

City Council Minutes
July 3, 2023

The Fergus Falls City Council held a regular meeting on Monday July 3, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers. Pastor Kate Bruns gave 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: Job, Kvamme, Kremeier, Thompson, Rachels and Hicks. Fish and Rufer were absent.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion and second were made by Job and Rachels to approve tonight's agenda with the removal of the fee schedule amendment from the consent agenda and adding a discussion under old business related to signage for Farmer's Market and the motion carried.

Oak Street Vacation

On June 5 the council accepted a public right of way vacation petition and set a public hearing. The public hearing was opened at 5:34 pm and as no one appeared, the hearing was closed. A motion and second were made by Kremeier and Hicks directing the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for the public right of way vacation petition-platted N-S Oak Street right of way (South of St. Charles Avenue, between Blocks 6 & 7 of the Nelson's 2nd Addition) and the motion carried.

Open Forum

Barbara Molter said she was told the council would be discussing the location of the new water park at tonight's meeting and asked why Roosevelt Park was chosen instead of the old state hospital grounds. Mayor Schierer said this topic was not a scheduled part of tonight's meeting and explained the aquatics committee recommended Roosevelt Park in 2019 and that was the location provided on the ballot of the 2022 General Election that was approved by the voters.

Consent Agenda

The following items were approved under **Resolution #126-2023** by Hicks: Motion approving the minutes from the June 20, 2023, City Council meeting and the June 28, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion approving the following licenses: Paving/Sidewalk Ritchey's, Daniel J. Berge Concrete, Harrington Concrete. **Resolution #127-2023** restricting parking on the north side of Stanton Avenue from Vine Street to Union Avenue as a part of City Project 5959, the Stanton Avenue construction project. **Resolution #128-2023** designating diagonal parking on the south side of Stanton Avenue from Vine Street to Union Avenue as a part of City Project 5959, the Stanton Avenue construction project. **Resolution #129-2023** approving a purchase agreement for the parking lot adjacent to the former flour mill building. **Resolution #130-2023** approving the purchase of a garbage truck. Motion directing the City Attorney to amend City Code 91.52 to include quail as allowed poultry. **Resolution #131-2023** approving the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Fergus Falls on behalf of its Police Department regarding the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. **Resolution #132-2023** supporting Otter Tail County to add a mental health social worker position. **Resolution #133-2023** approving a variance to erect an accessory structure with a footprint greater than 10% of the total lot size on a legally non-conforming lot at 647 W Stanton as requested by Tabitha Hallan. The resolution was seconded by Thompson and was adopted.

Fee Schedule Amendment

Kvamme asked for clarification on the sound system rental fee. The downtown pavilion has a simple sound system that is available along with the rental of this facility for no additional charge. Those that wish to use the sound system purchased with the mobile stage can rent the equipment for \$300 if the equipment is run by someone on the city approved list of qualified operators. The fee to the operator would be paid additionally. The mobile stage fee is \$500 and if someone wants to use the sound system, it would be an additional \$300 plus the operator fee. A motion and second were made by Kvamme and Kremeier to approve the addition of the sound system rental fee to the 2023 fee schedule and the motion carried.

Ordinance 40, Eighth Series

Ordinance 40, Eighth Series, Vacating of a portion of Oak Street was introduced by Rachels and declared to have its first reading.

Ordinance 41, Eighth Series

Ordinance 41, Eighth Series, Imposing a moratorium on the operation of a cannabis business was introduced by Hicks and declared to have its first reading.

Ordinance 42, Eighth Series

Ordinance 42, Eighth Series, Amending City Code 91.52 to include quail as allowed poultry was introduced by Kvamme and declared to have its first reading.

PI 9504, Aquatics Center

Thompson offered **Resolution #134-2023** accepting the project plans and specifications for PI 9504, the aquatics center improvement project and to authorize the advertising of bids, which was seconded by Kvamme and was adopted.

Development Agreement for Flour Mill Building

Hicks offered **Resolution #135-2023** approving a development agreement for the former flour mill building, which was seconded by Kremeier and was adopted.

Resolution of Accounts

Rachels offered a resolution authorizing the payments and claims in the amount of \$1,263,495.83, which was seconded by Job and was adopted.

Farmers Market Signage

A motion and second were made by Kvamme and Thompson allowing the Farmer's Market to place signage advertising their events at the Otter Tail County Historical Society site (with the property owner's permission) for the duration of the farmer's market season and the motion carried. The Planning Commission is considering amendments to the city's sign ordinances. A motion and second were made by Hicks and Rachels to include Council Member Scott Kvamme in the sign ordinance discussions and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm

Lynne Olson