

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

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kevin Bopp. Present were council members Al Colemer, John Stenvold and Neil Weaving. Luke Anderson was absent. Also attending were Trish Pearson, Sara Dux, Lyle Bopp and Donavon Hajek.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There was no report from the sheriff.

Donavon Hajek reviewed the city superintendent's report. The pressure washer at the shop is not working as it should. The engine doesn't run smoothly and the hose is clogged. Neil Weaving said he has a brand new hose that the city can have. The garbage truck needs to be cleaned. John Stenvold suggested using the truck was at A & W Diesel. The sensors on the ORP are not working properly and they had to bypass one alarm. They are taking readings by hand and will be calibrating it. The sensors have been ordered but are backordered with a delivery of mid-August. He is looking for an used sickle mower for mowing at the landfill and lagoons. Anthony has been using his own mower so the city will need one. Donavon and Anthony climbed the water tower up to the siren to see if they could determine why the siren is not functioning as it should. We recently discovered that our siren is very rare and is a national attraction in some circles. They will need a boom or lift to get up to the siren to remove the covers. Most likely it will need to be taken down and have the motor repaired. In the meantime, they will shut the siren off so as to not cause further damage. Donavon is waiting on a second quote on the sidewalk repairs so we are in compliance with century code. He has been waiting until the culvert under Main Street dries out a bit more so he can dig out the ends and see if he can see into the culvert. The council said to move forward on getting it replaced. We received bids on the main lift station repairs. Our new maintenance worker, Dustin Stanley started on Monday. He is excited to be here and is eager to learn.

A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by John Stenvold to approve minutes from the June 14, 2022 regular city council meeting. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the Resolution Authorizing The Issuance And Establishing The Terms And Conditions Of \$871,000 Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2022A. Roll Call Vote: Anderson – absent; Stenvold – aye; Weaving – aye; Colemer – aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the Resolution Authorizing The Issuance And Establishing The Terms And Conditions Of \$550,000 Refunding Improvement Bond, Series 2022B. Roll call vote: Colemer – aye; Weaving – aye; Stenvold – aye; Anderson – absent. Motion carried.

Attorney Lyle Bopp noted that they are working on the ordinances. Linda is retyping everything as they didn't have an editable copy. Trish Pearson said she would forward a copy that is in Word format. Bopp stated that he got a memo about a new tourism grant that is opening up that could be used for the restoration of our siren. Sara Dux commented that she had received the same memo and would look into it. Bopp said the commissioners are considering not funding the county JDA program. We should contact the commissioners encouraging them to continue the program. If they choose not to fund it, the city should take back the 4 mils for our city JDA that we turned over to the county in 2018 as we can find ways to utilize those funds.

Sara Dux reviewed the city coordinator's report. The city signs have been stained and the LED lights and brackets are here. She is working with Donavon to get them installed. Sara attended a webinar on a new space making planning grant. This grant is only for planning and not implementation, but could be useful. We have comments about the yellow house on Highway 32 and someone even posted a sign in their yard.

We need to have our workers go and spray out the weeds and see if we can mow anything that remains. The homeowner will be assessed.

John Stenvold said the last time he talked to Travis Paeper about the policing contract, Paeper said the contract should include automatic increases for cost of living. However, that is not how the contract is written and nothing has been brought forth to the county commissioners asking them to change the terms of the contract.

The council had some further discussion on the siren. Neil Weaving had done quite a bit of research and has corresponded with one person who is the country's leading expert on sirens. This expert said the most important action point right now is to turn the siren off before it is further damaged. There could be a simple electrical issue, but more likely the motor needs to be rebuilt. The repair cost of a similar siren a few years ago was about \$2,000. Repairing is considerably less money than replacing with a new siren. If we cannot get it rebuilt and working properly, it should be displayed at a museum. Sara Dux has done some research as well. Throughout the web there are forums, Reddit threads and YouTube videos that include our siren. The Decot sirens were made in Minnesota in the early 1940's and the one we have may be the last operating siren of its kind. We have a potential tourist attraction as there have already been people from all over the country visit our town just to hear the siren go off. The city will work on getting the siren assessed and repair as needed. They county will cost share half the cost of the repair.

Neil Weaving looked at Trish's computer and inquired with Computer Express about a replacement as the machine is very old. We received a quote for a computer that was spec'd to Neil's satisfaction and he recommended we go with it. A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Neil Weaving to purchase a new computer from Computer Express as quoted for the city hall office. Motion carried.

Mayor Kevin Bopp had approved a building permit for David Reuer to put up a portable storage shed on his property. Discussion focused on the fact that we need a process to follow with building permits as people seem to be doing what they want with little oversight from the city. Trish and Neil will work on putting something together based on what other city's do and bring it to the next meeting for discussion.

The council continued their work on budget preparations. During the process they discussed the quotes received for work on our main lift stations. Both pumps need to be replaced along with the bases and rails. There was discussion as to whether we need to replace the control panel or not as ours is still in fair condition. The problem is the control panel is as old as the rest of the system and they don't make parts for it anymore. The total for pumps, Bases, rails, control panel and installation is just under \$62,000. We can pay for it with ARPA funds and capital reserves. The council decided to go forth with the project this year rather than waiting a year as we already had problems with the station this spring and we don't know what the costs or availability will be next year. A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve the quotes from North Dakota Sewage Pump for the two pumps, bases and rails, control panel and installation for the main lift station. Motion carried.

Our next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor