

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
April 12, 2022

The regular 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, Sara Dux and Travis Paeper.

The council heard the report for Sheriff Travis Paeper. The report for March was distributed without comment. Paeper asked the council to address the need for traffic control at the intersection by Kwip Stop. Some possibilities were discussed. Paeper also asked that the city look into adding one or two handicapped parking spaces at the drug store and re-painting the spots at the grocery store. Signage will also need to be added. There was a brief discussion about the county's request to increase the policing contract amount.

The meeting was recessed at 6:20 to hold the tax equalization meeting. The meeting was resumed at 6:40.

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

Mike Keiper was present to update the council on the backflow prevention needs at the pool. There is a check valve on the top of the autofill, but there are two unprotected hose bibs. We will get those added to our list. Keiper gave a brief update on the pool and the steps they are taking to address a leak and get the pool ready for the season.

Allison Bombardier, a second grader from Havana was introduced as the winner of the Mayor for a Day essay contest. Allison led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance then assisted Mayor Bopp in presenting our second annual Citizen of the Year award.

Mike Keiper was selected as our Citizen of the Year. Mayor Bopp read his biography of service with the help of Allison. Allison presented Mike with a plaque and Sara Dux presented a trophy to Allison. After photos were taken, Allison read her winning essay to the council.

Donavon Hajek joined the meeting to give the city superintendent's report. They have been servicing equipment getting it ready for the summer season. Mayor Bopp said our new Bobcat has been pushed out until June, though the grapple is in. We will take delivery of it before the Bobcat comes. Donavon said they are going to put safety hooks on the garbage truck cable that lifts dumpsters. He is looking to replace a scale unit at the water plant that is corroded and inoperable. We need to look into a new sanding unit for the back of the sanding truck. The unit was out of service for much of the winter. They have been pumping water from the ditch behind Hoistad's apartments. The pump ran 17 hours and they got the water level down, but then it rained. The culvert is still frozen. When it thaws, the water should clear quickly. Donavon is taking online classes for the water plant operator and asked about getting registered for the CDL training. He also noted there have been some issues with the main lift station. Dakota Sewage Pump said the station might need to be rebuilt. We have not received the report yet. There are a couple of street signs that need to be put back up when the ground thaws. Lastly, there was some discussion about the possibility of moving garbage day from Friday to Monday. If we did that, we would have to move business garbage to Thursday. No decision was made at this time.

Arne Kujanson joined the meeting to discuss a few issues with the townhouses. We have one unit vacant, but there is someone that wants to move in. They can't move in until June 1st, so we will have an empty unit for May. All of the doors, front and back, need to be replaced. We have a door for unit 101, but have not been able to find anyone to install it. We will also be looking at replacing the shingles before long. The city will need to provide a loan to the housing authority for the repairs as the housing authority does not have the cash flow for the repairs at this time. Arne gave his notice as the property manager. He said he would stay on through June, but we will need to find someone to take over.

A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Al Colemer to approve minutes from the March 8, 2022 regular city council meeting. Motion carried.

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

Trish Pearson said that the ARPA reporting deadline is April 30, 2022, but there are many system glitches with the US Treasury portal. Many auditors are having difficulty with the system. Hopefully, they will get it worked out or extend the deadline. We have \$9,827.08 earmarked for the security at the water plant. The remaining funds will be \$69,305.15. Luke Anderson suggested that the lift station repairs be a priority. Pearson has also submitted all the paperwork to refinance the water and sewer bonds. It will be June or July before we here if everything goes through. The annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2021 was submitted and accepted by the state.

There was no report from the city attorney.

Sara updated the city on her activities for the month. She presented the final design for our city signs and will get them ordered. She has some student volunteers lined up to help remove the old lettering and prepare the surface for the new signs. She suggested that we stain the wood before installing the signs. The goal is to have them done for Carfest.

The Sargent County Scoop has ceased publication. Sara is working with the bank to take it over. Kevin will call Steve McLaen to talk about obtaining the mailing list. We will need to set up a new email address. Sara suggested scscoop@formann.com. Once we have permission to take over publication, Trish will get the email address set up.

Mayor Bopp updated the council on a replacement for our maintenance worker. He had someone interested, but it doesn't appear that is going to work. Trish and Sara will take care of advertising for the position.

Luke Anderson spoke with Eric Paulson at Full Circle Ag about the noise levels at the elevator. They put some barriers up, but those did little to abate the noise. Paulson said when the north bunkers are empty, they will re-route the tubing and turn the fans to run to the north. That should have a significant impact, though it does not bring immediate relief. They are also open to discussing permanent sound barrier walls.

Luke said the spec house is built and will be going on the lot between Larson's and Fritzen's. As soon as the ground is thawed, JDA hopes to dig the basement and bring the house in.

Trish Pearson said she wrote the basic backflow prevention program for the city and submitted it along with the annual report to the state. It was accepted. The city will need to continue working on backflow and eventually expand to a comprehensive program for the protection of the entire water system.

The council returned to discussion of the county request to increase the price of the policing contract. John Stenvold has been working with one of the commissioners. They have not yet voted to amend the contract. A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Luke Anderson to increase the city contract with the county provided it is approved by the county commissioners and it will be effective the first of the month after they approve it. Motion carried.

Mayor Bopp asked the council to add a new portfolio to cover technology. The city was the victim of a cyber attack and had to change its IP address. No systems were breached. It would be good to have one council member to oversee all things technology related. Neil Weaving said he would be willing to take that on.

A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by John Stenvold to approve the annual gaming license for the Forman Golf Association for gaming at the Hole in One. Motion carried.

Sue Parrow is still wanting to know where she can put her fence. Kevin will talk to her.

The LEPC Hazard Mitigation Tabletop Exercise had to be rescheduled again. The date is not April 27.

City Hall and shop are closed Friday, April 15. Garbage will be one day early.

Cleanup days are April 25 and 26.

Pet Clinic Day is April 27.

Our next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm. One hour later.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor