

City Council Minutes
April 5, 2021

The Fergus Falls City Council held a regular meeting on April 5, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers. Pastor Jim Johnson of Calvary Free Lutheran led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Schierer called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and the following council members were in attendance: Kvamme, Rufer, Thompson, Gustafson, Fish and Hagberg. Arneson and Hicks were absent.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion and second were made by Gustafson and Thompson to approve tonight's agenda with the addition of two items; an inter fund transfer (consent) and an electrical project at Delagoon Park (new business) and the motion carried.

PI 6074 Final Cost Hearing

PI 6074 is the 2020 sidewalk/driveway final cost hearing. These projects were done by 100% petition and no objections were received. A total of \$55,430.70 of improvements were made and the proposed interest rate is 4%. The number of years the property owners have to pay their assessments will vary by the assessed value. A public hearing was opened at 5:36 pm. As no one appeared, the hearing was closed. Kvamme said the sidewalk in front of his home did receive improvements and he spoke favorably about the process and program. Fish offered **Resolution #52-2021** adopting the final cost assessment for PI 6074, which was seconded by Hagberg and was adopted.

Gate City Bank Neighborhood Impact Program

Tyler Wirth, along with other representatives of Gate City Bank, presented a large check to the city to represent the investment they are making into the community through the Neighborhood Impact Program. The program offers low interest loans to qualifying homeowners for home projects that will improve the community's housing stock and add long term value to our neighborhoods.

Consent Agenda

The following items were approved under **Resolution #53-2021** by Rufer: Motion approving the open and closed minutes from the March 15, 2021 City Council meeting and the March 31, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion approving the following licenses: Excavator Barry Construction, Delzer Construction; Sidewalk/Paving S & C Construction. **Resolution #54-2021** authorizing the city to enter into the 2021 lifeguard services contract with the Fergus Falls YMCA. **Resolution #55-2021** approving an inter fund loan from the Equipment Fund to the Park and Recreation (golf course) budget in the General Fund to purchase a Toolcat for the Pebble Lake Golf Course. **Resolution #56-2021** amending the tax increment fees within the 2021 fee schedule. **Resolution #57-2021** accepting a vacation petition for Highland Avenue and setting a public hearing date for April 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm. **Resolution #58-2021** authorizing the City Attorney and City Engineer to execute the necessary documents to acquire Parcel No. 710035001950007 (Pioneer Road) in the amount of \$30,000. **Resolution #59-2021** accepting a joint resolution for immediate annexation of land in Aurdal Township owned by Otter Tail Power for the Hoot Lake Solar Project. **Resolution #60-2021** initiating PI 6077, the 2021 sidewalk/driveway improvements and approving the 2021 sidewalk assessment rates. **Resolution #61-2021** accepting the preliminary engineering report for CP 5955, the Whitford/Bancroft improvements and setting the preliminary project hearing for April 19, 2021. **Resolution #62-2021** setting a public hearing to consider the designation of the Victor Lundeen

Company Building, located at 126 W Lincoln Avenue and the Northern Pacific Depot, located at 423 S Cascade Street as local historic landmarks for April 19, 2021. **Resolution #63-2021** authorizing city staff and the City Attorney to negotiate a lease with United Prairie Foundation for city owned property on Western Avenue. Motion appointing Dalyce Leabo to the HRA board for a five year term. **Resolution #64-2021** accepting a \$2,500 donation from the Inga M. Johnson Endowment Fund with West Central Initiative and approving the related 2021 budget adjustments to the General Fund donations and Parks and Recreation expenditures. **Resolution #65-2021** setting the 2021 Tax Rebate Program public hearings. **Resolution #66-2021** approving transfers of \$12,000 from the Capital Projects Operations Fund to the Permanent Improvement Revolving Debt Service Fund. The resolution was seconded by Fish and was adopted.

Mobile Performance Stage

The council authorized staff to obtain quotes for the acquisition of a mobile performance stage to replace the previously proposed amphitheater as a part of the downtown riverfront project. Two quotes were received. The lower stage quote was from Stageline in the amount of \$138,265. Michael Burgraff from A Center for the Arts was asked to get specifications for the lights and sound equipment needed for the stage separately. The lights would be \$9,074.69 and the sound/audio is \$11,718.32 for a total price of \$159,058.11. Staff recommended proceeding with the purchase by using a \$50,000 gift from the Veden Trust and the remainder of the funding would be from liquor store revenues. Once more clarification is obtained from the Treasury Department, there may be an opportunity to reimburse the liquor store funding with American Rescue Plan funds. Rufer spoke about the opportunities and versatility the mobile stage will offer for many venues in the community at a fraction of the cost of an amphitheater. Fish offered **Resolution #67-2021** authorizing the purchase of a mobile performance stage, which was seconded by Kvamme and was adopted.

Resolution of Accounts

Fish offered a resolution authorizing the payments and claims in the amount of \$826,236.15, which was seconded by Hagberg and was adopted.

Delagoon Electrical Project

The city has been working with Otter Tail Power Company on an electrical upgrade for services at Delagoon Park. The park currently has one metering point which the city owns and is responsible for maintaining. There have been frequent and costly failures happening. Otter Tail Power Company has proposed nine new metering points at the various entities throughout the park (campground, individual ballfields, BMX track etc...) and a new feeder line. The estimated cost of the upgrades is \$50,700 and the proposed funding source is unexpended 2020 General Funds. Thompson offered **Resolution #68-2021** approving a contract with Otter Electric to do the electrical upgrades to various facilities at Delagoon Park and to authorize funds to be carried forward from unexpended General Funds from the 2020 budget, which was seconded by Gustafson and was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm

Lynne Olson