

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – August 1, 2023

The Foley City Council held their regular meeting on Aug. 1, 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 Mathiowetz, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried, unanimous.

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

- Approve minutes of July 11, 2023.
- Approve hiring of firefighters Jacob Bowland & David Moore contingent upon background check and physical assessment.
- Approve payment of bills.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Mayor's Comments and Open Forum

Julia Fraley, 6235 Hwy 25 NE, expressed concerns about the Hwy 25 right-of-way ditch in front of her house and whether or not it was considered completely restored after the construction.

Brosh said that her question would be addressed during the project update later in the meeting.

Wastewater Project Update

Jared Voge from Bolton & Menk gave an overview of the project. Crews were on schedule to complete some gravel areas. They've had lengthy discussions regarding seeding. The contractor has it on their list. They do intend to come back in early September once the heat subsides and the weather is better for growing grass. There are several items that need fixing. The generator for the lift station is expected to be delivered in October/November. Crews are progressing on manhole modifications in St. Cloud. Pipe is in and moving forward. Discussion and questions followed. The project is considered 76% complete.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Mathiowetz to approve Pay Agreement estimate #11 for \$231,981.07 for work completed through July 28.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin gave an overview to the council. The department responded to 420 calls in July. Officers completed 18 hours of speed enforcement for TSD, which included 6.5 hours for impaired driving. Suspicious activity calls are up. McMillin gave a general reminder to lock vehicles and take valuables with you. Animal complaints are still up. Animals must be licensed with the city and be on a

leash when not on the owner's property.

McMillin gave an overview of TZD hours. The program is funded through the state and the hours the officers worked are reimbursed to the city. Officers stay close to Foley, but may work outside city limits. All the officers have additional training. They will notify dispatch when they work TZD hours.

McMillin also reported that 72 people attended the department's root beer social. Special thanks to Sheriff Troy Heck and Councilmember Mathiowetz for helping.

McMillin also asked for council approval for the proposed permanent part-time officer position. Officer Cody Pausch expressed an interest in the position. This position would allow 20 hours per week. It would help with the current call load. Officers are reaching their max for comp time and vacation. With council's approval, the department would draft a memo of understanding and present to the union for approval – 20 hours, no benefits. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Voit, to promote Pausch to permanent part time.

Motion carried, unanimous.

McMillin added that Benton County has a public hearing scheduled for Aug. 15 to discuss policy on smoking cannabis in public areas.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith gave an overview to the council regarding the Hwy 23 project. He spoke with the project manager. They are getting through the punch list of outstanding items. No update yet on the push button pedestrian crossing signs. The project is moving forward. The radar feedback signs permit is approved for installation.

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus, Director of Public Works, addressed the council. The department is staying busy painting crosswalks, stump removal, and catch basins. The old bridge sold on MN Bid for \$7,900. The money will be used for trail maintenance. The old bucket truck also sold. Discussion and questions followed regarding trails and sidewalks. Pappenfus reported there was nothing new with the Fire Department.

Administrative

Sarah Brunn, City Administrator, gave an overview to the council. She met with the new school superintendent to discuss the storm sewer reimbursement and talked about payment options. Would the council consider a ten-year payment option? Council expressed agreement for a ten year option. Discussion and questions followed.

Brunn presented the Industrial Park Concept options. The council needs to finalize which concept they would like in order for staff to apply for funding. The options were single-access vs. loop. Discussion and questions followed with the council expressing a preference for the single access option due to lot sizes and price.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Voit, to approve the single access concept and move forward with funding.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Brunn shared with the council that staff is wrapping up information on the 2024 budget. Council will have hard copies in their packets by the end of the week or early next. The Budget Workshop is scheduled for Aug. 15. She encouraged the council to reach out to department heads if they have any questions. The proposed budget will include the winter sewer rates option. Brunn stressed that it is unclear how water habits might change if the council moves forward with a winter sewer rate. Adjustments may need to be made. Questions and discussion followed.

Old Business

Brunn gave an update on the county building acquisition. There was discussion of maybe moving the library instead of moving City Hall staff. Still nothing official to report. Still gathering information. Discussion followed.

New Business

Brosh shared that he'd gotten a call from a resident who said that they were given a late fee for being \$4.33 short on paying their water bill. He asked staff what the policy is for when a late fee is applied to an account.

Brunn explained that the system is currently set to apply a late fee to any account that rolls over a balance of \$2.00 or more in a billing period. She said that this can be adjusted higher or lower if the council wants to make a change. Questions and discussion followed.

Mathiowetz stated that if the policy is working then it's not worth changing.

Mayor's Comments and Open Forum

No one spoke.

Mathiowetz stated that she does a coffee event the last Saturday of every month. It was brought to her attention that there may be a puppy mill operating in town. She researched the issue. Foley does not have a big issue. The state views dogs as livestock. The legislature is looking into changing this. There's nothing the city can do at this time.

Gondeck shared that he will be attending a public forum with the county commissioners on Tuesday.

Voit shared that on Aug. 17 at the Movie in the Park event in Lion's Park they will have three artistic concepts for the proposed new city welcome signs.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.



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