

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

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 Lyle Bopp.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Luke Anderson to approve minutes from the December 4, 2019 regular city council. Motion carried.

Dave Jacobson came to address the council regarding water at his office building. The water line froze last year, which he said was on the city side of the line. He wants to avoid the same happening this year and asked that he be allowed to trickle water for the months of February and March without overages. A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Luke Anderson to waive overages on the Jacobson office building account through April 30. Anderson, Colemer and Weaving voted in favor. Stenvold voted against. Motion carried.

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

The council reviewed the city superintendent's report. Mayor Kevin Bopp reported that he deemed the need to purchase a new truck to spread sand was an emergency. Our current sand truck was inoperable and the roads were very icy. A vehicle was located in Mora, MN that was within the dollar parameters previously discussed. Anthony Fiala and John Stenvold drove to Mora to procure the vehicle. Anthony was able to mount the sand spreader on it within a day. A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the purchase. Motion carried.

Sheriff Travis Paeper joined the meeting to discuss the proposed policing contract with Sargent County. Luke Anderson, Travis Paeper and Lyle Bopp attended the last County Commissioner's meeting where our proposal was discussed. We had proposed 20 hours of policing per month at a rate of \$20 per hour. Sheriff Paeper stated that the hourly rate was insufficient and needed to be \$34 per hour to meet expenses. We did sell our patrol car for \$2,000 and those funds could be used toward the increased cost of the contract. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by John Stenvold to amend the 2020 budget for policing services to a total of \$8,160. Motion carried.

Attorney Lyle Bopp presented the final petition to vacate certain roads and alleys in the city. He will publish the notice of public hearing for our next meeting after which the council may vote to adopt the resolution to vacate.

The Sargent County commissioners received a letter from Rick Hoistad's attorney stating that he should have been offered the industrial lots that were forfeited for taxes, as the deed states he has the first right to purchase the lots should they ever be sold. The lots were forfeited, not sold, but the council agreed that they would be willing to sell the lots to Mr. Hoistad for the amount they paid for the lots and he would then be responsible for the annual special assessments on those lots. Lyle Bopp will relay that response to the attorney on behalf of the city.

The council discussed the city property where we have our landfill and lagoons. There has been some question of where the exact boundaries are located. A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Neil Weaving to get a quote from Interstate Engineering to conduct a survey of our property. Motion carried.

Paige Cary reported on numerous activities for the month. One big project was working with Mitch at Lake Agassiz to complete the city's strategic plan. A copy of the plan was sent to all council members earlier and she asked for comment and a vote of approval. Luke Anderson said that this plan should to be reviewed regularly so we can use it actively to make plans and budget projects in the city. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Neil Weaving to adopt the strategic plan and to review it twice per year in February and August. Motion carried.

Mayor Kevin Bopp noted that FCDC has signed a purchase agreement for the grocery store building and will be closing on the sale in the next couple of weeks. FCDC plans to attend the next council meeting to discuss their plans and look at available business incentives.

The library is still looking for direction on the repairs to the front wall of the library, as there is considerable damage from water. The library already has a quote from Chris Olson. They will try to get a quote from Enterprise Sales as well. Neil Weaving passed along Wyatt Lyon's contact information to the library. They will talk to Wyatt about the repairs to the furnace room and removal of a small closet that were approved last year.

At our last council meeting, the annual salary review was placed on the table. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by John Stenvold to remove the annual salary review from the table. Motion carried. A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve a 3% salary increase for the City Auditor, Economic Development Coordinator, City Superintendent, and City Maintenance Worker effective January 1, 2020. Motion carried.

Our next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2019 at 4:00 pm. The time was moved up to accommodate existing conflicts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor