

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING– September 15, 2026

The Foley City Council held its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 15, 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 called the meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance.

Agenda and Consent Agenda Approval

- An amendment was added to the agenda under the police department report to discuss the temporary closure of Penn Street for the homecoming parade on September 25th.
- Motions by Mathiowetz, seconded by Lloyd, to amend agenda and the consent agenda were approved without further discussion.

Change Order for South Fairway Estates

- Change Order #3 Details:
 - The council considered Change Order #3 for the South Fairway Estates project, amounting to \$52,233.80. This change is to perform additional grading work on the lots to prepare them for construction, particularly for split-level homes.
- Reason for the Change:
 - This grading work was included in the initial plat and design concepts but was mistakenly omitted from the final construction documents by the engineer. The work involves moving existing on-site soil from a stockpile onto the individual lots rather than bringing in new material.
- Impact of the Change:
 - Performing the grading now prevents builders from having to haul in dirt over newly installed infrastructure like curbs and streets.
 - If not approved, builders would likely incur an extra cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per lot, which could negatively affect the final lot prices and the affordability of the homes.

- The engineer acknowledged the oversight and stated it was a mistake on their end.
- Financials and Approval:
 - After accounting for a previous change order, approximately \$10,000 will remain in the project's contingency fund after this approval.
 - A council member expressed frustration over the mistake and the frequency of recent change orders but acknowledged mistakes happen.
 - Motion by Voit, seconded by Lloyd, to approve Change Order #3 for the South Fairway Estates project. All in favor.

Wastewater Treatment System Use Code Update

- The council reviewed and approved updates to the City of Foley Section 305 Wastewater Treatment System Use Code.
- These changes are required as part of a regional agreement with the City of St. Cloud and other area cities, ensuring all municipalities have matching codes.
- The updates were described as highly technical, with many changes related to verbiage and specific limits dictated by the regional permit. The council is obligated to adopt these changes every few years. Motion by Swanson, seconded by Lloyd to approve Section 305 Wastewater Treatment System Use Code. Motion carried.

Police Department Report

- Homecoming Parade Street Closure:
 - The school requested permission for a temporary closure of Penn Street on September 25th from approximately 2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the homecoming parade.
 - The exact parade route is still being finalized, but the closure would provide the school with the option to use Penn Street.
 - The closure will be managed with squad cars to allow for emergency vehicle access if needed. The council approved the request with motion by Lloyd, seconded by Swanson.
- School Resource Officer Update:
 - The school year has started, and Officer Cody is transitioning back into the school.
 - The department is working collaboratively with school officials regarding a few students who required frequent attention last year.
- Community Engagement:

- The police department, along with the fire department and county, participated in a first responders event at a recent football game, which was well-attended.

Construction Project Updates

- Fifth Avenue & Main Street Resurfacing:

- The city is still waiting for the final cost-sharing numbers for its portion of the project. There has been some progress on the agreement with the county school district regarding their share of the parking lots.

- 2026 Lead Service Project:

- The contractor plans to complete all but one of the remaining five service lines by the end of this week, with the final one scheduled for completion around Wednesday of next week, weather permitting.

- A council member raised a concern about patching concrete that was shaken out. The city engineer mentioned this was discussed with the contractor, and this Saturday was suggested as a possible date for the work, though it is not yet confirmed.

- South Fairway Estates Project:

- Road building activities were planned to start this week but were delayed one day due to rain.

- The current schedule has road paving starting this week. Curb installation is targeted for the end of next week (around the 24th or 25th), with paving to follow in the final week of the month.

RFP for Engineering Services

- Purpose of the RFP:

- The administration proposed issuing an RFP for engineering services to evaluate options and ensure the city has the best fit for its needs, especially with anticipated growth. This process is not committing to an immediate change but is a prudent evaluation measure the city has used for other services in the past.

- Council Approval:

- A motion was made and unanimously approved to move forward with the RFP for engineering services with motion by Gondeck, seconded by Voit.

- The timeline aims for proposals to be submitted the last week of October, with a final decision made by the end of the year for an annual appointment starting January 1st.

- Review Committee:

- A committee of two council members, along with Mark and Sarah from administration, will be formed to conduct the initial review of proposals and narrow down the finalists.

- Two council members who are not up for re-election, Gondeck and Lloyd, volunteered and were appointed to the committee.

Administrative Updates

- Increase in Data Requests:

- The administration is experiencing a significant increase in the volume of public data requests, some of which are very broad and require substantial staff time to research and fulfill.

- While committed to transparency, staff time is a tax dollar expense, and they encourage people submitting requests to be as specific as possible to streamline the process.

- Some requests have become complex enough to require legal review, particularly from the police department.

- New Utility Billing System:

- The billing itself is going well, but there have been frustrations with getting support from the software vendor.

- The new online payment portal is functional, but some residents are struggling to navigate it. Staff can assist but have limited ability to make changes on a user's behalf if they sign up for auto-pay through the portal due to security measures.

- A council member noted that the contingency fund is for unanticipated issues, not for correcting planning mistakes. They expressed a desire to "tighten up the screws" to prevent similar change orders in the future.

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

Motion passed, unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:34 p.m.



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