



City of Fergus Falls Committee of the Whole Agenda

August 11, 2021

7:00 am

City Council Chambers

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Discussion Items

1. Opticom Traffic Signal Project

Kile Bergren

Requested Action: Recommendation to the council to approve the installation of Opticom emergency vehicle preemption systems on all traffic lights within the city

2. 2022 MN DNR Volunteer Fire Assistance Matching Grant (VFA)

Ryan Muchow

Requested Action: Recommendation to the council accepting a matching grant award from the MN DNR Fire Department Assistance Program to the Fergus Falls Fire Department

3. Update from Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

Elizabeth Wefel

4. Comprehensive Plan Discussion

Klara Beck

Requested Action: Recommendation to the council to provide staff with direction regarding the creation of a comprehensive plan for the city

D. Additional Agenda Items

E. Announcements

August 16 5:30 pm

City Council Meeting

Adjourn



Council Action Recommendation

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Meeting Date: August 11, 2021

Subject: Opticom Signal Light Project

Recommendation: Approve project

Background/Key Points: We are looking at installing Opticom emergency vehicle preemption systems in all traffic lights within the city. The system allows traffic lights to detect approaching emergency vehicles and turns the traffic signal to green giving them safer passage through intersections. The project would include upfitting the Opticom system to existing traffic signals and the majority of the cost would be covered by Municipal State Aid. The second phase of the project would entail upfitting public safety vehicles with IR emitters with funding from the equipment fund or forfeitures. The project would reduce risk to emergency responders and the public, as well as reducing risk to the city.

Budgetary Impact: \$90,000 base project estimate.

Originating Department: Public Safety

Respectfully Submitted: Kile Bergren, Chief of Public Safety



Council Action Recommendation

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Meeting Date: 8/11/2021 – Committee of the Whole

Subject: 2022 MN DNR Volunteer Fire Assistance Matching Grant (VFA)

Recommendation: Council to approve accepting a matching grant awarded to the Fire Department from the MN DNR Fire Department Assistance Program.

Background/Key Points: The Fire Department is eligible to receive this grant due to the rural areas it protects. The grant dollars will be applied to Personal Protective Gear, specifically wildland helmet lights, water supply appliances (gate valves and gated Y valves), and nozzles. The funds will also be used for outfitting one of our wildland fire fighting engines (Engine 13) with a brush guard and winch.

Budgetary Impact: The total project cost is \$6,548.00. The grant award amount is \$3,274.00. The Fire Department will utilize current budget dollars to match the award amount.

Originating Department: Fire Department

Respectfully Submitted: Ryan Muchow

Attachments:



Memo

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Meeting Date:

August 11- Committee of the Whole

Subject:

Comprehensive Plan Discussion

Recommendation:

Provide staff with direction regarding the creation of a Comprehensive Plan for Fergus Falls.

Background/Key Points:

Wikipedia, bastion of internet knowledge, tells us that “Comprehensive planning is a process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development.” The comprehensive plan “is the foundation for establishing goals, purposes, zoning and activities allowed on each land parcel to provide compatibility and continuity to the entire region as well as each individual neighborhood. It has been one of the most important instruments in city and regional planning since the early twentieth century.”

Currently, the City of Fergus Falls does not have a comprehensive plan, but a comprehensive plan would not start from scratch. The City may synthesize the deliverables from the many smaller plans that have been created over the years into the overarching framework of a comprehensive plan.

Since we are in the midst of the budget process for 2022, staff requests that Council:

- a. Give staff an idea of their interest in budgeting in 2022 for a comprehensive plan, and subsequently;
- b. Give directive to research and report back on the creation of a comprehensive plan, the process of which may uncover development and land use priorities and empower staff and Council to make informed, proactive steps toward improving our city.

Budgetary Impact:

With this directive, staff will determine budgetary needs for proper comprehensive planning and report back to Council with options for the creation of a comprehensive plan.

Originating Department:

Community Development

Respectfully Submitted:

Klara Beck, Community Development Manager