

City of Forman, North Dakota  
Regular City Council Meeting  
April 14, 2020

The Forman City Council meeting was called to order via publically open conference call at 6:20 PM by Mayor Kevin Bopp. Present were council members Neil Weaving, Luke Anderson, Al Colemer and John Stenvold. Also attending were Trish Pearson, Paige Cary and Lyle Bopp.

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

There was no report from Moore Engineering. Mayor Bopp reported that we are still trying to get the trail project closed out. There was a lighting inspection that did not pass and corrections will be completed by Scott's Electric. We have had no word on the corrective work that needs to be done due to the design flaws. Moore is still seeking additional funding but the city is not inclined to approve any request.

A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by John Stenvold to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 regular council meeting. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

A budget amendment was presented by the city auditor to make a line item correction and to allocate funds from fund balance to pay for the Strategic Plan prepared by Lake Agassiz. The Strategic Plan was approved after the budget was prepared last year. The council reviewed the financials, bills and delinquency report. A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the city auditor's report including the March financial statements, delinquency report, payment of the bills and budget amendment resolution 4-14-2020. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The council reviewed the city superintendent's report. The city received a Certificate of Achievement from the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality for complying with all applicable Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Appreciation goes to Anthony Fiala and Thomas Orth for the great work.

There was a water break at a vacant house over the winter, which resulted in a huge amount of water use. The owner is out of state and has not been able to be reached. Since this customer is on auto-pay, it was decided that we would continue efforts to reach out to the homeowner and make a payment plan before assessing the charges to the bill.

Attorney Lyle Bopp passed on information about FEMA grants available to local governments and non-profits. Trish will review the grant information and see if it is applicable to the city or any of the subsidiaries. Bopp has been in touch with Rick Hoistad's attorney in Fargo. They have been informed that the city does not own the entire original 20-acre parcel. We only acquired a few of the parcels in the tax sale. They have not has a response from their client yet. Lyle said if Rick does not purchase the lots back from the city, he will still need a lease of \$1 per year to farm the land.

Sheriff Travis Paeper called in ahead of the meeting. The policing contract between the county and the city has been signed and is now in place. He stated that we have one positive COVID-19 case in Sargent County but he could not give any additional information beyond what is available on public sites.

Paige Cary reported that she has had to prioritize her work. Her primary work has been on the grocery store. The applications for the manager have been closed. They received 12 applications and are in the screening process not. They have also narrowed down the food distributor choice to two. Next she has been keeping up to date on the pandemic, providing resources to our local businesses and posting updates. She has also been working on the Census. To date, Forman has had a 61% response and is leading in the friendly competition with the other cities in the county. County extension is on board with a community garden. Paige asked the city to support the garden with providing dirt and water for the plot. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Al Colemer to provide dirt and water for a community garden plot. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Luke Anderson to participate in National Siren Day testing but not the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday testing. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

There was discussion on the status of COVID-19 and how it relates to our city. It appears our residents and businesses are all following the state's recommendations. Snowbirds returning have been self-quarantining upon arriving home. We need to support our local businesses as much as possible. We can promote the SBA loan options for small businesses.

Citywide Clean-up Days are scheduled for April 27 – 28.

The city will host a mobile pet clinic for Sheyenne Valley Vet on Wednesday, May 13 from 4 – 6 pm.

Our next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

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Kevin Bopp, Mayor

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Trish Pearson, City Auditor