

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SESSION – February 22, 2017

The Foley City Council held a workshop on February 22, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the Foley City Hall.

Members Present: Mayor Gerard Bettendorf, Councilmembers Jeff Gondeck, Gary Swanson and Brian Weis.

Members Absent: Councilmember Kris du'Monceaux

Others Present: Sarah Brunn - City Administrator, Mark Pappenfus - Public Works Director

S.E.H. Staff Present: Jon Halter – City Engineer, Heidi Peper – Community Development Specialist, Jessica Hedin – Wastewater Engineer, Jeff Ledin – Water Engineer and Kevin Young – Water Engineer.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to approve agenda. Motion carried, unanimous.

Discussion on City Infrastructure Needs

Jon Halter, City Engineer, introduced the staff present at the meeting and gave an overview of the presentation and points of discussion for the evening.

Jessica Hedin, wastewater specialist, reviewed the existing wastewater treatment system of the Birch and Golf Ponds. Hedin also reviewed the permit renewal process. Staff is closely watching the permit renewal as it relates to phosphorus, sulfates and flows. Flow capacity of the current ponds for 2016 is 92%. The impact on the I/I project and how it relates to flow of the existing ponds were reviewed. Flow capacity related to I/I has decreased from 60% in 2014 to 28% in 2016. The impacts of significant industrial users were discussed. There was discussion on other significant users. Hedin indicated only one business in town, PouchTec, is considered a significant user.

The existing permitting process with MPCA is anticipated to prohibit sewer extensions in the city. The city would need to consider a facility plan to review expansion options and to get cost estimates for expansion. Halter indicated a facility plan is a good option to consider, but the City may want to wait until they get the final permit from the MPCA unless a specific project determines the need to do it sooner. There was discussion on if the City is tied to a specific plan and how the permitting process works. There was discussion on what a sewer extension means. The facility plan process was reviewed and deadlines for funding opportunities were discussed. The current condition of the ponds was discussed. The discussion concluded with waiting for the permit renewal to complete and then bringing back scoping documents on a facility plan back to the City Council in the next few months.

The water system was then discussed. Kevin Young reviewed the existing system of three wells, a storage tank (water tower) and distribution system. Treatment at the wells was reviewed. The City currently complies with drinking water standards and aesthetic drinking water standards. Population projections were used to determine future water demands. Adequate

storage is a current concern of the city's water system. The treatment process and its effectiveness was also reviewed with a pilot study.

Based on the studies and evaluation a few recommendations were made. To address supply, a new well is recommended at the existing site of well #5. A treatment recommendation is being made for a water treatment plant to address iron and manganese. Storage is recommended in constructing an additional tower or storage tank and rehabilitation of the existing storage tank. Distribution recommendations include replacing 4-inch water mains. The pros and cons of water storage were discussed as well as potential locations. Costs of the proposed capital improvements were discussed. The current concerns of the existing system were reviewed by Jeff Ledin and why treatment and capital improvements are necessary in the system.

Heidi Peper gave an overview of funding sources for potential projects including USDA Rural Development, Public Facilities Authority and Green Project (GPR). Peper also reviewed some potential economic development grants as economic development is necessary and lack of expansion on system could prohibit growth of tax base. Peper reviewed the process of being put on the project funding list. There was discussion on affordability. Regionalization was also discussed with cities like Gilman.

Wastewater costs were briefly discussed. The logistics of the permit and limits were also discussed.

Other Business

Bettendorf asked for the council to motion to support the "hands-free" bill co-authored by Representative Jim Newberger. Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to draft a letter of support to send on behalf of the city. Motion carried, unanimous.

Gondeck indicated he will be attending the newly elected officials conference this weekend.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Weis, to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

Sarah A. Brunn, Administrator