

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – March 7, 2023

The Foley City Council held their regular meeting on March 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Foley City Hall.

Members Present: Mayor Jack Brosh, Councilmembers Jeff Gondeck, Deb Mathiowetz, Gary Swanson, and Brandon Voit.

Mayor Brosh recognized former Councilmember Rosalie Musachio for her years of service on the council and presented her with a plaque.

Brosh also recognized former Councilmember and Mayor Gerard Bettendorf for his years of service on the council, but Bettendorf was unable to attend.

Councilmember Brandon Voit was sworn in by City Administrator Sarah Brunn.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

Motion by Mathiowetz, seconded by Gondeck, to approve the consent agenda:

- Approve minutes of February 7, 2023.
- Approve hiring of part-time officers Sean Gitch, Jacob Isaacson, Jordan Ramler – contingent upon passing of background/psych evaluations.
- Adopt Resolution #2023-04 Accepting Donations.
- Adopt Resolution #2023-05 Approve Capital Assets Policy.
- Adopt Ordinance #474 Amending Rental Code.
- Accept MCPF grant for police department.
- Approve payment of bills.

Brosh added that the two part-time police officers that are being hired both have twelve plus years of experience.

Motion carried, unanimous.

**Mayor's Comments and Open Forum**

Sarah Moulzolf, 238 Elm Drive, addressed the council asking for approval for a fire barrel/ring to be used at the sledding hill in Lion's Park. Moulzolf explained she'd been sponsoring hot cocoa events at the warming house during the winter, and another resident had approached her about providing a fire barrel for toasting marshmallows. Discussion and questions followed. The council was in favor of allowing the fire barrel as long as safety measures were in place and city ordinances were followed. Fire Chief Mark Pappenfus said the ordinance allowed for no larger than a 3x3 fire pit and it must be at least ten feet from the building.

Karen Woolsey, 451 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, addressed the council regarding an accident she had when pulling onto Hwy 23 from Norman Avenue N. The accident was caused due to a blind spot. She asked if there

was something that could be done such as putting up a sign. Discussion and questions followed. Brosh said that it was unfortunate, but in his experience a sign would be unlikely to solve the problem.

Brosh shared that since becoming mayor he has represented the City of Foley by attending several events and meetings. He asked that if there are any upcoming events that residents would like him to attend to please let him know and he would be happy to participate as his schedule allows.

### **Advocates for Health – AED Presentation Joel Vogel**

Joel Vogel gave a presentation and demonstration to the council, stressing the lifesaving benefits of AED machines. When someone experiences sudden cardiac arrest, they must receive help in the first 10 minutes. An AED is very important in those situations and can save a life. With new technology, AEDs can now be placed outside, making them more available to the public. 911 operators can also share where the closest AED machine is in an emergency. Each unit costs \$7,195 and requires an additional \$600 a year to maintain. Vogel hopes the council sees the benefit of having AEDs available on city properties. Discussion and questions followed.

### **Discussion on Hwy 23 Pedestrian Crossing**

The council discussed two proposals for the push-button pedestrian crossing signs for Hwy 23.

City Engineer Jarod Griffith presented the proposal for SEH. He met with staff that morning to talk about the proposal. He was recommending hardwire connections for both locations due to the tree line and a lower sun in the winter for a total of \$12,100.00. He stated that the proposal was also based on the assumption on lead time. The materials would not be available until July. MnDot was expected to be done with their Hwy 23 wrap up by June. The cost of the project could be less if MnDot was available to do the work.

Jarod Vogel from Bolton & Menk addressed the council and directed them to the proposal in their packet. He apologized for misinterpreting the project direction and that he would put together another estimate. He also stated that they were recommending solar only for both locations and he agreed with Griffith that it was important to complete the project before MnDot finishes their work on Hwy 23. He was happy to answer any questions from the council. Discussion and questions followed.

Brosh stated he was more in favor of using solar than hardwire at both locations. Griffith stated that the pedestrian ramps would need to be redesigned to accommodate the push-button crossing signs. Brunn asked who would be financially responsible for the redesign – the city or the state? Discussion followed with no clear answer to the question.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to table the discussion until the April council meeting.

Motion passed, unanimous.

## **Department Reports**

### **Police Department**

Chief Katie McMillin gave an overview of the February crime stats. There were 345 calls in February. This was significant since there were only 28 days in the month. Speeding, domestics, and assaults were up. She also reminded the council that Winter Parking would expire at the end of the March. The Fun with Police event had 19 kids. The department also received a grant from the Minnesota Chief's Association that paid for the event. McMillin also shared that the 2019 squad will require maintenance

for a wheel bearing. March 1 the department will have EMR training. Other events the department will be assist with are prom on May 13 and graduation on June 3. Discussion and questions followed. Gondeck expressed he would like to see more TZD hours.

### **City Engineer**

Jarod Griffith stated he did not have anything else for the council at this time.

### **Public Works and Fire Department**

Mark Pappenfus gave an overview to the council. Primary focus for Public Works has been snow plowing. Brosh stated he had a private contractor reach out to him regarding snow removal, asking that the city treat all the businesses the same when it comes to pushing snow. Pappenfus stated that it was most likely the same contractor he'd spoken to last year. The challenge for Public Works is that when private snow companies push the snow from business parking lots into the streets that it requires the department to get the loader to remove the snow and it takes time away from clearing other streets.

Pappenfus also directed the council to their packets regarding a CIP for a bucket/boom truck and the purchase of a two-year old truck that would meet the department's needs. The cost is \$127,500. Two proposals were provided. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to purchase the boom truck.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Motion by Mathiowetz, seconded by Voit, to sell the old boom truck.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Pappenfus shared with the council that he was approached by the family of Dr. Holdridge (Holdridge Park was named after him). The family would like to donate \$5,000 for a redesign of the memorial. He expects them to send him a design for what they would want.

### **Administration**

Sarah Brunn gave an overview of a proposed voluntary No Mow May program that would help protect native pollinator populations such as bees and butterflies. Discussion and questions followed. Mathiowetz stated her support for the program. Brunn stated the program if adopted would be voluntary for residents, and the city would suspend enforcement of the tall grass and weeds ordinance for the month of May. City parks would still be mowed as usual. Council was in agreement and asked for a resolution to be brought up at the April meeting.

Brunn gave a status update on the property designated for the wastewater odor control building. She stated that she will attend a meeting of the County Board on March 15 which she expects will move the process forward so construction will begin later this spring.

Brunn shared the audit is scheduled for April, and staff is also preparing for the Federal audit. Questions and discussion followed.

Mathiowetz stated she was planning to attend the Centennial Celebration in our sister city, Colstrip, Montana, this summer and asked if former Mayor Gerard Bettendorf was also planning to attend. Brunn stated she didn't know. Mathiowetz also expressed her frustration over the delay in the bonding

bill in the state legislature and encouraged everyone to continue to put pressure on our representatives by making our voices heard.

### **Old Business**

Brunn stated that staff is working with our representatives on crafting some alternate language that would allow for reimbursement after the wastewater project is complete if the bonding bill is delayed. Brunn also shared that staff was asked to testify in front of the state Senate in hopes it would encourage passage of the bill.

Gondeck shared that he had a good conversation with State Senator Putnam. He continued to pressure for the release of the PSIG funds. He also spoke to Stearns County Commissioner Joe Perske who expressed his support. Discussion and questions followed.

Pappenfus gave an overview of the county's broadband fiber project. They are working on an agreement with a provider.

### **New Business**

No new business.

### **Mayor's Comments and 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Forum**

Sarah Moulzolf, 238 Elm Drive, expressed her frustration with the rising water/sewer rates and asked the council to state what the future rates will be.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



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