

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
June 14, 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, and Neil Weaving. John Stenvold was absent. Also attending were Trish Pearson, Sara Dux, Lyle Bopp, Donavon Hajek, Russell Boutain, and Travis Paeper.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Russell Boutain had three items on the agenda. The first was to present a building permit for an expansion to the Forman Lumber and Fireworks building at the rear side of the building. The expansion will fall to within two feet of the alley as it has been surveyed. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve the building permit for Russell Boutain to expand his Forman Lumber and Fireworks building per the drawings provided. Roll call vote: Anderson – aye; Colemer – aye; Stenvold – absent; Weaving – aye. Motion carried. Attorney Lyle Bopp noted that according to our Land Development Code section 5.4.5, there is a required twenty-foot rear lot requirement. He advised the council to approve a variance for the building permit. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Al Colemer to approve a variance to the land use plan section 5.4.5 rear lot requirements for the building expansion at Forman Lumber and Fireworks. Roll call vote: Colemer – aye; Stenvold – absent; Weaving – aye, Anderson – aye. Motion carried.

Russell mentioned that he had approached the council a year ago about a possible cost share on concrete to replace the sidewalk at his building along Maple Ave W. There were no funds available at that time and he received permission to remove the sidewalk. He is now looking for a 1/3 cost share from the city to pour 132' of sidewalk and apron. He was asked to submit a building permit and it will be reviewed at the next council meeting.

Lastly, Russell reminded the council that he was told to move vehicles from what they then thought was the alley because it could be a fire protection issue. Since the gravel drive is not the alley, Russell wants the alley opened. The bottom line is he wants access to the rear of his building. After reviewing the survey and discussion on the issue the council decided to move forward. A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Al Colemer to open the alley between 2nd SW & State Highway 32 and between Maple Ave W and Elm Ave W allowing Russell Boutain to do the dirt and gravel work at his expense; to allow Russell to remove the two trees in the alley area; and to ask Mark Bopp to move his shed by July 1, 2022. Roll call Stenvold absent; weaving aye, Anderson aye Colemer aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Al Colemer, seconded by Luke Anderson to approve minutes from the May 10, 2022 regular city council meeting. Motion carried.

The council reviewed the work city auditor, Trish Pearson has done to refinance three of the city's bonds for existing water and sewer infrastructure. The bond refinance is expected to be approved later this month and will save the city about \$210,000 over the life of the bonds.

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

Donavon Hajek presented the city superintendent's report. The council reviewed the bids received from Shay Walden for the sidewalk replacements. The cost will exceed the budget substantially. The council is considering funding the top three priorities. Neil Weaving asked the council to consider replacing the sidewalks at the courthouse on the north, south and west sides. Lyle Bopp recommended approaching the county to cost share the sidewalks. We do need to get a second bid regardless as the project exceeds \$5,000. Donavon will work with Trish to secure additional bids and to contact the county commissioners.

Donavon told the council that something needs to be done with the culvert that goes under Main Street south of the Catholic church and east to the beehive. This is the culvert that we tried to have jetted a few years ago, but Jetway said was too blocked to clear. It is possible that part of it is collapsed. The council told Donavon to arrange with Jerry Bohnenkamp to have the culvert replaced as soon as possible.

We received a quote to replace the main lift station pump from ND Sewage Pump. They said the pump we have is no longer made and a replacement with the same brand would be just over \$25,000. They are continuing to look for other alternatives for replacing or repairing the lift station. Dakota Pump and Lift stopped out to look at our main lift station and thought they could replace just the bases and mounts. Both should be done even though only one has a hole in it. Donavon is waiting for quotes to come in.

Donavon interviewed a couple of candidates for the maintenance worker position. One was not a good fit but the other was. He doesn't live in Forman and doesn't want to relocate, which is a great detriment. Kevin will talk to him and schedule a second interview just the same and see if there is something they could work out.

A technician from Wigen was out to install the EWON and USP on the RO skid at the water plant. There is a sensor that isn't functioning properly and should be replaced. The sensors should be replaced every 18 months but these have been in service for seven years. We are waiting for a quote from Wigen.

Attorney Lyle Bopp said that he has Linda typing up the changes to the ordinances chapter eight that he and Luke reviewed. They were waiting for the League of Cities to release their updated sample ordinances but those have not been forthcoming. They will move ahead.

City Coordinator, Sara Dux reviewed her report. Car Fest was successful in many respects, but the number of cars for the car show was down. She spoke to the car show person for Oakes Irrigation Days and they hope they can coordinate either dates or times for next year so there isn't a conflict. The new city signs are installed. We have new solar lights to put up. We also need to finish staining the old wood. Sara said she took photos of the empty lots the city has for sale and is wondering if we want to run some kind of incentive program. She will put together some ideas for the next meeting.

John Stenvold was absent so we have no update on the policing contract. Lyle Bopp said that nothing has been brought forth to the commissioners yet.

A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Al Colemer to approve a building permit for Dennis Nelson to build a wrap around deck. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Luke Anderson, seconded by Neil Weaving to approve a building permit for John Schneider – Prairie Homes Management to install 15 push piers to stabilize the foundation at 266 2nd St SW. Motion carried.

The Forman Housing townhomes sustained damage to its roof. We received an estimate from the insurance adjuster and a quote for repairs. The council asked for some clarification on the adjuster's estimate. We also need a new manager for the townhomes as Arne is done the end of June.

Mayor Kevin Bopp asked the council to consider a pay scale adjustment for Trish Pearson. He noted the extra duties she has taken on and the job she is doing. A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by Al Colemer to increase Trish Pearson's salary to \$23 per hour. Roll call vote: Weaving – aye; Anderson – aye; Colemer – aye; Stenvold – absent. Motion carried.

City Hall and ship will be closed Monday July 4, 2022.

We will hold our required organization meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM. We will take this opportunity to begin work on the 2023 budget.

Our next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor