

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – February 4, 2020

The Foley City Council held a regular meeting on February 4, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. at the Foley City Hall.

Members Present: Mayor Gerard Bettendorf, Councilmembers Jeff Gondeck, Rosalie Musachio Gary Swanson and Jack Brosh.

Members Absent: None

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Consent Agenda

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Brosh, to approve the consent agenda, which includes the following:

- Approve minutes of January 7, 2020.
- Approve audit contract with Schlenner & Wenner for reporting years of 2019-2021.
- Adopt Resolution #2020-03 Accepting Donation.
- Accept resignation of firefighter Nathaniel Lease.
- Accept resignation of Brady Akerson, part-time police officer.
- Approve hiring of Raul Da La Cruz for part-time police officer position.
- Approve payment of bills paid for by checks #51918 - #51981.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Novel Energy Solutions

Eric Einan was at the meeting to give an overview of the community solar program. Einan indicated this would be to subscribe to a new garden that is being proposed very close to the city limits of Foley. Brosh asked about the amount of acreage to produce one megawatt and it was indicated about 6-7 acres of property. Einan indicated this program is different than others in that there is less of a commitment where you can get out after 10 years or choose to remain in it for 25 years. Some estimates were presented to the council on potential savings. The next step would be to consider a consent form pulling numbers from actual usage and get a better handle on potential savings.

Mayor's Comments & Open Forum

No one spoke

Department Reports

Police Chief Katie McMillin reviewed the monthly law enforcement report and activities of the police department. Fun with Police will be held on Feb. 13. McMillin also updated the council on a new records system being required by the state, a large-scale training drill and monitoring of the coronavirus in China.

City Engineer Jon Halter presented a proposal for a water tower inspection and repair. The proposal for inspection is estimated at \$14,320 which includes bid preparation for painting and repairs which we will recommend in a year or two. There was some brief discussion on a timeline for additional storage and where we are at with funding. Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to approve the proposal proceeding with the inspection. Motion carried, unanimous.

Halter then presented a proposal for additional flow monitoring and smoke testing as part of the inflow and infiltration on the city side of infrastructure. The total proposal is estimated at \$48,360 and would be paid for by sewer funds. City staff suspects some significant leakages occurring and this flow monitoring should help identify to reduce our treatment costs. Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to approve the proposal. Motion carried, unanimous.

Halter also indicated the trail plans for Highway 25 are through some of the approval process and hopefully will be on the next council agenda to authorize a bid process.

Public Works Director Mark Pappenfus updated the council on the activities of the public works department. Pappenfus requested the council's permission to dispose of the old play structure at Lion's Park. Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to approve soliciting quotes and authorizing disposal. If no quotes are received staff is directed to take it down and dispose of it. Pappenfus also presented a proposal for replacement on the slide and swing set at Holdridge Park. There was discussion on the existing equipment and grant opportunities possibly for it as it's not in the current budget. Pappenfus also updated the council on a structurally deficient bridge in town and a future project that will need to occur in the future on 3rd Avenue/Highway 23.

Fire Chief Mark Pappenfus indicated he will be presenting the disbursement for matching funds on the FEMA grants for fire equipment at the next meeting. Pappenfus also indicated that he is intending to apply for another FEMA grant for additional fire equipment and the city would be responsible for a 5% match if received. Brosh asked about staffing levels of the fire department.

City Administrator Sarah Brunn updated the council about a public hearing being held next week regarding the county solar garden ordinance. Brunn and Councilmember Gondeck have attended prior planning meetings regarding the installation of solar gardens within the urban growth boundary established by the Benton County Comprehensive Plan. Brunn requested council to attend the public hearing being held on Feb. 13 and also direct staff to submit comments in writing. The council directed Brunn to draft a letter to be signed by the mayor and provided to councilmembers who will be attending.

Brunn also provided an update regarding upcoming election training to prepare for the first presidential primary election to be held on March 3. Brunn also asked for council direction on assessing penalties on water/sewer bills on Feb. 29. This would follow the current city ordinance and help prepare residents and business owners for change in water/sewer billing frequency. The council directed staff to proceed but first provide notice of this change on social media, website and in the Benton County News.

Old Business

Brunn updated the council on being invited to the Capitol on Thursday, Feb. 6 to participate in a media event for the kick-off of the session. The Coalition of Greater MN Cities has requested Foley to present on our wastewater project encouraging funding of the state programs. Brunn also provided the council with a lobbying proposal in order to push our \$10 million bonding request at the state level. Bettendorf indicated support of the lobbying proposal, Brosh indicated concern over spending \$15,000 on the services. The councilmembers discussed how crucial funding is to moving forward our project. Motion by Musachio, seconded by Bettendorf, to approve the proposal and contract. Gondeck, Musachio, Bettendorf, Swanson – aye. Brosh – nay. Motion carried.

Motion by, seconded by, to adjourn. Motion carried, unanimous.

Sarah A. Brunn, Administrator