

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – May 2, 2023

The Foley City Council held their regular meeting on May 2, 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.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

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

- Approve minutes of April 4, 2023.
- Approve seasonal pay rates.
- Approve revised pool year-end performance review.
- Approve payment of bills.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Mayor's Comments and Open Forum

Gini Kalton addressed the council stating that while she doesn't live in town she is a member of the board of directors for CARE at 321 6th Avenue. She thanked the council for their support of CARE. The organization supports seniors in their home. When COVID hit, it shed a light on food insecurity in Benton County. CARE has distributed 146 tons of food to the community. Kalton also stated that she is looking forward to their Touching Tables event in October. There is also a pork chop dinner fundraiser on Thursday and she offered up two free tickets to the event for the council.

Wastewater Regionalization Project

Jared Voge from Bolton & Menk gave an overview to the council on the wastewater project. He also presented the Change Order #1 from Geislinger and Sons outlined in their packet. The change order reflects the equipment, labor, and materials required to comply with the City of St. Cloud's requirements associated with the connection to their collection system. He recommended approval of payment for the amount of \$546,569.88. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to approve the Change Order #1.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Voge also presented and recommended approval of Payment Estimate #8 for \$155,032.83. The estimate includes the work completed through April 21. The project is now 51% complete. Currently there are two crews in the area. Questions and discussion followed. Voge stated that supply chain issues continue to be a concern but the project is pushing forward.

Motion by Voit, seconded by Swanson, to approve Payment Estimate #8.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Winter Festival Update

Louisa Thompson and Bill Kalton gave an update to the council regarding plans for the Winter Festival. Thompson explained that the committee hasn't been able to secure a sponsor in time for Christmas this year, but they hope to have something organized in time for Christmas 2024. Thompson expressed they would like to move forward with a Christmas tree lighting for Christmas 2023. They would require some assistance including a structure for the tree to sit on, a power source, and possible security. They've already lined up a school choir to sing during the lighting. She also requested that the mayor do the honor of lighting the tree. She also proposed the lighting ceremony will be at 4th and Main Street in the city lot. There would be no need to block off streets or for garbage disposal.

Discussion and questions followed with councilmembers expressing support for the idea.

Consider Removal of Sprinkler Sewer Charges

Mayor Brosh addressed the room explaining that he asked that the sprinkler ordinance be brought back for discussion before the council. The current proposed ordinance outlined several requirements for property owners who wished to participate, including the purchase of a separate meter and applying for a plumbing permit. Discussion followed as the council debated the proposed ordinance and asked staff questions.

Gondeck stated he would like to hear more from the public before moving forward. Not opposed to an ordinance.

Brosh asked if anyone would like to speak out for or against the ordinance.

Bruce Thompson, 1133 Golf Court, thanked the council for considering the ordinance and stated that other cities have similar ordinances.

Larry Nadeau, 161 4th Ave S, also spoke in favor the ordinance. He stated he had advocated for a similar ordinance a few years ago. There's value in having well-kept commercial or residential properties.

Brosh agreed that the council should hold a public meeting before adopting a sprinkler ordinance.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to hold a public hearing at the next council meeting to discuss the proposed sprinkler ordinance.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin gave an overview to the council. The department responded to 370 calls in April. They also participated in TZD hours. The focus for the month was distracted driving. Gun permits and city violations are up. She also gave a reminder to residents to make sure properties are clear of nuisance items. May 13 is prom. Our SRO will attend. The last day for seniors and Tractor Day is May 26. The last day for everyone else is June 1. There are a lot of classes walking to the parks over the

next week so officers will assist with crossing Hwy 23. The Bike Rodeo is scheduled for June 17. Discussion and questions followed.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith directed the council to their packets for the push button pedestrian system for the Hwy 23 project. There will be a solar system for the Broadway/Penn and 8th intersection. Due to the depth of the storm sewer, we needed a separate post for the push button system. Staff has approved. He asked for approval of the plans contingent upon approval from the state traffic engineer. Discussion and questions followed.

City Administrator Sarah Brunn clarified that the equipment is eligible for reimbursement.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Voit, to approve the plans.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Further discussion and questions regarding the roundabout and pedestrian crossings continued.

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus gave an overview to the council regarding spring projects. Public Works is flushing/jetting mains, sweeping streets, and prepping park shelters. Shelters will open for rentals in mid-May. He also said they would be hiring some summer seasonal help. The pool will open in early June. The compost site is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Discussion and questions followed. There were no updates from the Fire Department.

Administrative

Brunn presented the updated pool refund policy and asked for a motion from the council. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to approve the updates to the pool refund policy.

Mathowetz asked if the change in policy could also allow substitutions.

Brunn explained that it could possibly work, but staff would be unable to add to classes. She still recommended charging an administrative fee.

Amendment by Swanson, seconded by Voit, to allow substitutions.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Brunn updated the council on pool applications for lifeguards and swim teachers. We currently need more swim teachers and staff is working on solutions. She stated she would keep the council informed. Staff has in previous years always found a way to get enough teachers and lifeguards for the pool. She also updated the council that the annual audit went well and the auditors would be presenting their report at the next council meeting. She reminded the council that if they were contacted by the auditors to please respond. She also mentioned that a commercial building in town was scheduled for an inspection tomorrow.

Brunn also stated that there's a lot going on with the legislature and the bonding bill. She encouraged the council stay aware of what's going on. She also asked the council to select two representatives for the joint county/city/township meeting on May 22. It's a great opportunity to collaborate with other local officials. Gondeck and Voit volunteered. Brunn also mentioned that she would be touring the county building along with Gondeck and Voit.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

Mayor's Open Forum

Laura Thielen, 705 13th Avenue, expressed concerns over traffic safety at 13th Avenue and Hwy 23. Road construction last year added a turn lane, which has helped, but she feels new speed signs should be added as well. The speed study showed traffic has slowed down near T.L.C. University but not by 13th Avenue. There is no shoulder, very narrow, and cars are not slowing down. She requested a flashing LED speed limit sign be placed east of 13th Avenue. She stated the neighborhood has more than 38 children. Discussion and questions followed. Pappenfus said he talked to the Hwy 23 project manager and MN Dot and they are open to adding a sign. The city is only responsible for the radar feedback sign. The rest is MN Dot. They are working on the issue.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.



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