

CITY OF FOLEY MINNESOTA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – February 16, 2016

The February 16, 2016 City Council meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. at City Hall. Members Present: Mayor Dave Mosford, Council members Kris du'Monceaux, Brian Weis, Leslie LeCuyer and Gerard Bettendorf.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion made by Bettendorf, seconded by Weis to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

Mayor Mosford welcomed the audience and asked if anyone wished to address the Council.

Roger From, 631 6th Avenue spoke about behavior and called for peace at the meetings, peace in city hall and peace in the community.

Jim Moshier, 320 Birch Drive inquired about the 4th Avenue open house scheduled for 2-17, who received notices and why it appeared in the paper. Mayor Mosford asked the City Engineer, Jon Halter to speak on the meeting notice and purpose. Halter indicated that all of the property owners on 4th Avenue N. downtown and on Dewey; Stoney Brook to 3rd Ave. were mailed a letter 3 to 4 weeks ago. The project is in the early stages of construction planning and we want to hear concerns on any issues such as business access in order to take them into consideration. The discussion is to keep the Council, engineer and community moving the project progressively forward together.

Motion by LeCuyer, seconded by Bettendorf to approve the consent agenda items: February 2nd minutes & Foley Firefighter's Relief Association Permit for exempt Gambling. Motion carried.

Mayor Mosford opened the public hearing on the proposed property tax abatement in the Industrial Park. Barbian indicated the abatement is in relation to Silt Sock expanding into Foley and introduced Jessica Cook, with Ehler's & Associates. Jessica Cook, Finance Specialist provided an overview covering the following: Silt Sock plans to construct a production facility calling for the establishment of an abatement district which is the purpose of the public hearing. Previously a tax incremental financing district was created. The abatement is a partial amount of the revenues to be collected by the City after the tax incremental financing district expires. During the abatement period other taxing jurisdiction will receive the standard amounts. Barbian added that the facility planned is 60,000 square feet with taxes of approximately 100K/year, employing between 8 and 15 people. Mosford asked for additional comments or questions from the audience or Jason Alderink, a company owner. Alderink indicated he had none at this time. Mosford called for public comments and hearing none closed the public hearing.

Mosford asked the Council if there were comments or questions on the project or issue under consideration. Motion was made by LeCuyer, seconded by duMonceaux to approve Resolution 2016-6 Approving Property Tax Abatement for the Silt Sock Inc. project. Motion Carried.

Mayor Mosford opened the public hearing on the request for a Variance by Silt Sock. Barbian provided an overview of the variance which is requesting authorization to construct 24 parking stalls for the 60,000 square foot facility. This is due to most of the structure being used for storage and that 8 to 15 people are expected to work at the facility. Barbian further indicated that the Planning Commission reviewed the request and is recommending the variance be granted.

The findings & Order document in the Council packet was referenced. Jason Alderink spoke about City Ordinance stating that the required parking be no less than 8 stalls plus 1 for each two employees at maximum employment. Jason indicated this is exceeded in the plan and he sees no need to go any more than the 24 stalls shown. Alderink then reviewed the site plan approval conditions looking for confirmation that the latest plans met City acceptance. The five items were discussed and noted as meeting code provided the City Engineer review and approve the remaining storm water item of the pipe depth. The project construction plans and building permit is the next step in the process and are to be issued by the Building Inspector.

Mosford asked for additional public comments on the variance request. He inquired if anyone wished to speak again and hearing no one closed the public hearing.

Motion made by Bettendorf, second by LeCuyer to pass Resolution 2016-6 Approving Variance Request Silt Sock Inc. Project. Motion Carried.

Mosford then opened the 2016 Street reconstruction project of 4th Avenue North. Jon Halter, City Engineer covered a memo sent in the Council packet. An overview of the project was provided and feedback requested on the type of lighting and pole being considered as well as a direction on how to approach the pavers at the Brickhouse. Discussion followed.

Bettendorf expressed that the existing lights are sufficient and changes will result in more money being spent which is not necessary. He used Christmas decorations as an example of additional expenditures. du'Monceaux indicated that it was previously decided to include lighting and the discussion is to decide on the type of lighting. LeCuyer stated that including a nice light plan has aesthetic value adding to the overall project value of the street reconstruction.

Motion made by LeCuyer, seconded by duMonceaux to authorize staff to include light design number one in the project specifications. Motion Carried with Weis and Bettendorf voting no.

The engineer then brought up the pavers at the Brickhouse along 4th Avenue to see if the Council wished to replace with concrete sidewalk as the balance of the project is proceeding or salvage, reinstall and work toward an assessment agreement with the owners? Jim Mosher indicated this was consistent with when the pavers were first installed and if the pavers are reinstalled that a contractor installation should be required. duMonceaux indicated that she would like input from the owners. LeCuyer stated the Bruno's previously indicated a preference for pavers but perhaps a more uniform design of some type for the intersection could be agreed to by the owners and Council. Mosford inquired if the Engineer had enough information to relay the Council preference for a uniform use of concrete at the intersection. Halter indicated his intention is to meet with the owners to go over and bring back to the Council.

Department Reports:

Police Chief McMillin reported that there were 130 calls so far in February with a couple of larger cases being investigated. There are also increased speed complaints on Hwy 23 and 25 so more monitoring will be occurring to slow people coming to and thru town.

Mark Pappenfus, Public Works Director reported that staff is working on general maintenance items in the department. The ice skating rink is being flooded and will continue to be kept open as long as weather allows.

Jon Halter indicated that the 4th Avenue hydrology report was completed with the state indicating the cost split would be 14% City and 86% County, it had been estimated at 30/70. That the County had approved the variance for the side walk and street to be rebuilt similar to what is currently in place and that it will be advancing to MNDOT.

Attorney Ripple indicated that there has been some progress with the County agreement on 4th Avenue and Dewey which will hopefully come to a close soon.

Barbian referenced the LGA article and stated that the Board of Review is scheduled for April 19th. Also mentioned was the PFA loan programs being researched for 4th Avenue and Dewey which offers a low interest rate. Other possible financing options were also being looked into.

Mayor Mosford asked for Open Forum Comments. None were made. No old Business. Under New Business Bettendorf inquired about Caucus day meetings. It was noted that public meetings were to be done by 6:00 on Caucus day and the time would need to be moved up. It was set for 5:00. There were no Mayor communications.

Mosford then moved the meeting to closed session to conduct the Administrator evaluation.

The Council reconvened into open session at 7:40. The Council discussed the job performance of the City Administrator and set a follow up discussion for the April 5th meeting.

Motion made by Bettendorf, seconded by Weis to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried.

Robert Barbian, Administrator