

JAMESTOWN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 27, 2009
OFFICIAL MINUTES

The special meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Liechty at 12:00 Noon.

Roll Call showed the following members present: Mayor Liechty, Council Members Kourajian, Parisien and Schulz, City Engineer Schwartzkopf and City Administrator Fuchs. Absent: Council Member Nygaard and City Attorney Dalsted.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the unavailability of motel rooms during the weekend of May 1 & 2, 2009, due to conflicts with the National Guard mobilization in the city to assist with the 2009 flood fight and the scheduled USA State Wrestling Tournament.

Pam Fosse, Civic Center Director, informed the City Council that the tournament draws approximately 500 wrestlers and up to 4,000 spectators to the Civic Center. In addition, the rental of the building generates \$750.00 in rental income and approximately \$6,500.00 in concession receipts.

Randy Martin, Jamestown Wrestling Association President, stated that the tournament is a qualifier for the wrestlers to reach the regional and national tournaments which would be coming up shortly. He further stated that Grand Forks had been attempting to attract the tournament for a number of years, had offered incentive funding to get the event, and he was concerned that cancellation in Jamestown may result in losing the tournament.

City Attorney Dalsted seated himself.

Lt. Colonel Boespflug, from the National Guard, stated that there were close to 300 guard members in town, supporting the communities efforts with the flood situation, and would be displaced from their current motel housing due to the tournament. He also indicated the flood effort was taking its toll on the soldiers as well as their employers who were doing without the services of their employees while on duty assignment. He also stated that to date the State of North Dakota has spent \$130,000.00 in lodging costs and \$110,000.00 in meals for the troops which is a significant economic stimulus to the city economy.

Major Himes, with the Corp of Engineers, indicated that approximately 40 individuals from his agency would also be displaced as a result of the room shortage.

City Engineer Schwartzkopf informed the Council that there have been additional concerns with the sanitary sewer system in the past few days and it may become necessary, as river flows increase, to re-ramp and use additional volunteer and National Guard support. He stated it may become necessary to request up to a 60-70 person guard team to assist in additional diking needs.

When questioned regarding room availability for the upcoming College graduation, Phyllis Thompson from the Gladstone Motel indicated that although a number of the motels are fully booked their still remains room availability in others.

Randy Martin stated the tournament sponsors and workers will support any decision the Council makes regarding the tournament as they fully understand the priority of the National Guard and may be requesting support from the City to get the tournament scheduled into the city for next year.

Mayor Liechty moved a Resolution to direct the Civic Center to cancel the current contract with ND Freestyle Wrestling scheduled for May 1-2, 2009, due to the 2009 Flood Emergency. Seconded by Council Member Parisien. Roll Call No. 1 showed: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. Carried.

Council Member Parisien moved to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Schulz. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

ATTEST:

JEFF FUCHS, City Administrator

APPROVED:

CLARICE LIECHTY, Mayor