

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – February 2, 2021

The Foley City Council held a regular meeting on February 2, 2021, 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. Motion carried, unanimous.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approve minutes of January 5, 2021.
- Adopt Resolution #2021-03 Accepting Donation.
- Approve Bridge Agreement with Benton County – 3rd Avenue.
- Approve part-time police officer eligibility list.
- Approve payment of bills.

Amanda Othoudt – Benton Economic Partnership

Amanda Othoudt, the new Executive Director for the Benton Economic Partnership (BEP), introduced herself to the council and gave an overview of her background and experience. She started with BEP in October of last year and oversaw the CARES Program on behalf of Benton County. Statistics – administered over 1 million in county grants in 2020; distributed remaining CARES funds to businesses totally \$229,248. Remaining dollars were sent back in unspent funds to the county and instead of sending back to the state Benton County asked BEP to distribute the funds again to local businesses. Twenty businesses received funds in the hospitality industry throughout the county. BEP also administered \$20,000 on behalf of the City of Foley. Those CARES dollars went to businesses within Foley. In 2021, BEP is again administering business relief funds for the county. Benton County received more than \$800,000. BEP created a program and communicated it to the community. The deadline was last Friday – 66 applications were received. Othoudt said BP will continue to work on behalf of the county as well as with individual cities assisting with economic development projects. Questions and discussion followed.

Discussion on orderly annexation agreement – options to proceed.

Sarah Brunn gave an overview of where the agreement currently stands with Gilmanton Township. She referred to documents in the council packet and the options/recommendations open to the council on what they could do next. Brunn informed the council she will be attending the township board meeting that night after the council meeting. Brunn told the council she was not sure if the township board will act upon the agreement at their meeting. She asked for up to two council members to come with her to the board meeting. Brunn stressed the best option is still to come up with a mutually agreed upon annexation agreement, but also recognized the city had a lot of investment in getting the agreement signed. Discussion followed. Brunn asked the council if they had anything specific they

would like her to relay to the township board. The council expressed that she should tell the township board that the city is moving forward. The city has to protect that investment. Brunn also reminded the council that it was the township board who originally requested the agreement.

Mayor's Comments and Open Forum

Deb Olson, 600 Dewey St, handed out information for the council and asked to be on the agenda for the April meeting. Olson gave an overview of the parking problem she first brought up to the council in 2008 explaining how cars block her driveway or park in front of her mail box. She also explained that due to cars parked along the street it is very difficult to cross at the intersection of 6th and Dewey Street. She also expressed that in her opinion the city is not in compliance with state parking rules.

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin gave an overview for the council. The stat report for January showed a total of 280 calls. This included 21 parking tickets for violation of the winter parking ordinance. McMillin reminded the council the winter parking rules are in effect until March 31. There were also 15 medical calls and one burglary – a UPS package was taken from an enclosed front porch. She reminded the council to watch for suspicious activity and to call the police department if something looks wrong. McMillin also shared with the council a letter and certificate received from the Minnesota Post Board that shows the Foley Police Department is compliant with use of force standards and is eligible for Federal grants. McMillin thanked the council for approving in the consent agenda the new hire list. McMillin also updated the council that Jason McDonald is starting training later this week. She also informed the council that there will not be a Fun With Police event in February due to COVID concerns. The new squad car should be ready by April according to Murphy Chevrolet. Questions and discussion followed. McMillin explained that the department is eligible for Federal funds based on the new requirements that went through last year. The department works with the post board to make sure we are always up to date with our training.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith, S.E.H., gave an update to the council regarding the Hwy 23 project and expansion. They have reached out and started working with MNDot to move the project forward. The engineers are also aware of cement heaving in front of the police department facing the John Street sidewalk. They are in contact with the contractor and will address this spring;

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus director of Public Works did not have any updates for the council regarding Public Works or the Fire Department. He told the council he would give an update on the wastewater project during Old Business.

Administration

Sarah Brunn city administrator gave an update to the council. A copy of the telework policy is in their packet. Nothing has changed - this is just a policy that we'd like added to use outside the pandemic since we have more technology as an intermitten option moving forward. In addition, the COVID Families First Act that offered COVID pay has expired. Brunn asked for the council to approve the

updated telework policy. Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Musachio, to approve the telework policy. Motion carried, unanimous.

Brunn also updated the council on the most recent Personnel Committee meeting regarding personal travel. President Biden's executive order on travel policy affects international travel – not domestic travel at this time. Staff is not recommending any changes to the city's travel policy and will use Federal guidelines. A negative test is needed for international travel in addition to a quarantine. No action is needed from the council at this time. Any city employee who wants to travel domestically may travel. There is a recommendation from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) to isolate and be careful. We will encourage staff to follow these recommendations, but not mandate like the international travel restrictions.

Brunn also wanted to correct an item from the last meeting. When discussing the lift station replacement project, she had stated that properties within 500 feet of the new water/sewer connection would be required to hook up. The ordinance actually states the requirement comes into play at 150 feet. If things change at the state level, then we would have to follow. Brunn also updated the council that staff would be meeting with Rural Water to discuss the rate study later in the week.

Old Business

Pappenfus gave the council an update on the wastewater project. He is working with Bolton & Menk on the plans for the force main. Everything west of Foley will be the same as previously discussed. Staff is also looking at using the existing golf pond. The Birch pond would be decommissioned. The Broadway lift station is 31-years old and will be combined into one lift station to push out to the golf pond. The pond would act as a holding tank and then the water would be strategically pumped to St. Cloud, keeping track of the number of gallons we send. The lift station at the old industrial park would help push the wastewater to St. Cloud. Staff is meeting with St. Cloud tomorrow to discuss next steps. Discussion and questions followed. Pappenfus said they were on track to have the initial design completed by April. Brunn provided an update on the PSIG funds. The city has qualified but timing is not confirmed. More discussion followed.

New Business

Brunn informed the council that staff is currently working on a state aid highway agreement and that will be on the agenda for the March council meeting. Brunn also directed the council to the last page in the packet. The Foley Area Foundation has requested a donation. A donation is not currently budgeted, but can be discussed. No action was taken.

Discussion on purchase of PID 020049300 & PID 020050000.

At 6:36 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 6:44 p.m. the meeting reconvened. Staff was directed to continue discussions.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Sarah A Brunn

Sarah A. Brunn, Administrator