

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
June 8, 2021

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. Also attending were Trish Pearson, Paige Cary, Lyle Bopp, Keith Gunderson, Deputy Wyatt Schilling and Russell Boutain.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Resident, Keith Gunderson asked the council to consider selling him part of parcel # 26-8244002 that is along Highway 32 behind Anna Kempel's house. It would be in Anna's name. He wants to plant apple trees and put in a large garden. Eventually, he would like to add a small greenhouse. The parcel consists of 3½ lots. He said he would bring in about 6" of black dirt for the garden area only. He would stay clear of the drain and the path. It was noted that there is an unvacated alley between 2nd St SW and Highway 32. The council discussed prices, and agreed on a price of \$500 for the north 1½ lots of the parcel. A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Neil Weaving to sell the north 1½ lots of parcel #26-8244002 to Anna Kempel for \$500 with an easement for the drain and pedestrian trail. In a rollcall vote, all voted aye. Motion carried. Lyle will prepare the deed.

Deputy Wyatt Schilling distributed the Sheriff's report for the council. There were 11.5 hours that included two arrests and one criminal investigation. They have been present on Highway 32 more, trying to get speeds reduced through town.

Russel Boutain asked the council for permission to demolition the concrete sidewalk that is badly broken up and steps on the south side of his building. He would eventually like to add an 8' wide concrete entrance from the alley to Highway 32 to improve access and alleviate water drainage issues. A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Al Colemer to approve the removal of the concrete sidewalk and steps on the south side of the Forman Lumber and Fireworks building. In a rollcall vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Al Colemer to approve minutes from the May 11, 2021 regular city council meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by John Stenvold to approve the city auditor's report including the May financial statements, delinquency report and payment of the bills. In a rollcall vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

The council reviewed the city superintendent's report. Mayor Kevin Bopp said RayMac has given a large pile of clay fill to the city and it needs to be moved. He asked Al Colemer to look at the clay pile to assess its quality. Luke will check with the school to see if they are interested in the fill for their project. If not, we can haul it to the landfill and store it there. Neil Weaving said he has been approached by several residents asking why we have three people on garbage on Tuesday when they do dumpsters. Kevin will discuss this with Anthony. Al Colemer asked that the weeds around Lake Lithia be sprayed.

Attorney Lyle Bopp said he still needs to meet with Luke and Trish to draft ordinance changes. There was no other report.

Paige Cary reported on activities. Her main focus has been Car Fest. She is still working with Dennis Nelson to complete his Renaissance Zone project. She hopes to have that ready for finalization at the next meeting. Nick Storhaug has rented the space behind the drug store. Housing is still in short supply.

Paige tendered her resignation stating that it has nothing to do with the city or her work. It is something that is right for her at this point in her life. She agreed to stay on until September 1 if necessary. She suggested the council change her job title, as economic development coordinator is too long. The council discussed and decided on city coordinator. Paige wrote up some her responsibilities and accomplishments. We will need to write a job description as we did not write one when this position was created. Trish will work with Paige on this. The council thanked Paige for her service and told her she will be missed.

In old business, the review of chapters one and eight of the ordinances was tabled at the last meeting. It was left on the table.

Dakota Sweeping and Striping will be in town, probably the end of June, to repaint the stripes and parking spaces on Main Street.

A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Al Colemer to remove from the table the building permit for Matt Wolters. Motion carried. Mayor Bopp spoke with the Wolters' and discussed the acceptable materials for a fence in residential areas. They were amenable to using new wood and chain link. A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve the building permit for Matt Wolters to build a fence provided they use new wood, use either chain link or wood, and that they get agreement from their neighbor. In a rollcall vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by John Stenvold to remove from the table the request by Ton Construction for cost sharing on a concrete pad. Mayor Bopp spoke with Trent Nelson and got a few more specifications. He also communicated that our ordinances do not require the city to share the concrete expense for sidewalks. Nelson said he would be moving forward even if there were no cost share. He was reminded that a building permit is required. The city has not yet received a building permit for the project. The council discussed and stated that while this project will improve the property, it is not a sidewalk. It is an apron and driveway. They have a list of prioritized sidewalk projects and a very limited budget. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by John Stenvold to deny the cost-sharing request by Ton Construction for the cement work at his storage building. In a rollcall vote, Weaving abstained and the remainder voted aye. Motion carried.

There was no update on the water main stub for the car wash or the placement of the radar signs.

We will discuss the cemetery plots for potter's field at the next meeting.

Paige asked her children's dance instructor if she would consider coming to Forman to hold dance classes. They currently travel to Ellendale for classes. Paige asked if the city would consider a special rate for the class to us city hall. There is precedence with a previous dance class that was at city hall in years past. They decided they could offer a rate of \$20 per session for six weeks. A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by John Stenvold to offer the rate of \$20 per session, for six weeks, for dance classes at city hall. In a rollcall vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

The city recently created a Forman Bucks reward to be used for awards issued to citizens by the city. We have since received requests to offer the purchase of Forman Bucks for anyone like the commercial club used to do. Paige talked to the bank about how the commercial club program worked. They had an account set up that the bank would debit when a certificate was redeemed. We could run the program the same way. The bearer would make a purchase with a local business, paying for the purchase with Forman Bucks. That business would then bring the certificate to the bank with their regular deposits. They would receive credit just like depositing a check and the city's account would be debited. Only Forman businesses are allowed to redeem Forman Bucks at the bank. They cannot be cashed by the bearer for cash. A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Luke Anderson to set up a separate bank account at Stock Growers Bank starting with \$1,000 from the Forman Improvement Fund. In a rollcall vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Stenvold, seconded by Luke Anderson to approve a building permit for Reed Hanson to build a 12'x24' wood deck and a 20x20 concrete patio. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve the gaming site authorization for the Forman Golf Association at the Hole in One. Motion carried.

The council began the budget proceeding by reviewing the revenue line items. It was noted that no guidance has been issued by the North Dakota League of Cities. The 2020 census numbers are not yet available either. The council entered preliminary figures based on the 2021 budget and revenue received to date. We will review these figures as guidance is provided. Next month we will begin working on the expenditures.

Our next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor