

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
July 11, 2023

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kevin Bopp. Present were council members John Stenvold, Neil Weaving, and Al Colemer. Also attending were Travis Paeper, Donovan Hajek, and Sara Dux.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

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

A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve minutes from the June 13, 2023 regular city council meeting. Motion carried.

Sheriff Travis Paeper addressed the council. Paeper reported on the recent arrests and ongoing investigations regarding drug activity in the City including the interception of drugs through the mail. Paeper also informed to the council about the Department's continued efforts to implement a School Resource Officer (SRO) within the county's three public schools. Sargent County commissioners and two school boards have given their initial approval for an officer to be involved in the school setting. Grants for retention of the SRO would be available once the program was initiated. The additional officer on staff would then also be able to help cover summer vacations and events. Paeper also reported that the small stop sign intended for the pedestrians on the walking path next to the highway is causing some confusion for drivers making a turn at that intersection as many are stopping at the pedestrian stop sign. Paeper will work with the city maintenance staff to correct the signage at the intersection.

City Superintendent Donavon Hajek gave an update on the recent water leaks on Main Street and Antelope Ave. The leaks are now fixed but the ground is still too wet to patch the holes. Donovan will continue to monitor the areas that were torn up during repairs and get the roads reopened as soon as possible. The city's compost lost is getting full due to lots of branches and trees being trimmed and cut down around town. Work will hopefully begin soon behind the apartments on Second St to replace a culvert. Donovan will be out of town for garbage pickup on July 14th and 21st so pickup will be moved to the following Mondays, July 17 and 24th. Donovan mentioned the need for a battery backup for the computer at the water plant.

A motion was made by John Stenvold and seconded by Al Colemer to approve the city auditor's report including the June 2023 financial statements, delinquency list, and payment of the bills. Motion carried.

City Attorney, Lyle Bopp, was not present and did not submit a report.

Sara Dux sent her report previously to the council. She reviewed her recent activities including work on the city's strategic plan, work on adding 6 blocks to the Renaissance Zone, research on several new grant opportunities, and continued CarFest event planning. Dux also gave an update on the AARP Community Challenge grant award which was publicly announced June 28th. The layout and design of the new space is being finalized and work on the new community garden space will begin this fall.

The council then discussed old business. Discussion was held regarding new garbage cans for Main Street. Sara will work with Donovan to order new garbage cans to replace the old ones.

In new business, a motion was made by John Stenvold and seconded by Al Colemer to approve a building permit from Dennis Nelson for a retaining wall pending further discussion and clarification of plans. Mayor Bopp will talk with Dennis to get a better understanding of the project before giving final approval. Motion carried. City Auditor Jamie Stanton Ring has given her notice. Jamie's last day will be July 13th. Job ads have been posted to Indeed, Facebook and the city's website. Kevin reached out to Trish Pearson to see if she'd be willing to help the city office while a new auditor is being hired and trained. A motion was made by Al Colemer and seconded by Neil Weaving to hire Trish Pearson as temporary City Auditor at the rate of \$35 per hour. Roll call vote: Anderson, absent, Colemer aye, Stenvold, aye, Weaving, aye. Motion carried. A motion was then made by John Stenvold and seconded by Neil Weaving to remove Jamie Stanton Ring from all accounts held at Stock Growers Bank and the Credit Union, effective July 14, 2023 and to put

Trish's name back on those accounts. Roll call vote: Anderson, absent, Colemer aye, Stenvold, aye, Weaving, aye. Motion carried. Mayor Bopp will work with Trish to prepare a preliminary budget for 2024.

Our next regular council meeting is Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Jamie Stanton Ring, City Auditor