

City of Forman, North Dakota
Regular City Council Meeting
March 14, 2023

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kevin Bopp. Present were council members Luke Anderson, John Stenvold, Neil Weaving, and Al Colemer. Also attending were Sara Dux, Lyle Bopp, Travis Paeper, Leah and Glen Shultz and Trent Nelson. Damon Devillers also joined by phone.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

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

A motion was made by Neil Weaving, seconded by John Stenvold to approve minutes from the February 7th and February 9th, 2023 regular city council meetings. Motion carried.

Sheriff Travis Paeper addressed the council. Paeper reported on several incidents in town, including a possible theft at Four Seasons, assisting with a juvenile with mental health issues, and a child pornography investigation. He also informed the council that the dog complaints that have been coming in have been addressed with the family and they are working to rehome the dog. The Sheriff's Department tagged 4 vehicles after the most recent snowfall and will continue to work with the city to communicate with residents about the need to remove vehicles from the streets to allow for snow removal.

The Council then heard from Glen and Leah Shultz. The Shultz's moved to the area to be closer to family and would like to build a "shouse" on the corner of Maple Avenue and 2nd Street. The council discussed the necessary setbacks needed for those lots and would consider allowing for a variance. The council will need more information about the project to be completed before it can vote to allow the building permit. The Shultz's will continue to work on providing more details to the city as they finalize the project.

Damon Devillers from Interstate Engineering was welcomed into the meeting via phone. A motion was made by Neil Weaving and seconded by John Stenvold to approve Interstate Engineering as the City Engineer for the City of Forman. Motion carried. Discussion was then held on the replatting of the south end of the Klefstad Addition and possible funding sources. Damon said there aren't many options for grants for this type of project right now but there are loan options through the Bank of North Dakota or could possibly be additional COVID money available. Damon will review the estimates that were submitted to the city last year to compare where prices for materials are now and check into if there are contractors available to do the project. Damon also mentioned the planning grants that are coming available through the Main Street Initiative program by the Department of Commerce. Several other communities have received this grant and another round will be opening soon if the city is interested.

City Superintendent Donavon Hajek reviewed his report. Issues with snow removal were discussed including the responsibility of homeowners to clear out around their mailboxes and private snow removal leaving piles of snow on city streets adding to the city's removal costs. Donavon and JT are doing what they can to keep the intersections open and clear of excess snow. Mayor Bopp brought up the possibility of a new "Siren Days/Meet the Badges" event and asked, if possible, to try to have the siren placed back on the water tower by May 1. The council then discussed several spring flooding concerns. Donavon is working to get a count of the number of sandbags on hand and will get ahold of the DOT to ask about getting more sand. A motion was made by Luke Anderson and seconded by John Stenvold to approve the purchase of 4 new dump truck tires from Southside Auto. Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Stenvold and seconded by Al Colemer to approve the city auditor's report including the February 2023 financial statements, delinquency list and payment of the bills. Motion carried. Once the DRN bill is pulled electronically on March 24, Trish will request a reimbursement for the additional cameras that were installed at City Hall as part of the Homeland Security grant. The award document for the new SonicWall systems has been signed and uploaded to the grant portal. The state is not ready to release funding yet as they are trying to get additional funding from the federal government. They will let us know when we can begin the project.

City Attorney, Lyle Bopp, delivered the finalized policing contract and submitted it for signatures. A motion was made by Luke Anderson and seconded by John Stenvold to approve the finalized contract for 2023. Motion carried. He also asked about the deed for the JDA house. Luke reported that the house is close to being finished. Lyle will record the deed.

Sara Dux sent her report previously to the council. Grant applications were submitted for both the AARP community garden grant program and the Garrison Diversion Recreation Grant program to complete the Main Street pocket park. Sara also reported that the date for this year's CarFest has been changed to September 9th, 2023. She also brought up ideas for "Siren Days" possibly to be held May 13th. Mayor Bopp suggested moving the "Citizen of the Year" and "Mayor for the Day" awards to the Siren Days event. Sara will continue to explore options while planning these events. April 3-7 is City Government week. Sara would like to make special posts for Mayor Bopp and the council members. Sara then asked the council to consider possible updates to City Hall. Mayor Bopp suggested asking around for some quotes for the council to look into and presenting them at a future meeting. Mayor Bopp also asked Sara to post a thank you on the city's Facebook page to acknowledge the extra help given by Full Circle Ag when they pushed snow from the North end of Main Street after the last snowfall.

The council then discussed old business. Discussion was held on the possibility of selling the old pickup and sander. New business was then discussed including additional flooding concerns and one possible candidate for the city's open Auditor position.

Our next regular council meeting is Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Kevin Bopp, Mayor

Trish Pearson, City Auditor