

Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 12, 2023

The Fergus Falls City Council held a Committee of the Whole meeting on April 12, 2023 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, Rufer, Kremeier, Thompson, Rachels, Hicks, Fish and Job.

Construction Activities

Rufer asked the council to consider amending City Code 90.24 (B) (3) to allow construction activities in non-residential zones to begin before 9 am on Saturdays. A motion and second were made by Hicks and Rufer to recommend the council direct the City Attorney to make the code amendments and the motion carried.

Maintenance Operations Supervisor

The community arena will now be running year-round with the addition of the chiller system. Staff have recommended the creation of a new Maintenance Operations Supervisor position to oversee the skilled maintenance of the building, compressors, ice systems and mechanical equipment. The new position would be a \$113,580 increase to the budget. The position will be split in a similar manner to the cost sharing agreement for ice time: School District #544 33%, Fergus Falls Hockey Association 38%, Fergus Falls Skating Club 11.50%, City of Fergus Falls 17.50%. Bill Sonmor said the cost sharing formula may change after the city goes through their first summer ice season this year and actual costs are realized. The city will try to sell more open ice time to offset the cost of this position. A motion and second were made by Rachels and Fish to recommend the council approve the addition of a Maintenance Operations Supervisor position at the community arena and the motion carried.

AS400 Server

The IT Department has been planning for an upgrade to the city's AS400 system by moving from an i Power 9 to Power 10 system. They have received a quote from Heppner Consulting under the state contract for \$240,259.80 that includes a three-year warranty and new high speed disc drives. A motion and second were made by Rufer and Fish to recommend the council approve the upgrade of the city's computer system upgrade and the motion carried.

National Opioid Settlement

Cities over 10,000 population around the state are being asked to participate in national opioid settlements. Funds are sent to the state and then onto the county. The county must consult with cities on how to spend the funds to fight the opioid crisis. Our police department is in discussion with the county to use the funds to staff mental health crisis calls and first responses to overdoses. A motion and second were made by Hicks and Rachels to recommend the council approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Minnesota and Local Governments and authorize participation in national opioid settlements and the motion carried.

Update on Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant

The city's application for the State Active Transportation Infrastructure Program was not awarded. This project was not in the city's Capital Improvement Plan and there are no plans to move forward at this time without this funding source.

City Project 5960

Plans and specifications have been completed for City Project 5960, the reconstruction project for Laurel: First Ave to Broadway; Linden: Broadway to Oak Street and Summit Avenue: Broadway to Oak Street. The project will entail reconstruction of the water, sewer, storm sewer, pavement, and the replacement of curb, gutter and select sidewalks within the \$1,750,000 project. A final cost hearing will be held prior to awarding the bids. A motion and second were made by Thompson and Rachels to recommend the council accept the project plans and specifications and authorize the advertising of bids and the motion carried.

Public Improvement 9767

During the final design phase for Phase II of the Downtown/Riverfront Phase II project, it was determined a temporary and permanent easement are required from the adjacent Federal Courthouse building. The permanent easement is needed to construct a storm sewer pipe discharge and the temporary easement is needed to occupy and facilitate the construction. A motion and second were made by Fish and Kvamme to recommend the council authorize the City Engineer and City Attorney to execute the permanent and temporary easement agreements with the United States of America, acting by and through the Administrator of General Services and the motion carried.

Public Improvement 6079

A motion and second were made by Hicks and Kvamme to recommend the council set a final cost hearing for May 15, 2023, for PI 6079, the 2022 sidewalk and driveway improvement projects and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 am

Lynne Olson