

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 3, 2023

The Foley City Council held their regular meeting on Jan. 3, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Foley City Hall.

Members Present: Councilmembers Jeff Gondeck, Deb Mathiowetz, and Gary Swanson.

Members Absent: Mayor Elect Jack Brosh; 1 council seat remains open at the start of 2023

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Mathiowetz, to appoint Jeff Gondeck acting mayor.

Motion approved, unanimous.

The Oath of Office was administered by Sarah Brunn, City Administrator, to Councilmember Deb Mathiowetz.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Mathiowetz, to approve the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda:

- Approve minutes of December 6, 2022.
- Adopt Resolution #2023-01 Approving Annexation of Property in Gilmanton Township.
- Approve payment of bills.
- Approval to start process for part-time officer
- Accept retirement of firefighter Larry Nadeau (effective Feb. 3)

Motion carried, unanimous.

Update on Wastewater Regionalization Project

Sarah Brunn gave an overview to the council. The project has wrapped up work for the winter. She presented Pay Application #7 for \$321,573.48. The project made good progress this season. Mark Pappenfus gave more details to the council. Crews may come back in the winter to work on lift stations. Brunn also said the city is working through the permit process with the odor control structure with Benton County. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Mathiowetz, to approve Pay Application #7.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Advocates for Health – AED Presentation

Unable to join the meeting due to the weather. Will reschedule for February meeting.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to table further discussion until the next meeting.

Motion carried, unanimous.

2023 Annual Appointments – Discussion and Approval

Brunn addressed the council. She said that Mayor Elect Brosh had asked to be on the personnel committee. He was okay with proceeding with the other positions listed. Discussion and questions followed. Brunn explained the council needed to choose council representatives for some committees. More discussion and questions followed.

Library Board

Karen Eherenmann
Deb Mathiowetz

Planning Commission

Jeff Gondeck
Deb Mathiowetz
Noel Lewandowski
Rosalie Musachio

Economic Development Authority

Jeff Gondeck
Deb Mathiowetz

Personnel Committee

Jack Brosh
Jeff Gondeck

Health Officer

Shana Nelson

Health Board

Charlotte Monroe
Jeannie Rajkowski

Benton Economic Partnership

Gary Swanson

Motion by Mathiowetz, seconded by Swanson, to approve the annual appointments.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Brunn stated that once we fill the vacant seat if the council wants to swap some roles that is fine.

Mayor's Comments and Open Forum

Gondeck 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.

Pamela Vizenor, 600 Broadway Ave N, addressed the council regarding the snow plowing of the streets. She felt strongly that the plowing needed to be done more frequently and asked the city to do a better job.

Deborah Olson, 600 Dewey Street, addressed the council with questions about the bills list. Why are both Nationwide and Pacific Life both paid out and what kind of insurance is being bought? Olson also stated she was appreciative of the Advocates for Health. She expressed concerns regarding allotted funds, installation costs, and a yearly maintenance fee. She also asked for an update on the signage across Hwy 23.

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief McMillin gave an overview of crime stats to the council. Calls were down for December with a total of 312 calls. She also directed the council to other graphs that shows the increasing trends for calls and the types of calls. She stated that there were 673 more calls in 2022 than the previous year. Driving complaints were down, but people driving without a license was up. Suspicious activity was up and domestics and assaults were down. City ordinance violations were up to 24 for sidewalk shoveling. Discussion and questions followed. Gondeck asked about the time frame for hiring a new part-time officer. McMillin said she expected to have interviews set in early to mid-February with a list ready to bring to the March meeting.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith gave the council an overview of the Hwy 23 project. He directed the council to an invoice in their packet for a change order for the reduction in utilities from 9th Street to Lord Avenue for. Brunn addressed the council asking for a motion to approve the payment of the invoice.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Mathiowetz, to pay the invoice from MNDot for the change order.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Griffith directed the council to an agreement in their packet for additional engineering construction services for the Hwy 23 project. The project has been extended into the new year. Staff is estimating ten weeks to complete. The agreement is the hourly fee for the estimated additional time of \$19,500.00. Discussion and questions followed. Brunn explained there is a meeting with MNDot tomorrow that she hopes will give more answers on Hwy 23 signage funds. More discussion followed with both Gondeck and Swanson expressing disappointment that the signage was missed by MNDot when the city had planned for it to be included with the Hwy 23 project from the beginning. Brunn said that staff would lean on MNDot as much as they could to get answers. Staff has not been able to get a straight answer on why/how it was missed.

Motion by Mathiowetz, seconded by Swanson, to approve the additional engineering for the Hwy 23 project.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus gave an overview to the council. Not much to report other than snow plowing. Gondeck asked how the Fire Department would commemorate Larry Nadeau's retirement. Pappenfus said they department would handle the details.

Administrative

Brunn gave an overview to the council. The Joint Planning Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the winery project in the orderly annexation area. Staff also has an upcoming Moody's rating call. The city was selected for a possible upgrade, but that means the city will have to go through a credit review process.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

The council addressed Resolution #2023-02 Declaring a City Council Vacancy. Brunn explained that the council can appoint a new member if there is less than two years left on the term. She recommended appointment at the next council meeting due to the cost and the time required for a special election. She stressed it was the council's decision on how they wanted to move forward.

Motion by Mathiowetz, seconded by Swanson, to adopt Resolution #2023-02 declaring the vacancy on the council.

Motion carried, unanimous.

More discussion followed regarding the specifics on how to fill the vacancy. Brunn suggested advertising for applicants asking for letters of interest.

Swanson asked for more information on snow plowing on Carpenter Street. Pappenfus explained that Carpenter is not a primary road. It's also difficult to plow narrow streets when cars are parked on the side. It would be helpful and make plowing faster if residents waited until after the road was plowed to park on the street.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Mathiowetz, to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



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