Ross, Scott Samuelson

City Council Members Absent: Mark Jantzer

Minot Park Board Members Present: Justin Hammer, Cliff Hovda, Chelsea Kirkhammer, Perry Olson, Mike Schmidt

Minot Park Board Members Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Harold Stewart submitted a written report to the City Council.

ACTION ITEMS

MINOT PARK DISTRICT 1/2 CENT SALES TAX

President of the Minot Park Board, Perry Olson, introduced the item with the idea of changing some of the funding for the Minot Park District and presenting to the citizens of Minot the change in adding a 1/2 cent sales tax.

Elly Delauriers, Director of the Minot Park District, presented to the City Council the Indoor Facility Study, which was completed in 2021. In this study, the stakeholder meetings the top items that came out of that were:

1. Turf
2. Aquatics
3. Play
4. Courts
5. Ice

They also had public forums for community input. In January 2024, the Minot Park District held a board retreat. Their major discussion was about the idea of a Maysa Fieldhouse. The most fiscally responsible and feasible way to get there would be to add a 1/2 cent sales tax. It would be 30,000 square feet with space for two infields, a party room, a suspended walking track, restrooms, etc. Early estimates of the space would be \$17 million dollars. Visit Minot stated that 28% of the sales tax comes from outside visitors coming into Minot.

Elly also mentioned upcoming future projects for the Minot Park District. She highlighted the areas Minot Park Districts maintains within the area as well. Minot Park District believes adding a 1/2 cent sales tax would allow the Minot Park District to increase future projects and increase future economic impact.

Property tax relief would come from the Minot Park District, reducing their capped mills to 26 mills instead of 38 mills. The proposal would have the property tax reduction be a five-year reduction and be re-evaluated at that time with the hopes of reducing property tax even more. This would diversify the funding stream, but also it would be a calculated risk by going to sales tax funding as well. The Minot Park District is also looking into grant funding and other revenue streams.

The Minot Park District, in taking this calculated risk of moving some funding to sales tax, understands the importance of driving sales tax and economic impact. Elly discussed the need to bring in outside tournaments and promote the spaces the Minot Park District offers to outside teams. Some of the balance will be with community space and user groups. This would be a space that can be used in our area because it offers space during all four seasons. In the schedule of the space, it would be important to allow balance in this facility being a community space and user group space.

The Minot Park Board has a five-year plan, but this indoor space has been a priority of the public/citizens. The Minot Park District and Board would like to take this opportunity to bring this measure to a vote to see if this project can come to fruition. The role of the City of Minot in the process is more procedural in the sense that the City Council has authority over sales tax, but the Minot Park District does not. The next step would be directing staff to prepare a resolution. From there, the City Council would prepare an ordinance that would need to pass on two readings and work through some logistical issues.

The special election would be a city election, which would be a bill for the City of Minot. There might be the option of repayment from the Minot Park District when the sales tax is collected if approved. The estimated cost would be around \$11,000.00 depending on polling locations and participation.

The motion to direct staff to put together a resolution for the next Regular City Council meeting agenda was initiated by City Council Member Pitner, seconded by City Council Member Blessum and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Tom Ross, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

The resolution for this would require a super majority vote of the City Council, which would be a vote of five. The City of Minot will be presenting an option of a 1/2 sales tax for public safety also. The decision needs to be made if there are two separate measures on the ballot or if there is one measure with a full cent sales tax on the ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 pm was initiated by City Council Member Blessum, seconded by City Council Member Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Tom Ross, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

ATTEST:

Mikayla McWilliams
Mikayla McWilliams, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Thomas Ross
Thomas Ross, Mayor