

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF FOSSTON, POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA  
February 24, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the Council of the City of Fosston, Polk County Minnesota was held in council chambers on Friday, February 24, 2023, at 8:00a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Offerdahl with the following members present: Anderson, Dufault and Mulry. Absent: LePier. Others in attendance were: Sarah Manecke and Steven Lyseng.

Mayor Offerdahl stated the purpose of the meeting was to consider action on the 2023 Utility & Street Improvement project engineering firm.

Mayor Offerdahl noted that the City of Fosston has had some issues with their current civil engineer, Widseth, over the past couple years. Heide, Manecke, Dufault, Lyseng and Offerdahl met earlier in the week to discuss the idea of changing civil engineering firms at this stage of the 2023 Utility & Street Improvement project.

Dufault noted that a couple of the issues Heide addressed include design, billing, and communication. Heide believes that the poor communication along with inconsistent billing practices has costed the City of Fosston taxpayers extra money on projects. Widseth's engineering budget is approximately \$158,00 on the 2023 project, including the alternates that were taken, of which \$90,000 has been billed to date. Heide received a quote from Karvakko to complete this project for \$65,000 which will primarily include construction management & oversight. It was further noted that it was promised that Rich Clauson met with Heide and mayor Offerdahl a few months ago to discuss issues with Cariveau. Clauson informed he would step in for Lee Cariveau for a while, which didn't happen. Widseth was interviewed for the EDA engineering project and spent the interview discussing the design flaws in the preliminary engineering report, (not done by Widseth) rather than their strengths and abilities. The challenges with Widseth have continued despite efforts to correct them over the past year or more. Lyseng stated that this would be a good time to switch engineers if council agrees. Lyseng noted that we would work with Attorney Larson to make sure the city gets all of our plans & specs, and data from Widseth that we own. If approved, Karvakko would take over the 2023 Street & Utility project in addition to the 2024 TAP sidewalk project and Omland Court cul-de-sac project. Mulry noted that change is good but cautioned that there is a right way & wrong way to handle these types of situations. The city must remain positive & professional during this transition and make sure we properly document our reasons for the change.

Dufault noted that Heide does not need council approval to change engineers, but she wants full council support of her decision. Heide's recommendation would be to change engineering firms, from Widseth to Karvakko, for the 2023 Utility & Street Improvement project, 2024 Berge sidewalk project and Omland Court cul de sac paving project. Motion was made by Dufault, seconded by Anderson to accept Heide's recommendation to change engineering firms, Widseth to Karvakko, for the 2023 Utility & Street Improvement project, 2024 Berge sidewalk project

and Omland Court cul de sac paving project, pending further discussion with Attorney Larson. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the council, motion was made by Dufault, seconded by Anderson to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Cassandra Heide, City Administrator