

Committee of the Whole
April 28, 2021

The Fergus Falls City Council met as a Committee of the Whole on April 28, 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: Thompson, Arneson, Gustafson, Hicks, Fish, Hagberg and Kvamme. Rufer was absent.

MS4 Annual Meeting

The city is annually required to hold a stormwater management education session with its elected officials. The goal of the stormwater permit is reducing the pollutant levels in discharges and protecting water quality. The MS4, or municipal separate storm sewer system, is a system of roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels and storm drains operated by a public entity. The City of Fergus Falls, being a community of 10,000 or more, must comply with the standards associated with the collection of stormwater that drains into the Otter Tail River. There are six minimum control measures required by this federally mandated program including:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation/Involvement
- Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
- Post Construction, Stormwater Management
- Pollution Prevention/Good housekeeping for Municipal Operations

In 2020, the city inspected 81 commercial sites weekly or within 24 hours of 1/2 inch rain event on sites an acre or greater; conducted 454 residential sites inspections; issued 92 verbal warnings for compliance with MS4; inspected 52 of the city's 246 outfalls and mapped 58.27 miles in the city's GIS system. The city's goal is to be reasonable, educational, and fair to all parties. The MPCA will be increasing their fees from \$80 to \$4,000 and these funds would come from the city's enterprise funds. Matt Harrington is the city's MS4 Manager and can be contacted for questions or more information.

Permit for Sales in City Parks

The city has been fielding calls for food trucks and vendors and staff is proposing a permit to allow such sales in city parks. City Code 92.05 allows two days of sales in parks and a \$15.00 fee has been recommended for those needing utilities such as water, sewer and electricity. Vendors wishing to provide food, must also get a permit from the county to ensure food safety standards are being met. The council was reminded of the code regulation of food trucks within the city limits. A motion and second were made by Thompson and Gustafson to recommend the council add a vendor permit for city parks into the fee schedule and the motion carried.

Dog Park Name and Update

The city is proceeding with the construction of a dog park on East Channing Avenue this spring. The fencing and water line will soon be installed and the facility is expected to be opened in June. The parkland on which the dog park is being placed was deeded to the city by the Adams family and their heirs were consulted on the name of the park. They suggested the city name the park Higgins, after

the Adam's family pet. A motion and second were made by Kvamme and Fish to recommend the council approve the naming of the park as Higgins Dog Park and the motion carried.

Equipment Purchase

A 2006 Case loader has reached 7700 hours of operation and repairs have become costly. Staff is recommending this equipment be replaced with a new CASE 821G model from Titan Machinery off the Minnesota State Contract. The new equipment price is \$233,510 and a trade-in of \$50,000 for the 2006 model would bring the overall purchase price of \$183,510. The purchase would be funded from the 2021 equipment fund budget. A motion and second were made by Fish and Hicks to recommend the council authorize the purchase of a CASE 821G wheel loader and authorizing the trade-in of the 2006 loader and the motion carried.

Announcements

Yesterday was the softball field number five dedication ceremony at Delagoon Park. Park Board and City Council members were recognized for their contribution and partnership with the Fergus Falls School District for the construction of this field.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 am

Lynne Olson