

Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 14, 2021

The Fergus Falls City Council met as a Committee of the Whole on April 14, 2021 at 7:00 am in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Schierer called the meeting to order and the following council members were in attendance: Kvamme, Thompson, Gustafson, Hicks, Fish and Hagberg. Rufer and Arneson were absent.

Soccer Field Use Fees

Last fall the youth baseball association was granted exemption from paying field use fees. The youth soccer association is seeking the same field use fee exemption for their organization. A motion and second were made by Fish and Hagberg to recommend the council declare the Fergus Falls Youth Soccer Association exempt from paying field use fees and the motion carried.

Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan

A draft of the bicycle and pedestrian master plan was provided by consultant Antonio Rosell of Community Design Group. He explained how the information was compiled through the utilization of a survey, website, wiki map and online workshops. The plan was designed to be an active living approach that will make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to walk and bike throughout the city. The next steps include finalizing their plan, sharing it with the public for their comments and review and then sharing the final document with the city council for their acceptance.

Airport Entitlement Funds

The Fergus Falls City Council annually receives \$150,000 in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) entitlement funding for eligible projects at the airport. Up to four years of entitlement funds (\$600,000) can be accrued for larger airport development projects and any funds not used within four years must be returned to the FAA. If other communities with airports around the state need funding for airport projects, cities have the ability to transfer their entitlement funds to these cities. The City of Fergus Falls currently has a balance of \$150,000 and the Red Wing Regional Airport is requesting Fergus Falls transfer these funds to them for their apron expansion project. They would return the \$150,000 in its entirety to Fergus Falls next year. In past years the City of Fergus Falls has been a giver and recipient of entitlement funds with Bemidji, Two Harbors, Glenwood and Princeton. The funds have always been returned as promised. A motion and second were made by Thompson and Kvamme to recommend the council authorize the transfer of Fergus Falls Municipal Airport entitlement funds to the Red Wing Regional Airport and the motion carried.

1222 N Tower Road

The West Tool & Design owners are planning an expansion on their property and the project would inhibit drainage and possibly create property damage if some storm sewer runoff water issues are not addressed. The city has determined it is necessary to install a catch basin in the cul-de-sac on First Avenue North with piping to convey the runoff away from the proposed building. Staff are seeking authorization to get quotes for this drainage project and to develop a drainage utility easement in conjunction with this work. The estimated project cost is \$33,000 and would be funded by the storm sewer enterprise fund. A motion and second were made by Gustafson and Hagberg to recommend the council authorize the solicitation of quotes and authorize staff to execute a storm water drainage easement and the motion carried.

PI 5337 & 5338

PI 5337 is the 2021 mill and overlay project while PI 5338 is the 2021 seal coat project. City Engineer Brian Yavarow shared a map of the areas proposed for improvements this year. The mill and overlay project is proposed is bordered by Union Avenue, Vernon Avenue, Alcott Avenue and Fremont Street. Some portions of the project may require reconstruction due to the condition of the streets and the available budget. The proposed seal coat areas would include Cascade from TH 210 to Summit Avenue; Summit from Union to Friberg and Junius from Cascade to Sheridan. He explained seal coating is done on roads that have recently been reconstructed to increase their longevity. Mayor Schierer suggested the Engineering Department do an overview of the city's pavement management plan and how streets are chosen for improvements. The review could also include how much money the city spends on these projects, the reasons the improvements are so costly and a list of which streets the city plans to address in the next few years. A number of individual street projects were inquired by council members who agreed streets are the biggest concern residents discuss with them. A motion and second were made by Fish and Thompson to recommend the council initiate PI 5337 and 5338 and to order plans and specifications for each of these projects and the motion carried.

MSAS Mileage

In April of 2019 the city and county completed a jurisdictional street swap within the city limits. As a result, the city has a reduced overall Trunk Highway Turnback mileage, which is considered over and above the maximum 20% limit on total street mileage in the city allowed in the Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS) system. To remain in compliance with the MSAS rules, the city needs to reduce over MSAS mileage by 0.60 miles. The City Engineer recommended the city remove 0.08 miles on Sherman Street: Lincoln Avenue to Washington Avenue (MSAS Route 120) and 0.53 miles on Douglas Avenue: Pebble Lake Road to Trunk Highway 210 (MSAS 140). A motion and second were made by Gustafson and Fish to recommend the council revoke the MSAS Routes 120 and 140 and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 am

Lynne Olson