

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
February 7, 2023

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kevin Bopp. Present were council members Luke Anderson, John Stenvold and Neil Weaving. Al Colemer was absent. Also attending were Trish Pearson, Sara Dux and Lyle Bopp.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Luke Anderson to approve minutes from the January 10, 2023 regular city council meeting. Motion carried.

Sheriff Travis Paeper addressed the council. At the previous council meeting, the increase in the policing contract was reduced to 7% as that was the final wage increase that was approved. However, County Auditor, Pam Maloney pointed out that the Commissioners also approved a 1% increase in county paid retirement. Therefore, the original increase of 8% was correct. A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Luke Anderson to move the rate increase back to the original 8%. Motion carried. Sheriff Paper then reviewed his policing report for the last month. There was a lot of activity in Forman including three domestic calls, a harassment call and complaints of a child in a bar. He did note that children can be in a bar accompanied by a parent until 10 PM, but cannot sit at the bar.

City Superintendent Donavon Hajek reviewed his report. JT is learning well. There are a few items that need to be discussed, particularly attendance. He is a little past his 30-day evaluation time so they will schedule this meeting for next week. JT is registered for the online CDL training, but has not started it yet. Donavon has read through the CDL manuals a couple of times. He needs to go to Jamestown to get his permit. They have been trying to clean up additional snow to the curbs and reducing snow piles on corners to improve visibility. Mayor Bopp entertained the idea of a snow bonus. Our budget is tight because of the amount of snow removal time. There is some aid coming from the state for the snow emergency. Donavon presented a quote for a new scale for the chlorine tank. We have been using an old weight scale we got from the health district. Additionally, the chlorine line has been spliced many times. Those splices and the valves are corroding. Hawkins recommended replacing the entire line and replacing the brass valves with PVC. The council told him to go ahead and get the scale and replace the lines. Our Bobcat does not handle well in the snow and ice. The Bobcat will slide sideways off a crowned road. Donavon would like to purchase a set of snow tires. The cost is \$2,300 mounted. He can get used rims so we can just change the tire/rim between summer and winter. The council said to move forward with it. The control panel for the main lift station was delivered. He needs to have an electrician look at and quote what work is necessary to connect the panel. The siren has created a lot of interest from folks in the siren circles. Justin Olson, contact Neil Weaving has been in contact with, has volunteered to come out and give a talk on the history of the siren. Sara is planning some kind of celebration in the spring focusing on the siren. We will get it put back up as soon as we can arrange to get the crane in town. The new PLC controller in the pump house has been installed. There were a few glitches but it is now working. The tech that installed the PLC fixed the sync issue between the RO skid panel and the SCADA system on the computer. The light on the back of the library has been replaced and is working well for the food pantry. Mayor Bopp directed Donavon to come up with a viable plan to move garbage day to a different day and possibly consolidate the two-times-per-week commercial accounts into a one-time-per week. We will look at this at the March meeting.

A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Neil Weaving To approve the city auditor's report including the January 2023 financial statements, delinquency list and payment of the bills. Motion carried.

Trish Pearson informed the council that four new cameras were installed in city hall as part of the Homeland Security grant. She will file for reimbursement as soon as we receive the statement. This was a 100% grant. She also applied for a cybersecurity grant. Only the installation of two new SonicWall systems was approved to advance. We should know before May if the grant is approved. Since the computer for the shop was not approved as part of the grant and the council had already approved its purchase, Trish ordered the new shop PC from Computer Express.

Mayor Bopp announced that he received Trish's notice to retire effective May 1st. The council thanked Trish for her service.

City Attorney, Lyle Bopp, noted that he will pull the original policing contract up and submit it for signatures. He also noted that he had to prepare corrected deeds on the sale of the townhouses due to an error in the stated sale price. Bopp noted that there is a meeting coming up on legal Drain #4. They are realigning the assessment district. He will not be able to attend the meeting. Luke Anderson said he would be at the meeting.

Sara Dux said she is looking into an AARP grant to finish the pocket park. Part of the plan is to move the community gardens to the old volleyball court by Lake Lithia. She will double the number of boxes and make a couple of them pollinator gardens. She needs to resolve the water issue first. She is also looking at a grant from the Garrison Diversion to make improvements to Central Park. The grant requires approval to apply for the grant by the governing body. A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by John Stenvold to approve applying for the Garrison Diversion matching recreation grant for upgrades to Central Park. Motion carried. There is a vendor show with silent auction and chili feed at city hall on Saturday. Nominations are open from February 15 to March 15 for Citizen of the Year.

A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve a building permit for Full Circle Ag to install a Fall Arrest System at the elevator. Motion carried.

As the Forman Housing Authority Board, A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Luke Anderson to approve the 2022 year-end financial statements for the Forman Housing Authority. Trish Pearson asked the board if they should move some of the proceeds from the sale of the townhouses into a longer-term instrument with better interest. They agreed she should check out the options and bring it to the March meeting.

Luke Anderson noted that there is a JDA meeting on Thursday. The county JDA applied for a \$185,000 grant to build a duplex. JDA does not want to utilize the funds themselves, but wants to partner with a community. A duplex falls into our strategic plan and housing market study needs. Anderson approached FCDC with the possible project and they are interested.

Our next regular council meeting is Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor