

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – March 12, 2024

The Foley City Council held their regular meeting on March 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Foley City Hall.

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

Members Absent: Gary Swanson

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

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

- Approve minutes of February 6, 2024.
- Approve Resolution # 2024-6 Accepting Donation for The Foley Police Department
- Approving hiring of part-time police officers Bryce Lind, Dana Anton, and Brett Schramel.
- Updated Pursuit Policy (Mandated policy from POST Board).
- Approve Vet Clinic Horse Coggins Event on April 20th and Hold Harmless Agreement.
- Consider approval of No Mow May for occupied properties only!
- Approve re-hire of Pool Manager, Emma Thorsten.
- Approve payment of bills.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Mayor's Open Forum

Jesse Gerads, 16810 170th Street, from Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal said he would like the opportunity to bid on the city's garbage contract if the council decided to go in that direction.

Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Brosh suspended the regular council meeting at 5:32 p.m. for a public hearing to discuss the adoption of Zoning Ordinance #478.

Debra Olson, 600 Dewey Street, spoke and referred to the email she had previously sent to the council. She expressed concern that the zoning ordinance regarding property size didn't include language grandfathering in older properties.

Sarah Brunn, City Administrator, explained that 'legal non-conformity' is automatically written into the city's zoning ordinance as a standalone section. The proposed ordinance changes actually loosens up some of the restrictions currently in place so less properties will actually be non-conforming if the changes are adopted.

Discussion and questions followed.

Brunn clarified that when an ordinance passes the other properties are grandfathered in according to state statute. There are no changes to the rights of the homeowners with this ordinance.

No one else spoke. The public meeting was closed at 5:37 p.m. and the regular council meeting resumed.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to approve Zoning Ordinance #478.

Voit asked for clarification on shipping containers and if they were allowed for storage only and not for tiny homes?

Gondeck replied that the Planning Commission had a discussion and felt that shipping containers could be used for short-term storage only.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Discussion on Garbage Contract Renewal

Brunn explained that the current contract with Republic Services is set to expire on June 30. The contract does allow for one five-year extension if the council decided not to open the contract up for bid. Discussion and questions followed.

Gondeck and Mathiowetz stated they were happy with the service. Voit was undecided, but appreciated that the Jim's Mille Lacs representative had come to the meeting. Brosh stated he would like to see it go out for bid.

More questions and discussion followed. The council was split on how to proceed.

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

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin gave the state report for February. The department responded to 378 calls in February. In February of 2023, the department responded to 345 calls. This continues the upward trend in calls. Traffic stops were up including driving with a revoked license. Fun with Police last month had 14 kids participating. The meal was sponsored by Foley's Family Restaurant. On March 23, McMillin will attend the Community Connect Expo at the high school. The Bike Rodeo is scheduled for June 15 for their 10th year. The department has also been receiving a lot of data requests. Use of force training is scheduled for Thursday.

Brunn added that the state legislature is voting to fix some concerns with the SRO law. McMillin explained that Officer Pausch (SRO) has already attended the training the legislature is looking to put in place.

McMillin stated the new officers will start after their psychological and physical exams are completed. The 2021 squad is getting repaired. The 2019 and the spare squad are working fine.

McMillin gave an overview for the crime free housing class that is a requirement for obtaining a renter's license per the ordinance. She reported that landlords are finding it difficult to enroll in the class since it is not offered very frequently. Some agencies do an online version, but she said she had not been able to get a link to the course. She did find the binder for the class that she used to teach in

2013. Brunn added that staff had received complaints about taking the all-day class and was looking into alternatives. The council agreed to move the course online or something similar. Brunn and McMillin said they would look into how to make that happen.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith gave an overview of different projects. The surveyors are ready for the southside development project. The second water treatment plant tour is this Thursday. Gondeck and Brosh will attend on March 14 for the St. Joseph tour. The date for the Wisconsin tour needs to be rescheduled.

Public Works and Fire Department

Mark Pappenfus reminded the council of the Xcel Energy power outage scheduled for this Saturday. He also mentioned that now is a good time to purchase more holiday decorations because of sales. He recommended buying 10 this year for \$5,200 and 10 more next year. The purchase is already budgeted for and within the department heads spending authority so no need for a motion from the council. The crew is getting a lot of maintenance work done. Need to find a place to store the salt that is not used due to the mild winter.

Administration

Brunn indicated no pay app this month from Bolton & Menk. They've been working on some of the parts coming in. Brunn also added that staff is really excited to be working with the county on the allocation of some ARPA money that is still available - \$500,000 for infrastructure for housing. It's why we're moving forward on the southside development. We are very grateful and thankful for the opportunity with the county. It really helps a lot in the environment we're currently in.

Gondeck thanked Commission Scott Johnson for his support.

Mathiowetz asked if the southside project would include senior housing.

Brunn said that one of the plans included townhomes which would be well suited to seniors. There's also another project that staff is in early discussions with which would include apartments.

Brunn gave an overview of the current Tri-County Human Society contract with the city. Tri-County has stated they will no longer split the cost of fees with the resident and have asked the city to pay for the entire amount. This makes the contract higher. With the additional expense, the city is already over budget for the year and it could be over significantly by the end of the year if the trends continue. Strays are dropped off and if they aren't adopted they're euthanized and the charge comes to the city. Brunn asked the council if they wanted to continue with the contract. Discussion and questions followed. Brosh asked what the charge would be without the contract in place. Brunn said she would find out and report back.

Brunn also informed the council that staff would be transitioning the checking to Falcon Bank with the new software implementation to save on fees. Brunn also shared staff might have found a way to avoid the single line audit in 2023 due to the timing and draws of the wastewater expenditures. The city is under the Federal limit of \$750,000 for the wastewater project. No single line audit will save several thousands of dollars in audit fees this year.

Old Business

Mathiowetz stated her support for keeping the Fun Days parade route as it is so the residents at the nursing home would be able to continue watch the parade. Moving the route back to the original route

as planned would mean the route would no longer go past the nursing home. It's too difficult for the residents to find a place to watch the parade from another location.

Brosh asked Juanita Beauchamp of the Civic Group to speak.

Beauchamp addressed the council outlining her duties with the Civic Group and her 20 years of experience in parade planning. She explained that the last two years the parade route had to be changed due to road construction. The change was temporary. She gave an overview of the problems the new route caused – e.g. cars and busses causing chaos, unsafe conditions, garbage, additional port-a-potties. The old route is better and safer for everyone – fewer police are needed to control traffic. The original route is preferred by the visiting bands because they can park their busses at the high school and the parade starts and ends in the same spot. The last two years the busses have had to follow the bands and it takes away from the bands. For these reasons, the parade will be going back to the original route this year.

Discussion and questions followed with the council agreeing to go with Beauchamp's recommendation to returning to the original parade route. Voit expressed that he would be open to investigating other options. Gondeck expressed that more volunteers are needed to help.

Pamela Vizenor, 600 Broadway Avenue N, addressed the council and said that more nurses and CNAs would be needed to help move residents to a viewing area in order to watch the parade if it returns to the original route. It is much easier to help residents at the nursing home if they can watch the parade from their front lawn.

Brosh replied that the council has given their opinion on the matter and any further questions or concerns should be directed to the Civic Group.

New Business

Voit asked the council to adopt Resolution #2024-07 Approving Art Grant Application. This would submit the grant to the Central Minnesota Arts Board for the construction and installation of the city's welcome signs.

Motion by Mathiowetz, seconded by Gondeck, to adopt Resolution #2024-07.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Voit also asked if the council could have more workshops to discuss bigger issues that might require longer or in-depth discussion. Discussion and questions followed. Brunn suggested having a standing line item on the agenda to decide if a second meeting during the month is needed. If a second meeting was needed, staff and department heads would have to be available to attend as well. Brosh suggested further discussion at the next meeting.

Voit also brought up the possibility of a downtown façade program for businesses. He mentioned that previously a request for the program had not made it into the budget, but there are several new business owners who might be interested. He asked to schedule a discussion on the topic. He added that many other cities have similar programs to help redevelop downtown. Brunn suggested to keep the program small to gauge success. A discussion could be held at future workshop session.

2nd Open Forum

No one spoke.

Pappenfus added that the trail along Oak Drive is ADA compliant with the ramp. It is on the list to be redone and should happen this year.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Voit, to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



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