

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 6, 2026

The Foley City Council held its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 16, 2026, at Foley City Hall.

Members Present: Mayor Brandon Voit, Councilmembers Jeff Gondeck, Deb Mathiowetz, and Stephanie Lloyd.

Members Absent: Gary Swanson

Mayor Voit convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Lloyd, to approve the consent agenda.

- Approve minutes of December 16, 2025.
- Approve City of Foley Audit Proposal – Schlenner & Wenner.
- Adopt Resolution #2026-01 Accepting Donation.
- Adopt Resolution #2026-02 Accepting Donation.
- Accept resignation of Jordan Ramler, part-time police officer.
- Approve Initiative Foundation Grant for Disaster Preparedness & Recovery grant of \$4,313.52.
- Approve application for Minnesota City Participation Program (MCP) program.
- Approve appointment of fire department officers.
- Approve payment of bills.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Mayor's Comments and Open Forum

No one spoke.

Wastewater Project Update

Jared Voge, Bolton & Menk, gave an overview to the council and recommended approval of Pay Application #27 for \$144,693.92 for work completed through Dec. 29, 2025. Voge gave an update on the odor issue and the charges received from St. Cloud. 1% of the contract remains with punch list items on the St. Cloud end systems. Testing continues for chemical dosing.

Motion by Voit, seconded by Gondeck to approve Pay Application #27 for \$144,693.92.

Gondeck asked when the final completion would be. Voge said weather permitting June/July.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Voge stated the next step will be to decommission the Birch pond. Staff is meeting with the MPCA. Preliminary cost estimates might be eligible to tap the existing loan. The cost of the existing project is under budget of about \$500,000. The decommissioning is estimated at \$2.5 million. Questions and discussion followed. Voge will bring more updates to the council.

2026 Annual Appointments – Discussion and Approval

Voit stated there are opportunity's for residents to be involved. Many appointments are still unfilled. Sarah Brunn, City Administrator, added that on the Library Board there is a member who is filling in temporarily until new member can be appointment. There are also a few openings on the Planning Commission. No openings on the Economic Development Authority (EDA) currently. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Mathiowetz, to approve the 2026 Annual Appointments as presented.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Department Reports

Police Department

Chief Katie McMillin gave an overview of the annual stat report along with the monthly stat report. Compared to the previous year, all stats are trending upward. In December, DUI enforcement, domestics, animal complaints are all up. Parking tickets are down. Assisting other agencies is up. Coco with a cop was held on Dec. 19 with about 19 kids. The department is getting ready for the Bike Rodeo. Donation letters are going out. On the emergency management side, McMillin will attend the next council hazard mitigation resolution meeting to discuss the plan from the county.

City Engineer

Jarod Griffith, City Engineer, gave an overview to the council and recommended approval of Pay Application #7 from Kuechle Underground for \$27,655 for the Northside Street & Utility Improvements.

Motion by Voit, seconded by Gondeck to Pay Application #7 from Kuechle Underground for \$27,655.00.

Gondeck asked what the completion percentage was. Griffith said 94%.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Public Works/Fire Departments

Mark Pappenfus, Director of Public Works, gave an overview of the two quotes for the pool filter replacement originally dicussed back in August. He recommended going with the sand

filter system with Horizon for \$122,642.33. The original pool filter system was installed in the 1980s. Parts are no longer available for the current system. Pappenfus said the install for the new system was hoped to take place in the spring to be completed in time for the pool opening in June. Discussion and questions followed. Brunn stated that there were no plans to raise the pool rates this year. The next big project for the pool would be the replacement of the bowl. More discussion followed.

Motion by Voit, seconded by Mathiowetz, to approve the Horizon quote of \$122,642.33 for installation of the sand filter system.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Administration

Brunn presented Ordinance #497 Parking Downtown. The amendment would only change the lot on the south end of downtown to allow 48-hour parking.

Motion by Voit, seconded by Lloyd, to approve Ordinance #497 – Parking Downtown.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Brunn asked for council direction on the February meeting. The caucus is Feb. 3 so the council meeting would need to be earlier than 5:30 p.m. or the meeting could be moved to Feb. 10. The council agreed to the Feb. 10 meeting and were okay were keeping the March 10 meeting.

Brunn also gave an overview of the PFA settlement. Staff submitted paperwork and data. The city has received, \$105,107 deposited into the water account to be used for infrastructure. Discussion and questions.

Old Business

Letters to 2100

Mathiowetz presented her ideas for the time capsule including pictures, a list of completed projects, and possibly an event for the community. Discussion and questions followed. Voit recommended a workshop to discuss in more detail at the Feb. 10 meeting.

New Business

Discussion on police staffing. Voit expressed concern on losing another part-time officer. McMillin stated the department currently has 4 full-time officers and 5 part-time officers. It would be best to have 8 part-time officers which would include a permanent part-time officer. McMillin added that the schedule is filled until April. The best time to hire could be after May law enforcement graduations. She is waiting to hear back from the union to see if the department could move forward with the permanent part-time position. Discussion and questions followed.

Gondeck stated that with the money spent on training part-time officers the city could have hired another full-time officer a while ago. More discussion and questions. Voit stated that Public Works is also in need of additional staffing.

McMillin said that in the summer with the SRO available for patrol another full-time position would give the department 24/7 coverage.

Voit asked McMillin to put together what it would cost to add another full-time position to the budget vs. the resources spent for continued turn over for part-time positions. Brunn added that more part-time hiring is benefit eligible. The city will need to pay benefits whether part-time or full time. Brunn also stated the city has longevity with full-time employees, but it's hard for employees to use the time off they've earned due to scheduling. More discussion and questions. Gondeck added that more space is needed for the Police Department and for Public Works. The council can't keep putting the problem off to the future.

Discussion turned to virtual council conversations with the public. Voit said the council can discuss more at the February workshop.

Voit recessed the meeting at 6:24 p.m. for a closed session to conduct the City Administrator's performance review.

The performance review concluded at 7:08 p.m. with the council finding the City Administrator's performance to be satisfactory.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Lloyd, to approve increasing the administrator's vacation tier.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Motion by Lloyd, seconded by Gondeck, to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.



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