

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – September 6, 2022

The Foley City Council held their regular meeting on Sept. 6, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Foley City Hall.

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

Members Absent: None

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The mayor addressed the audience and directed people who wished to speak during the Mayor's Open Forum to please use the sign-up sheet in the back with their name and address. He also reminded the audience that the meeting is conducted using Robert's Rules of Order, meaning that no one in attendance is allowed to speak unless acknowledged by the mayor.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

Public Hearing – Temp Liquor License – Pantown at Grand Champion Meats on Sept. 22, 2022

Mayor Bettendorf recessed the regular council meeting at 5:32 p.m. for a public hearing on the temp liquor license for Pantown Brewing Company. No one present spoke for or against the matter.

At 5:33 p.m. Bettendorf reconvened the regular city council meeting.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to approve the temporary liquor license for Pantown Brewing.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Wastewater Regionalization Project Update

Jacob Humburg from Bolton & Menk gave an overview to the council on the status of the wastewater project. The total project completion is at 28%. More than a mile of pipe has been installed since the last council meeting. Lift station work continues. Pay Application Request #3 is for \$978,813.55. Questions and discussion followed. Humburg said the project is still on track for completion in November 2023. There have been some issues with getting materials, but they have all been dealt with and have not held the work back.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to approve Pay Application Request #3 for \$978,813.55.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Foley Fire Relief Annual Update – Bryan Moshier

Bryan Moshier gave an overview to the council for the Fire Relief Fund. He directed the council to the report in their packet. The number at the bottom shows the fund is still in good shape. The fund still has a surplus. As of the June report, we are projecting \$150,000 to come in. Unless something drastically changes at this point I would guess this will be our number at the end of the year so we'll have that much as a buffer. Questions and discussion followed.

Debra Olson

Debra Olson of 600 Dewey Street addressed the council. She asked if the parking ordinance was reopened for discussion. What was the consensus after the August meeting? She stated that residents are very unhappy and angry. There have been reports of council members photographing potential violators. Olson stated she was glad that the proposed façade program had been tabled. She said that the comparison study was inaccurate. She asked what the Thriving Communities Task Force was and what they are working on. Olson also stated that she felt the police department needed more officers and that she'd heard rumors the department was going to be disbanded. She recommended the police department hire a community service person or another officer to help follow up with ordinance violations.

Mayor's Open Forum

No one spoke.

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin gave an overview to the council for the August crime stat report. The department responded to 376 calls compared to last year's 265 calls for the month of August. Suspicious activity was up 10 calls from the previous month; 23 stop sign violations; and 52 speeding violations on Broadway Avenue. The first day of school was a little hectic with directing traffic. Questions and discussion followed. McMillin shared that there were a total of 43 calls of suspicious activity for the entire month. The calls are coming in from residents and from officers being proactive.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith gave an overview to the council on the Hwy 23 MNDot project. The intersection at Broadway and Hwy 23 is still closed, but will hopefully be opening soon. The project is expected to wrap on schedule.

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus gave an overview of current projects. Public Works is focusing on wrapping up summer items. The pool is closed. Some dead trees in the parks were taken down. Public Works will begin jetting and flushing mains and hydrants this month. There are still plans for doing the trail overlay this year south of Foley Square.

The Fire Department will be installing free smoke alarms on Sept. 17. The fire hall open house is scheduled for Oct. 8. The fire department also received a \$5,000 matching grant from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for wild land gear. The department also received a FEMA grant assistance of \$45,142.00 for SCVA compressor fill station and storage bottles.

Administrative

City Administrator Sarah Brunn addressed the council. Staff is currently working on two applications

for Joint Planning and one at the local level for building in town. We will see items for the Planning Commission in the next month or so. Brunn directed the council to the preliminary levy Resolution #2022-23 in their packet. The preliminary levy is what will be sent out to the business owners and residents in their estimated property taxes. The final amount will be approved at the hearing in December. We can't increase the levy at that time but it can be lowered. If there is any uncertainty, it is best to estimate higher and then bring it back down in the final approval. The preliminary levy is currently at 14%. The siren and façade program were cut. We can discuss more if you want. She also reminded the council of the levy limit discussions at the state legislature. If we set the levy too low this year, the state could control future increases. Discussion and questions followed.

Bettendorf expressed that he supported leaving off the siren and the façade program. He also expressed support for the city hall office remodel.

Brunn explained another option would be to levy a portion of the remodel and put it in capital funds. It would reduce the levy to 9.42%. Discussion and more questions followed.

Musachio expressed support for allowing staff more ability to work from home to help with overcrowding in the office. Brunn stated that staff working hybrid from home on a weekly basis would require some more technical upgrades. She also reminded the council that historically city hall has been a very customer facing entity. People like to come in and do business with city hall in person. Musachio expressed support for allocating money to the general fund but not committing to the remodel yet. Discussion and questions followed. Brunn explained that levying for the full amount for the remodel would mean the renovation would take place in 2023. If only half is levied, then the project would take place in 2024.

Gondeck expressed concerns over space needed for the police department and looking at a bigger picture to include all of the city's facility needs. Brunn said that a facilities plan could help bring those needs into focus, but would cost money to develop the plan and it wouldn't be helpful if the council then decided not to act on the plan once it was completed. Discussion and questions followed.

McMillin added that as the city grows the police department will need to grow with it. If another full-time officer is added, then we will need another squad car as well as a place to put it. Brunn said the cost to create a facilities plan could cost thousands.

Motion by Brosh, seconded by Gondeck, to approve Resolution 2022-23 Adopting Preliminary Levy without any additional changes.

Motion carried with Gondeck, Bettendorf, Swanson, and Brosh voting aye. Musachio voting nay.

Brunn stated again that this preliminary levy is not final and the council can continue discussions prior to the final approval at the December meeting.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

At 6:25 p.m. Mayor Bettendorf closed the meeting for discussion on an option agreement price for PID 020049300 and PID 020050000.

At 6:31 p.m. Bettendorf reconvened the regular meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.



Sarah A. Brunn, Administrator
(Minutes By: Sara Judson Brown, Administrative Assistant)