

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – May 5, 2020
HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Foley City Council held a regular meeting on May 5, 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 Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to approve the agenda. Swanson – aye, Brosh – aye, Musachio – aye, Gondeck – aye, Bettendorf – aye. Motion carried, unanimous.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approve minutes of April 7, 2020
- Adopt Ordinance #450 – Council Salaries – previously approved but not in effect until 2021.
- Approve payment of bills paid for by checks #52066-#52185.

Swanson – aye, Brosh – aye, Musachio – aye, Gondeck – nay, Bettendorf – aye. Motion carried.

Discussion on Foley Municipal Pool

City Administrator Sarah Brunn indicated Adam Foss and Jesse Roehl submitted comments in support of continuing with opening the pool and the Foley Fun Days festival. If Fun Days is not held in June, they asked for consideration of another day later in the summer.

Brunn gave an overview of the discussion from the last meeting. Musachio indicated concerns with meeting social distancing guidelines at the pool. Swanson indicated support to open up if guidelines conclude it can be done safely. Brosh asked if the decision could be postponed and if another meeting could occur later this month to determine if the pool could open after the governor makes a decision on stay at home order. Musachio indicated support with a second meeting. Mark Pappenfus, Public Works Director, indicated staff could work with that timeline. Motion by Gondeck to table a decision until mid-May if the stay at home order is lifted, if not the pool will close. There was discussion on unemployment, staffing and lesson revenues. The motion was seconded by Swanson. The mayor clarified the motion for Musachio. Gondeck – aye, Swanson – aye, Brosh – aye, Musachio – aye, Bettendorf – aye. Motion carried.

Discussion on Foley Fun Days

There was discussion on Fun Days and an updated was provided by Juanita Beauchamp, Chair of the Foley Civic Group. Brosh asked if postponing was an option and Beauchamp indicated a preference to cancel and not make any commitments on postponing. There was discussion on the risk of how soon the event would occur and the amounts of people it would draw from all over the place. Motion by Musachio, seconded by Swanson, to deny use of the streets for the festival (ultimately cancelling) Foley Fun Days. Brosh – aye, Swanson – aye, Musachio – aye, Gondeck – aye, Bettendorf – aye. Motion carried.

Discussion on Closing Streets for Tractor Day and Graduation

High School Principal Shayne Kusler was on the call and gave an overview of the request for closing Penn Street for a tractor day parade on May 22 and graduation on May 30. Kusler reviewed the tentative plans, but indicated they would comply with any state orders or guidance that would be provided in the future. Staff indicated no concerns with the closure as long as compliance with the state orders occurs. There was some discussion on the locations of spectator cars and maintaining social distancing. Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to approve the closure for both dates. Gondeck – aye, Musachio – aye, Brosh – aye, Swanson – aye, Bettendorf – aye. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Chief McMillin indicated a written report was provided prior to the meeting. McMillin presented the monthly call report. Gondeck asked how social distancing violations are handled and Musachio questioned violations of the state orders. McMillin indicated the department is educating, which was the direction provided by the governor.

City Engineer Jon Halter updated the council on the trail project and alley repairs. Gondeck questioned if the alley would still be covered next year if the repairs do not work and Halter indicated it would be. Pappenfus indicated they have stressed how the city council must be satisfied with the outcome of the project.

Mark Pappenfus, Public Works Director updated the council on the activities of the department and also indicated the old play structure at Lion's is almost gone. Pappenfus also indicated staff could open parks for playground and open-air structure use at your own risk based on advice from the League. The council agreed to sign and proceed with this change. The council was in agreement that bathrooms should remain closed. Pappenfus requested two summer help and also permission to proceed with parking lot maintenance at the fire hall and street maintenance on Penn Street/County 43 as the budgeted street maintenance accounts allow. The council agreed to the maintenance projects per the budget.

Fire Chief Mark Pappenfus presented information that does allow for some fire training to move ahead if they can abide by social distancing guidelines. Pappenfus also requested if fire helmets can be taken by existing firefighters as new helmets were recently purchased.

City Administrator Sarah Brunn requested direction on how to handle the parking surfaces ordinance enforcement. The council requested letters to be sent but to hold off on any prosecution. The council also directed staff to hold off on any shut-offs for now, the council will need to decide on late fees at the next meeting. Brunn also presented some ideas regarding a re-opening plan, which includes phased re-opening and installation of a plexiglass shield on the front counter. The council indicated support with phasing re-opening once it is allowed in order to balance the safety of both staff and the public. Brunn also gave an overview of some budget concerns if tax collections are lower and with additional needs to handle the COVID-19 pandemic. Brunn has asked the department heads to re-evaluate purchases to make sure only essential are moving forward at this time until we get a better handle on the long-term effects. Some of the council indicated we may need to hold off on equipment purchases in the future.

Old Business

Brunn indicated the conference call with the governor's office on the wastewater project went well. Brunn stressed it is very important for the council to be emailing, calling and staying in touch with their legislators the next week and a half as the session draws near and a possible bonding bill comes

forward. There is talk that a bonding bill will be blocked by Republicans if Walz keeps the state orders in place.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to adjourn. Swanson – aye, Brosh – aye, Musachio – aye, Gondeck – aye, Bettendorf – aye. Motion carried, unanimous.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah A. Brunn".

Sarah A. Brunn, Administrator