

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – February 10, 2026

The Foley City Council held its regular meeting and workshop at 5:30 p.m. on February 10, 2026, at Foley City Hall.

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

Members Absent: None

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Motion carried, unanimous.

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

- Approve minutes of January 6, 2026.
- Approve updated MOU for police permanent part-time officer.
- Approve hiring of Mitchell Patrick for permanent part-time officer position.
- Adopt Resolution #2025-04 Adopting 2025 County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Approve appointment of Tanya Robideaux for Foley Library Board.
- Adopt Resolution #2025-05 Approving 2025 Transfers.
- Adopt Resolution #2025-06 Authorizing Agreements for State of MN Housing Grant.
- Adopt Resolution #2025-07 Accepting Donation.
- Accept resignation of firefighters Jay Howard and Logan Lunde.
- Approve disposal of fire equipment including obsolete turnout gear, nozzles, Air Pac equipment to Hand in Hand Logistics.
- Adopt Resolution #2025-08 Supporting Arts Project Grant for Northern Hallow Winery
- Approve payment of bills.

Motion carried, unanimous.

1. Executive Summary:

- The Council conducted multiple agenda items focused on land use, infrastructure, public safety, and grant/financing:
 - St. John's Church CUP Amendment for a new sign: Public hearing recorded safety concerns and project support; later, Resolution 2026-09 approving the CUP amendment passed unanimously.

- Foley American Legion parking lot compliance: Consensus to allow interim use of the existing bare lot while a compliance plan is developed; staff to provide a requirements packet; target completion referenced for Spring/Summer 2027.
- Wastewater Project – Birch Pond decommissioning: Engineering authorization approved (hourly NTE \$195,000); total project cost estimated at \$2.0–\$2.5M with completion targeted by November 2026; PFA financing eligibility confirmed.
- Lead Service Line (LSL) programs and PPL/IUP applications: Council approved engineering services to submit 2027 PPL/IUP by March 13; adopted Resolution 2025-09 to pursue LMC Grant Navigation Support (up to \$5,000).
- Water Treatment Facility pilot and feasibility: Ozone pilot positive; funding at \$5M; feasibility options due for Council review in May.
- Southside Fairway Estates Phase 1 final plat and public bidding authorized; bids anticipated around March 11 with Council review near April 7.
- Police operations update: Increased calls; records system training; sidewalk enforcement; Bicycle Safety Rodeo preparation.
- Fire Department staffing update: Recruitment underway; aim to present names by April.
- Grant timing risks (south end project) and ARPA deadline: Proceed with project regardless of grant outcome; explore reimbursable paths; maintain bid/design momentum.

2. Detailed Breakdown by Topic:

Topic 1: St. John’s Church – CUP Amendment (Sign Installation)

- Summary of discussion points
 - Public hearing opened at 5:31 PM regarding a sign installation at St. John’s Church.
 - Safety concerns (Debra Olson): Sightline hazards near intersection/stop sign; yellow curb markings potentially noncompliant with state regulations (20 ft from crosswalk; 30 ft from stop signs); speeding on nearby hill; a 7-foot sign may further obstruct corner visibility; longstanding issue since 2008; DOT prior response on file with Sarah.
 - Project support (Gerry and Angel Goble): Church lacks signage; design developed with granite vendor; compliance with setbacks discussed with staff (Mark, Sarah); angled placement to minimize visibility impacts; ground-mounted uplighting;

community volunteer construction; timeline target July 7, 2026 (Angel's Eagle Scout deadline).

- Council inquiries: Reviewed design, placement, lighting specifics.
- Regular meeting reconvened at 5:42 p.m. Decisions made:
 - Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Lloyd, to approve amendment to CUP to allow new sign. Motion carried, unanimous.
 - CUP amendment approved via Resolution 2026-09 (ayes, no opposition).

Topic 2: Foley American Legion – Parking Lot Compliance and Interim Use

- Summary of discussion points
 - Legion requested clarity on requirements, timelines, phasing, and interim use of a bare lot serving as parking.
 - Code requires a durable, dust-free, hard surface in downtown; crushed granite is not permitted; acceptable surfaces include asphalt or concrete.
 - Council consensus: Allow interim use “as is” while a plan is developed; staff to prepare ordinance requirements, process, and options; a reasonable target date discussed with Spring/Summer 2027 (workshop noted fall 2027 target).
 - Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck to allow the legion to continue the use of their lot as a parking lot for the interim. Motion carried, unanimous.

Topic 3: Wastewater Regionalization – Birch Pond Decommissioning

- Summary of discussion points
 - Presentation of next phase to decommission existing wastewater ponds (biosolids removal, grading, seeding).
 - Engineering authorization: Hourly not-to-exceed \$195,000; total project cost estimated \$2.0–\$2.5M including engineering.
 - Financing: Eligible under existing PFA loan.
 - Schedule: Completion targeted by November 2026.
- Decisions made
 - Motion by Voit, seconded by Swanson, to approve decommissioning plan and quote. Motion carried, unanimous.
 - Council approved engineering authorization and proceeding with decommissioning plan.

Topic 4: Lead Service Line Projects and Funding Applications (2027 PPL/IUP; LMC Grant)

- Summary of discussion points
 - Motion by Voit, seconded by Lloyd, to approve engineering services to submit 2027 PPL and IUP applications to the Department of Health and PFA. Motion carried, unanimous
 - Motion by Voit, seconded by Swanson to adopt Resolution 2025-09 supporting the League of Minnesota Cities Grant Navigation Support application (up to \$5,000) to offset application-related costs; timing risk noted against the March 13 PPL deadline. Motion carried unanimous.
 - 2025 LSL project: Use remaining reimbursable funds via change orders to complete an additional ~10–14 services.
 - 2026 LSL plan set: Approximately 42 services; 7 properties pending contact; plan set expected for March approval.
- Decisions made
 - Approved engineering services for 2027 PPL/IUP; adopted Resolution 2025-09 for LMC grant; proceed with 2025 change-order additions administratively; expect March Council approval of 2026 plan set.

Topic 5: Water Treatment Facility – Pilot Results and Feasibility Study

- Summary of discussion points
 - Ozone pilot shows effective iron/manganese removal and color improvement.
 - Funding status: \$5M available (\$3M PFA + \$2M federal FIT); city requested \$7M of federal; federal administrative timelines being clarified.
 - Feasibility study will present cost scenarios (package precast vs. cast-in-place; with/without ozone; phasing) for Council review in May.

Topic 6: Southside Fairway Estates – Phase 1 Final Plat and Bidding

- Summary of discussion points
 - Phase 1 final plat approved: 18 lots with sewer, water, storm infrastructure, grading, and a stormwater pond.

- Phase 2 anticipated with ~18 lots wrapping to 55th Street; details to follow.
- Bidding authorized with anticipated bid date around March 11 and Council review near April 7.
- Design guidance: Include sump pump direct connections for all lots; curb type similar to 13th Street; coordinate county permits for 55th Street.
- Decisions made
 - Motion by Voit, seconded by Gondeck to approve final plat and public bidding authorized. Motion carried unanimous.

Topic 8: Police Department – January Operations Update

- Summary of discussion points
 - Calls for service increased to 413 (from 390 prior year); domestic calls up.
 - Records system training ongoing; Chief training three days/week before officer training.
 - Sidewalk enforcement for ice/snow; letters and Facebook reminders issued.
 - Bicycle Safety Rodeo preparations underway (12th annual); donation letters sent; initial donations received.
 - Equipment violations discussed (expired tabs, headlights out, window tint); clarified part-time officer startup costs per individual.

Topic 9: Public Works / Fire Department

- Summary of discussion points
 - Two firefighters lost; recruitment active with interviews scheduled; 1–2 fully trained applicants possible.
 - Fire Department: Conduct interviews; bring recommendations by April.
- Consider and approve purchase of JD Mower (State Bid) for Public Works. Motion by Voit, seconded by Swanson to approve. Motion carried unanimous.

Topic 10: Grant Status and ARPA Deadline – South End Project

- Summary of discussion points
 - Grant requires signed contract before spending; risk if timing slips; exploring reimbursement eligibility or switching tiers with reduced amount.

- State processes slow; repeated extensions; project not bonding-tied; lower priority in queue.
- Council consensus to proceed regardless of grant outcome to avoid bid delays and pricing impacts; maintain momentum on design and bidding.

Topic 11: Audit Preparation

- Summary of discussion points
 - Audits scheduled for April; auditor inquiries to begin arriving within the next month; questions typically sent to two individuals.
 - Staff/Council: Respond promptly to auditor inquiries; coordinate documentation; notify Sarah if questions arise.

Closed Session Industrial Park Parcel – Land Sale Strategy

- Voit suspended the regular meeting at 6:37 p.m. for a closed session to discuss the potential sale of industrial park property.
- The regular meeting was reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

Motion by Lloyd, seconded by Mathiowetz, to adjourn.

Motion carried, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.



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