

City Council Minutes  
April 19, 2021

The Fergus Falls City Council held a regular meeting on Monday April 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers. Pastor David Foss gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Schierer called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. Council members in attendance were Rufer, Thompson, Arneson, Gustafson, Hicks, Fish, Hagberg and Kvamme.

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion and second were made by Fish and Gustafson to approve tonight's agenda with the addition of authorization for Pedal Fergus Falls to apply for a grant (consent) and a resolution of support for Vector Windows to apply for a Job Creation Fund Application (new business) and the motion carried.

**Landmark Designation: 126 W Lincoln Avenue**

The Heritage Preservation Commission and Planning Commission have recommended the Victor Lundeen Building located at 126 W Lincoln Avenue be considered a local historic landmark. A public hearing for this designation opened at 5:34 pm. As no one appeared, the hearing was closed. Hagberg offered [Resolution #69-2021](#) designating the property located at 126 W Lincoln Avenue as a local historic landmark, which was seconded by Thompson and was adopted.

**Landmark Designation: 423 S Cascade Street**

The Heritage Preservation Commission and Planning Commission have recommended the Northern Pacific Depot located at 423 S Cascade Street be considered a local historic landmark. A public hearing for this designation opened at 5:35 pm. As no one appeared, the hearing was closed. Kvamme offered [Resolution #70-2021](#) designating the property located at 423 S Cascade Street as a local historic landmark, which was seconded by Gustafson and was adopted.

**Highland Vacation Petition Hearing**

A vacation petition has been received for the platted Highland Avenue right of way. This land will be a part of the Otter Tail Power solar farm and no objections have been submitted. A public hearing for this vacation opened at 5:37 pm. As no one appeared, the hearing was closed. A motion and second were made by Hicks and Arneson directing the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for the vacation of the North/South Highland Avenue right of way on Highland Avenue from Main Street to the North Terminus and the motion carried.

**CP 5955 Preliminary Hearing**

CP 5955 is the reconstruction of the sanitary sewer, water main, storm sewer, sewer & water services and the bituminous street improvements on Bancroft: Cascade Street to Whitford Street and Whitford Street: Alcott Avenue to Channing Avenue. The total project cost is estimated at \$577,433.97. The special assessments are not to exceed a 5% interest rate and would be assessed over 15 years. The hearing was opened at 5:40 pm. As no one appeared, the hearing was closed. Hagberg offered [Resolution #71-2021](#) ordering the plans and specifications and authorizing the advertising of bids, which was seconded by Rufer and was adopted.

**Proclamation: Arbor Day**

Mayor Schierer read a proclamation declaring April 30 as Arbor Day and the month of May as Arbor Month.

### **Proclamation: Dollars for Scholars**

Mayor Schierer read a proclamation declaring April 28 as Dollars for Scholars Day.

### **Consent Agenda**

The following items were approved under **Resolution #72-2021** by Rufer: Motion approving the minutes from the April 5, 2021 City Council meeting and the April 14, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. A motion approving a fireworks license for Walmart/TNT Fireworks. A motion exempting the Fergus Falls Youth Soccer Association from field use fees. **Resolution #73-2021** authorizing the transfer of FFM Airport Entitlement Funds to the Red Wing Regional Airport. **Resolution #74-2021** authorizing the solicitation of quotes and authorizing staff to execute a storm water drainage easement for the property located at 1222 N Tower Road. **Resolution #75-2021** initiating PI 5337, the 2021 mill and overlay improvement project and ordering the plans and specifications for this project. **Resolution #76-2021** initiating PI 5338, the 2021 seal coat project and ordering the plans and specifications for this project. **Resolution #77-2021** revoking MSAS Route No. 120 and 140. **Resolution #78-2021** authorizing Pedal Fergus Falls to submit a grant. The resolution was seconded by Fish and was adopted.

### **Ordinance 12 Highland Vacation**

Ordinance 12, Eighth Series, Ordering the vacation of the Highland Avenue right-of-way in the Guttenberg Addition and a part of Pioneer Road in the Village Cooperative Addition was introduced by Hicks and was declared to have its first reading.

### **Resolution of Accounts**

Fish offered a resolution authorizing the payments and claims in the amount of \$2,823,966.52, which was seconded by Hagberg and was adopted.

### **Vector Windows Job Creation Fund Application**

Vector Windows is proposing the construction of a new facility and they are seeking a portion of the financing through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Job Creation Fund. Their project would expand their operations within the city limits and position the company to hire 10-35 employees over the next few years. A resolution of support from the city is a necessary component of the application. Jeff Ackerson of Vector Windows commented on their excitement to continuing building their business in Fergus Falls and his appreciation for the city's consideration with this application. NeTia Baumann of Greater Fergus Falls spoke about the opportunity to support a local business and provide additional jobs in our community. Hicks offered **Resolution #79-2021** providing a resolution of support for a Job Creation Fund application in connection with Vector Windows, which was seconded by Fish and was adopted.

After congratulating the Waste Water Treatment Plant staff on their commendation for meeting MPCA standards and the Water Plant's staff for completing the 2020 Water Quality Report, the council adjourned to closed meeting at 5:51 pm to consider a real estate offer pursuant to MN State Sec 13d.05.

*Lynne Olson*