

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
March 12, 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, John Stenvold and Neil Weaving. Also attending were Trish Pearson Paige Cary and City Attorney Lyle Bopp.

With numerous guests in attendance, Mayor Bopp jumped straight to new business. Neil Planteen from Southside Automotive asked the council to look into either moving the existing fire hydrant or adding an additional hydrant closer to South Ave. The existing hydrant is in the tree line behind the buildings between his shop and RayMac. The council agreed to look into it this spring. Planteen also informed the council that about half of the trees in the shelterbelt between the residential south addition and the commercial buildings are dead. Planteen was looking for direction from the council as all of the trees are on private property now. Al Colemer will look into some options for trees and removal.

Dave Jacobson's water line at his office building has been frozen for several weeks. Sakry Plumbing ran a hose from building out to curb stop and that section was open. It appears to be frozen beyond the curb stop. Our workers were not able to get a wrench on the curb stop and it may need to be replaced. They also noted that we are not losing any water so it doesn't appear to be a break. Jacobson asked the city to dig up the curb stop now, rather than waiting until the frost is out, and run heated water out toward the main. The council will look into options. Meanwhile, we will hold city utility bills until the issue is resolved.

Librarian Debbie Carton and Library Board President Ambra Warke addressed the council on behalf of the library. There are serious water issues in the library where the two buildings are joined. There have been ongoing issues with the roof leaking as the snow melts, but this year the problem has caused significant damage. The bathroom ceiling fell out and they have buckets catching the water. There is also water coming in the furnace room, which is leaking under the wall and into the children's section of the library. The contractors were scheduled to begin the upgrades to the furnace room and children's library area, but that is on hold. There are several people who remove snow from roofs, including the scheduled contractor. Neil Weaving will contact them about removing the snow from the roof, Hopefully that will alleviate the problem until spring, when we can further assess the problems with the roof and determine a course of action.

Deputy, Bryan Johnson presented a brief report on behalf of the Sheriff's department. Dave Kosok resigned. Interviews will be held this month to fill that position. Rick Bryant will be coming back in April. They are looking to do a program to educate the community and especially elderly on scams. It will probably be next month sometime. Winters are typically quieter. There are problems everywhere with drugs, but it has been mostly quiet in Forman. They started ticketing cars for not moving during snow emergencies. Bryan will check around town for more vehicles in violation.

Cavin Berube from Moore Engineering reported on the two open projects with the city. Knife River submitted their schedule, however, the longer the snow lasts the further out they will have to push their schedule. They are currently planning to begin the end of April. Liquidated damages are estimated at \$60,000. Luke Anderson stated that he spoke with Cavin earlier to get more clarification on the amendment to the engineering agreement. Moore is asking for an additional 15 days for inspection. The contractor is asking for 10 days. There were also days when the lights were installed and Moore expected the pathway to being worked on concurrently. This was not the case. Since there was no overlap, this added extra engineering costs. Berube expressly stated that these extra days are not part of the re-work that will need to be done. He further emphasized that Moore will be showing deductions on their invoices for the rework and lack of inspection. We have not seen these deductions yet because they cannot invoice us until the agreement is in place. DOT will not allow it. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the amendment to the engineering agreement in the amount of \$30,508 (\$3,050 to the city). Roll call vote – all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Cavin is still working on the punch list for the water treatment plant including some programming that is not working. Moore Engineering has asked the city if they want to have them continue to monitor the water plant on a contract basis. City Superintendent, Anthony Fiala is checking data and working with Wigen to determine if it is needed. We won't have an answer until the programming is working properly.

A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Neil Weaving, to approve minutes from the February 12, 2019 regular city council meeting. Motion carried.

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

The council reviewed the city superintendent's report noting that the majority of their time has been spent on snow removal. They are doing a great job.

A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by John Stenvold to take the second reading of ordinance 11.0108.2 off the table. Motion carried. City Attorney Lyle Bopp reviewed the ordinance, which will allow for the keeping of four hens within the city, with the amendments requested after the first reading. After much discussion, a motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the ordinance. Roll call vote: Stenvold, Nay; Anderson, Nay; Weaving, Aye; Colemer, Aye. Tie was broken by Mayor Kevin Bopp with a vote in favor. Motion carried.

Economic Development Coordinator, Paige Cary, reported on her activities. She is looking into a grant from Parks and Rec which has been pushed to the national level. The grant would be to partially drain and dredge Lake Lithia to make it deep enough to support fish. The mural is a go. An artist has been hired and will be here sometime in June. The County approved painting the mural on the side of the District Health Building. The approved grant is for \$2,500, which is about half the cost. Cary also applied once again for the AARP grant to improve the vacant lot next to the District Health building. There would be planters, benches and an arbor. Cary contacted Lake Agassiz about preparing a new city development plan. They will put together a proposal. The ne Daycare hopes to be open first week in April. We have a plaque being made and will do a welcome presentation for her. Paige is still looking into ways to building businesses in the community. Cary asked is motorized vehicles such as scooters and golf carts will be allowed on the trail. The council said they will not be allowed. We will need to get signs ordered and posted. Lastly, Cary said she has been working with the Carfest committee. The plan to move the event further south on Main Street and utilize city hall in the event of rain. There will be some other activities added to the event to draw more people to town.

There was no old business.

In other new business, a motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve the gaming site authorization application submitted by the Rutland Sportsman's Club for gaming at the No Name Bar July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. Motion carried.

The council discussed the number of hours the city workers are putting in removing snow. Though they do have overtime built into their salary, they thought we should look at a way to compensate them for the excess hours that have been required. Mayor Bopp will review their time and look into some options.

The city needs to start preparing for potential flood impacts. Mayor Bopp stated that we have 4,000 sand bags available, but do not have sand stockpiled. That is something we need to look into. The open ditch part of drain 4 could be a potential problem we need to watch. Lyle Bopp stated we should watch the culvert under the railroad. They were supposed to replace it, but have not done so. The city worker's plan to service the water pump and generator. We have an emergency alert with our new website we can utilize. Emergency Manager, Wendy Willprecht would like a report of all cost associated with the excess snow removal. There are not funds available from the state now, but counties are gathering and submitting data.

Our annual tax equalization meeting will be held Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 5:30 pm at city hall. Our regular city council meeting will follow at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor