

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – December 7, 2021

The Foley City Council held its regular meeting on December 7, 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 Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried unanimous.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Musachio, to approve the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda:

- Approve minutes of November 2, 2021.
- Approve hire of Stacy Graham, full-time administrative assistant.
- Approve Tri-Cap contract extension for Small Cities Program.
- Approve easements of PID's 020051216, 130004181, 13005103.
- Approve payment of bills.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Public Hearing – Final Land Use Plan

Mayor Bettendorf recessed the regular council meeting at 5:32 p.m. and invited the public to speak.

Debra Olson, 600 Dewey Street, addressed the council stating that the Land Use Plan addressed the problem, but she didn't see how it had a proposed solution or plan to execute. She also expressed concern over other issues in Foley (e.g. parking) that haven't been addressed.

Carl Fischer, 809 Penn Street, addressed the council and expressed concern that according to the plan his address would be rezoned as commercial. He asked if the rezoning was imminent or farther down the road. He had sent a letter to the council earlier in the day that outlined his concerns.

At 6:38 p.m. Bettendorf reconvened the regular council meeting.

City Administrator Sarah Brunn confirmed that the council had received a copy of Fischer's email. She also explained that the Land Use Plan simply identifies opportunities over the next 20 years or so. Rezoning would only occur if requested. There are no plans to rezone the property at this time. The Land Use Plan gives a broad overview of trends of what could happen.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to adopt the Land Use Plan.

Discussion followed with Musachio asking about plans for a piece of city owned property by the creek and expressed an interest in developing it for parks or trails.

Brunn explained that would fall under the pedestrian plan. Discussion followed.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Foley Fire Relief

Bryan Moshier, Treasurer for the Fire Relief Fund, addressed the council and requested an increase to the annual firefighter pension contribution. Looking at the third quarter numbers they proposed a \$400 raise per year of service. With the proposed raise, the fund would still operate with a \$27,000 surplus.

Questions and discussion followed. Bettendorf didn't see any problem with the raise, but expressed he would like the fire department to hire and pay for their own audit services. It's not a good idea for the city to be involved with the Fire Relief Association audit.

Brunn addressed the council explaining she'd spoken with Moshier earlier in the day and another member of the board regarding the city's concerns. The City shouldn't be involved with the administrative costs of a separate entity. The Relief Fund should stay separate from the city's funds. She said she agreed with the mayor that the proposed increase was acceptable.

Swanson and Gondeck also expressed agreement with the increase and the request to not have the city covering administrative costs of the relief fund. Moshier explained to the council that he would need to go back to the membership about taking on the financial responsibilities for the audit. Discussion followed.

Motion by Gondeck to approve the \$400 per year of service raise in the fund.

Moshier expressed concern that the cost of the audit might result in a pay cut for the firefighters. Discussion followed.

Brunn stated her biggest concern is having the city cover those administrative expenses (audit fees). It's an operating cost of a fund that is to remain completely separate from the City and as recommended by the state auditor should be self-sufficient. The city needs to have clear boundaries and separation. Discussion followed.

Motion seconded by Musachio.

Motion approved, unanimous.

Bettendorf stated that after the fire department has its meeting regarding the relief fund audit we can continue to discuss any concerns they might have about taking over the costs of the audit.

Mayor's Comments Open Forum

No one from the public spoke.

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin addressed the council and gave an overview of the monthly stat report. The department received 292 calls in November: 20 parking tickets were issued, harassment and theft calls were down. In November 2020, there were 265 calls overall. McMillin also shared with the council that the department was partnering with Benton County Sheriff for Cocoa With A Cop on Dec. 13 from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Elementary School.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith addressed the council regarding some staffing changes. Jon Halter is leaving SEH. Griffith assured the council SEH would continue to provide the same level of service to the city. He also gave an updated on the Hwy 23 project. MN Dot and city staff were clearing some trees in preparation for the project. He also gave an update on the industrial park, directing the council to their packets showing the wetlands delineation. It is a larger wetland than anticipated and they are looking at some options that could move the delineation area from the middle of the property. He would update the council in a few months.

Brunn shared with the council that city staff met with the county to get as much information as possible so we know what to expect, what our options are, and how we want to move forward. It will take a couple months to get all the information together.

Questions and discussion followed from the council.

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus gave an overview of moving city hall from a key system to electronic card access. He explained the fire department has a basic card access system at the fire hall that works very well. He recommended implementing a system for city hall administrative offices and the Police Department.

Brunn expressed that it would provide additional security. Money would be pulled from the police and general fund. Discussion followed.

Motion by Musachio, seconded by Gondeck, to approve the quote for the electronic key card system.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Pappenfus also updated the council on the vac truck purchase (follow up from 2020 discussions). He will be able to look at the truck very soon and expects to be able to make a decision quickly. We would like to continue with the purchase of this truck and will bring an update in January. He asked the council for approval to begin the process of selling the old vac truck on IRAY, putting it up for auction on Jan. 12. Discussion followed.

Brunn stated that the council would be asked for a formal motion at some point to approve the disposal of the old truck and purchase of the new.

Pappenfus also shared with council the new salt shed is now full. It is not yet cold enough to start prepping the ice skating rinks. He also update the council on a few fire department items. The contract meeting with the townships is Dec. 16 at the fire hall. An agenda will be sent out at the end of the week. The Santa Fire Truck parade will be Dec. 22.

Administration

Brunn reported to the council that the annual appointments announcement was posted on social media and would also appear in the Benton County News. The city is always looking for people to participate on boards and commissions. She also requested her annual review be done after the January council meeting. The 2022 council meeting was also set and in the council packet. No questions from the council.

Old Business

Brunn gave a brief overview on the status of the wastewater project. There is an item from the Joint Planning Board regarding setbacks from the force main easement. Brunn will be able to report on that for the next meeting. The project is still in the public comment period. Staff still anticipates being able to open for bidding by early next year. Questions and discussion.

Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation Hearing

Bettendorf recessed the regular city council meeting at 6:22 p.m. for the public hearing on the proposed 2022 budget. No one spoke. The regular city council meeting was reconvened at 6:23 p.m.

Bettendorf asked for a motion to adopt the 2022 Tax Levy. There was no change from the preliminary tax levy.

Judy Weis, 340 2nd Avenue, addressed the council saying she'd gotten a tax statement from Benton County, but had not received all of her parcel notices yet. Brunn advised her to reach out to the county as the county is responsible for those notices.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Musachio, to adopt the 2022 Tax Levy.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Bettendorf asked for a motion to adjourn.

Swanson asked about the Sauer property on Dewey Street and if there was anyone living there. Brunn explained to the council that staff has had multiple contacts with the owner and the tenant regarding violations to the city ordinances.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Sarah A. Brunn, Administrator

(Minutes By: Sara- Judson Brown, Administrative Assistant)