

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – December 5, 2023

The Foley City Council held their regular meeting on Dec. 5, 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.

**Councilmember Voit attended the meeting from a remote location due to illness.
All votes were taken by roll call.**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

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

- Approve minutes of November 7, 2023.
- Approve fire mutual aid agreement with St. Cloud Airport.
- Approve payment of bills.

Brosh asked what the payment for \$30,000 for the wastewater in the bill list.

Sarah Brunn, City Administrator, explained that the city has an obligation to pay their share along with the other cities in the wastewater partnership for the design costs for St. Cloud's wastewater capital improvement projects. Normally, this expense would have been rolled into our monthly payment to St. Cloud, but we aren't paying those expenses yet.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Wastewater Regionalization Project Update

Jared Voge from Bolton & Menk gave an overview on the wastewater project. Geislinger and Sons requested a project extension due to material delays with the transformers for the main lift station and the generators. Voge directed the council to their packet for the list of outstanding items and when they are expected to arrive. Voge also presented and recommended for approval Payment Estimate #14 for \$842,696.44 which included work completed through Nov. 24.

Gondeck asked if the seeding that was done in the fall doesn't take if the contractor would come back and do it again. Voge confirmed that they would.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to approve the change order.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck to approve Payment Estimate #14.

Motion carried, unanimous.

MN Housing Program Presentation

Amanda Othoudt from Benton Economic Partnership gave an overview of the Minnesota City Participation Program (MCP) to the council. The MCP is a state funded program that provides first-time homebuyer loans to your community. It helps promote first-time homeownership in the community; gives access to down payment and closing cost loans; is dedicated funding for the community with minimal administrative burden...etc... Questions and discussion followed with the council expressing interest in the program.

Winter Sewer Rate Ordinance

The council discussed the adoption of Ordinance #475 – Sewer Rates (Winter Use).

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to approve the Winter Sewer Rate Ordinance #475.

Gondeck stated the ordinance would be up for review every year and adjustments can be made.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Mayor's Comments & Open Forum

No one spoke.

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin gave an overview to the council. The department handled 376 calls in November. Child calls were up (at the school); winter parking tickets were up (reminder of winter parking enforcement). Suspicious activity and medicals stayed about the same. Cocoa with a Cop is scheduled for Dec. 14 for kids pre-school to 3rd grade. Sign up is through community education. Squad car maintenance is ongoing. McMillin also informed the council that Officer Vickstrom is leaving the department sooner than expected. She asked the council to promote Officer Pausch to full time beginning Dec. 11.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to approve promotion of Officer Pausch.

Motion carried, unanimous.

McMillin also shared with the council that the department had not yet received any applications for the part-time position. Mathiowetz commented that she thought the article in the Benton County News about the open position was excellent.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith gave an overview regarding the Hwy 23 project. There will be no further action until spring. The completion date was extended to June 15. Griffith also gave an update on the scores for the IEP water improvements. Recent staff meetings discussed the scores and next steps. He told the council he would bring options and more details to the next meeting.

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus, Director of Public Works, gave an overview of current projects. The crew is staying busy trimming trees and with truck maintenance. He also directed the council to their packet for details

on the price quote for a new paint sprayer for \$8,320.00 to replace the one that stopped working. The old sprayer is 23 years old. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Mathiowetz, to approve purchase of the new paint sprayer.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Fire Department

Pappenfus updated the council on the tanker committee progress. They are close to sending out specifications to the membership to discuss tomorrow night. Estimated delivery would be in late 2025. The Santa Parade is scheduled for Dec. 20. Candy canes were donated for the kids. Parade will start at 6 p.m. The new fire squad has arrived. Hope to have it in service this month. Questions and discussion followed.

Gondeck asked with the new bigger trucks if they will still fit into the fire hall. Pappenfus said that so far it hasn't been a problem.

Administrative

Brunn asked the council to schedule her yearly review prior to the Jan. 2 meeting at 5 p.m. She also shared that staff had compiled some information on the winter sewer rates and the wastewater project. If there are no concerns, staff would like to share the information with the public to help answer questions. Discussion and questions followed with the council agreeing to share the information with the public. Brunn also shared that staff is preparing for 2024 elections. The first one will be in March. Staff is also prepping for year end.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

Public Hearing - Truth in Taxation Hearing

Brosh recessed the regular council meeting at 6:18 p.m. to conduct the Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation Hearing. Brunn presented the proposed 2024 Tax Levy increase at 9%. Notices were sent from the county.

Brosh asked those in attendance if anyone would care to speak for or against the matter. No one spoke. Brosh reconvened the regular council meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Swanson, to adopt Resolution #2023-18 Approving 2024 Tax Levy.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Brosh thanked the Boy Scouts for attending the meeting.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Sarah A. Brunn

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