

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
July 9, 2019

The Forman City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kevin Bopp. Present were council members Luke Anderson, Al Colemer, and Neil Weaving. Absent was John Stenvold. Also attending were Attorney Lyle Bopp, Trish Pearson and Paige Cary. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Luke Anderson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Attorney Lyle Bopp presented a petition on behalf of new property owner Kenneth Redburn, to vacate one-half of 7th Street between Antelope Ave W and Cedar Ave W. A public hearing is scheduled for August 6, 2019 at 6:00 PM per Century Code. Mr. Redburn addressed the council stating his intentions to build a residence on his property adjacent to the road. The city map indicates that the road was vacated, but we are unable to find recorded documentation at the courthouse. The adjacent property owner did not want to vacate the road at this time so the request is for only half of the road. The road is only a road as far as designation. It is not a viable artery.

Mr. Redburn also submitted an application to connect new service lines for water and sewer to the city mains. He will work with City Superintendent Anthony Fiala to determine the location of the mains and the best location to make the connections. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve the application. Motion carried.

Sheriff Travis Paeper joined the council meeting asking the council to consider two items in the budget preparations. In the past, off duty deputies have provided policing to the city. The city is unable to compete with other sources for pay and the deputies have chosen not to spend their off-duty hours for the city. Milnor and Gwinner have contracts with the County to provide for these services. Sheriff Paeper proposed that the City of Forman enter into a contract with the County as well. He provided a copy of Milnor's contract for reference, stating that we could choose how many hours of service we would require. He also made it clear that we do now and will continue to receive services even without a contract. This is just a way to facilitate more workers and services than would be available without support from the cities. Paeper also requested that the city continue to contribute to SEMCA – the drug task force. The council said they would consider his requests as they prepared the budget.

Lyle Bopp has been researching the street and alley vacations that appear on our map, but have no corresponding recording at the courthouse. He said the city could initiate the vacations and do them all at one time. Trish Pearson will send out a listing of all the vacations in question to the council for review and they will discuss it at our next meeting.

There was no report from the city engineer. They did send a contract for the technical services for the water plant, which the council chose to delay until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Luke Anderson to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2019 council meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the city auditor's report including the June financial statements, delinquency report and payment of the bills. Motion carried.

The council reviewed the city superintendent's report. We have received numerous complaints about mosquitoes. Mayor Bopp commented that we need a forecast stretch of 48 hours without rain, and calm to light winds in order to fog. As soon as the conditions permit, we will be out.

Paige Cary reported on Carfest activities and asked for ideas and suggestions for next year. Those included more activities for children, turtle races, dog show, and adding activities to fill the time between when the Car Show ends and the band begins, approximately 5pm to 9pm. Cary stated that she approached the Sargent Central School Board about the lots just south of the bus barn. Those lots have been vacant for years and she thought it would be a good location to add a small mobile home park. The infrastructure is already available and it is surrounded by apartments, the school and bus barn giving it a buffer between the single-family residential properties. The council said she should continue to pursue this. Finally, Paige presented a number of options for small business incentives for the council to review. They will look these over and discuss it at the next meeting.

In old business, there was no update on the hydrant coverage issue. The crack sealing company may be in town this week if it doesn't rain. The windows for city hall are in. We need to schedule installation. Neil Weaving said he could wait until next month to discuss his request for assistance with his new business. Paige Cary checked with EM/911 Coordinator, Wendy Willprecht about the possibility for grants to fund security updates at the water plant. There is none at this time, but she will keep looking for future opportunities. FCDC is working with Lincoln Bank regarding acquisition of the grocery store building. If they can work it out, they would do some renovations then lease the building to a company to run a grocery store.

A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve a building permit from Sue Kleingarn to build a deck on the home. Motion carried.

The council spent the remaining time working on preparing the 2020 preliminary budget.

Our next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Note: this meeting is one week early in order to meet budget deadlines.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor