

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – December 1, 2020

The Foley City Council held a regular meeting on December 1, 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 Musachio, to approve the consent agenda, which includes the following:

- Approve minutes of Nov. 10 & 13, 2020.
- Approve Proclamation – School Choice Week.
- Approve payment of bills.

Motion carried, unanimous.

S.E.H. – Smoke Testing Report

Jarod Griffith, City Engineer filling in for Jon Halter, gave an overview to the council of the results of the I&I sewer study last spring. The full report was included in the council packet. The flow monitoring and sewer testing focused on the two primary sewer districts feeding into Broadway Avenue and Birch Drive. The meters recorded five major rain events. The results showed that I&I issues are improving, but there are still areas of concern. Table 3 and 4 showed the wet to dry ratio of the city's wastewater is double during rain events. Roughly 70% of the I&I flow is in the Broadway Avenue lift station district. Next step is to develop a manhole repair plan to fix defects. Discussion and questions from the council followed. No cost estimates for recommended projects at this time. These will be brought back to the council for consideration in the spring.

Mayor's Comments & Open Forum

No one spoke.

Department Reports

Foley Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin gave an overview of the November call report. The department received 265 calls in November. Equipment violations were up (taillights and headlights) while animal complaints were down. Winter Parking is now in effect as of Nov. 1. Twenty-five parking tickets were issued after reminders were posted on the city's social media. Warnings were given for the first week in November before tickets were issued. The department received eight applications for the part-time officer position. The review and hiring process will be postponed until January.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith, city engineer, gave the council an update and overview of possible 2022 projects. The lift station at 11th Avenue and force main would be removed down to Penn Street. The project is estimated at \$248,949.45. The utility improvement project to extend gravity sewer to Lord Avenue is estimated at \$150,255. Discussion and questions followed. If the council wishes to proceed these improvements would be done in coordination with the 2022 highway project. The council also asked further questions regarding the lighting on the Hwy 23 roundabout project.

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus gave an update to the council on the purchase of a new sewer vac truck and directed the council to the materials in their packet. The 2020 budget includes \$360,000 for the purchase of a new truck. Pappenfus said he'd found a used 2017 truck in good condition that looked promising and might be available after Jan. 1. Pappenfus asked the council for a motion to allow staff to evaluate the truck and sign a purchase agreement for \$300,000 (less the trade in for the existing vehicle) if the truck passed inspection. Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to authorize staff to review the vehicle and sign a purchase agreement with the understanding it would come back to the council to approve the expenditure. Motion carried, unanimous. Pappenfus said there were no updates from the fire department at this time other than that accidents were way down in November.

Administration

City Administrator Sarah Brunn asked the council if there were any questions regarding the 2021 meeting schedule provided in the council packet. She also directed the council to her performance review questionnaire and evaluation sheet included in the packet and asked for the council's feedback. Brunn also reminded the council they would be discussing the sewer rate ordinance next month. Brunn also reported the Cares money reporting was completed and sent to the state. The county also approved and released a non-profit grant list on Monday. The 4th Avenue N art mural is now complete.

Old Business

Brunn gave the council an update on the Orderly Annexation and Joint Planning agreement with Gilmanton Township. Brunn would attend the township meeting after the city council meeting and would report back to the council.

Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation Hearing

Mayor Bettendorf recessed the regular city council meeting at 6:08 p.m. to conduct a public hearing on the 2021 budget.

Brunn explained the levy increase for the 2021 budget was minimal. It would amount to a 1.05% increase, which was less than the city's projected tax base growth of 4%.

Josh Coder, 220 2nd Avenue, asked who evaluated property values in the city. Brunn explained the county assessor determined property values.

The City recognized there may have been an issue with the delivery of the proposed tax notices by the county auditor-treasurer and did extra notification of the TNT hearing via the city's social media pages and word of mouth. The City decided to move ahead with passing of the levy due to a concern about holding any additional meetings due to a significant spike in COVID-19 cases in the local community.

The meeting was also recorded and made available for public to view on the city website and social media pages.

The regular city council meeting was reconvened at 6:12 p.m.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Musachio, to adopt Resolution #2020-35 Tax Levy 2021.

Motion carried, unanimous.

At 6:13 p.m. Mayor Bettendorf closed the meeting per Minn. Stat. 13D.05 Subd. 3(c) 13D.05 – for discussion on potential land price of PID 020049300 & PID 020050000.

At 6:32 the meeting reconvened.

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

Meeting adjourned.

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

Sarah A. Brunn, Administrator