

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
July 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 (via phone conference), Al Colemer and Neil Weaving. John Stenvold was absent. Also attending were Trish Pearson, Paige Cary and Lyle Bopp.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

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

The Oath of Office was administered for Al Colemer.

Sheriff Travis Paeper joined the meeting to give his report. It was an unusually active month for our city. They logged 59 hours in Forman in June. They issued 7 traffic citations, 1 accident, 4 arrests and a burglary over \$10,000.

Brandon Pankow addressed the council with an application for an off-sale only liquor license for Central Grocery. The alcohol would be located in the old meat cutting room, separate from the main store. He will not sell alcohol on Sundays. There was some discussion about what the fee should be, as the city has never had off-sale only in town. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the application for retail liquor license for off-sale only without Sunday sales for Brandon Pankow, pending the setting of the fee by the council. Roll call vote: Anderson – yes; Colemer – yes; Weaving – yes; Stenvold – absent. Motion carried.

Brandon then gave an update on the store and estimated opening date. Everything is pending the successful installation of the coolers and the roof replacement. He is hoping to be open by August 4.

Nathan Schlecht attended on behalf of Forman Community Development Corporation. They are requesting a 10 year 100% tax exemption as the building owner of the grocery store. All tax savings will be passed along to the business owner in the form of a reduction in rent. There was discussion that the request was outside the tax exemption policy established by the city. It was felt that since FCDC is a non-profit that exists exclusively for the benefit of the city, we should add a footnote to our policy allowing for flexible terms for projects developed by FCDC. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve the application for property tax exemption for FCDC for 10 years at 100% and to add the footnote to the city policy. Roll call vote: Anderson – yes; Colemer – yes; Weaving – yes; Stenvold – absent. Motion carried.

There was no report from Moore Engineering. Mayor Bopp did note that the corrective work had been completed along Highway 32 and at 4th Street. Scott's Electric was seen in town working on the lights as noted in the inspection.

A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve minutes from the June 9, 2020 regular city council meeting and the June 23, 2020 reorganizational meeting. Motion carried.

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

The council reviewed the city superintendent's report noting the repairs needed for a water line break on Antelope Ave W between 4th St. and 5th St. That area will need a blacktop patch along with several other areas in the city.

Attorney Lyle Bopp reported that he has drawn up the easement between the city and Isensee's. He will add in the exact dimensions and get it executed. He also continues to work on the discrepancy on plats for Brenda Schreiner. The parcel in question existed on the 1909 plat map but not on the map from the 1930's. It was included on a survey the property owner had drawn up. The county tax director's office is continuing to research the parcel and straighten it out.

Economic Development Coordinator, Paige Cary reported that we had a very successful city event on the weekend that normally would have held Carfest. There was a citywide garage sale, 5-K walk/run and a golf tournament. All events were well attended.

Cary has been working with the county JDA on moving forward with a spec house in Forman. Luke Anderson stated our JDA funds will pay for a spec house somewhere and it should be in our city. Cary asked for a commitment from the council. A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Neil Weaving to commit to working with Sargent County JDA to build a spec project in Forman. Motion carried.

Finally, Cary asked the council for direction in addressing the stray cat issue in town. The Go-Fund-Me account raised enough money to have seven cats neutered. Some people volunteered to take in cats and be responsible for altering the cats themselves. There are many more in town and new litters arriving. The council directed her to continue with her efforts to live trap and rehome the cats, and that the city could make some funds available if it becomes necessary to humanely euthanize some cats.

In old business, repairs are underway to the city office. There was a water leak, due to an old air conditioning unit in the wall, which caused water damage and mold to the paneling, wood studs and sheetrock. The contractor is looking for paneling that will at least match the pattern of the old paneling. Trish Pearson asked if she could paint the paneling. That would lighten up the office and solve the issue of trying to match panel color. The council agreed this was a good plan.

In other new business, A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Al Colemer to approve a resolution that the City of Forman will be a participant in the Sargent County Emergency Management Agency. Motion carried.

A city resident inquired at the city office about the ability to install a private sand point well on their property for watering the lawn and gardens. Attorney, Lyle Bopp researched our ordinances and state statues finding nothing that would prohibit a well as long as it is not connected to any structures on the property. Trish Pearson spoke with the State Water Commission. There are no permits required by the state if the owner installs the well themselves. If they use a contractor, there are numerous regulations contractors must follow. He said a shallow well in our city would not likely be successful due to our soil types. The city would require a building permit. Our building code follows state code, which would set parameters on how close a well can be to existing infrastructure and buildings. Pearson will relay the information to the homeowner and it will be up to them if they want to pursue this.

In notices, Mayor Bopp informed the council that everything is up and running at the pool. The repairs to the front of the library are complete, except for the sign. He met with Russell Boutain at Forman Lumber regarding problems with sand and silt collecting in the gutter area. Bopp said the curb is slanted such that it is preventing water from draining to the ditch and recommended we consider removing that section of curb to allow for drainage.

In order to complete the preliminary budget prior to the August 10 deadline, the council decided to move our next council meeting to Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

The council then began work on the 2021 budget reviewing the revenue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor