

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF FOSSTON, POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA  
MARCH 11, 2013

The regular meeting of the council of the City of Fosston, Polk County Minnesota was held in council chambers Monday, March 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Offerdahl with the following members present: Carlson and Ehlke. Members absent: Lambert and Veum. Also present was Barb Muesing, Jim Aagenes, Roy Dufault, Dave Larson, Bonnie Stewart, Randy Landsverk, Greg Parenteau, Tami & Larry Miller, Pat Hanlon, Greg Mireault, Gary & Bernice Carlin, Tim Carlin, Pat Wangler, Wayne Holt, Brian Zachariason, Eric Murphy, Dick Roue, Pete Nelson and Lee Cariveau.

Motion was made by Ehlke seconded by Carlson to approve the agenda with no modifications. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Carlson seconded by Ehlke to approve consent agenda items A and B. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- A) To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 11, 2013 as per copies furnished each member.
- B) To approve Accounts Payable Bill Listing #13-03 in the amount of \$77,644.58 and AP Bill Listing #13-03A in the amount of \$660,056.16.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Law Enforcement: Deputy Jim Tadman was present to discuss law enforcement activities for the past month. The new officer for Fosston has started work. Offerdahl informed Tadman that there is a particular animal complaint that needs to be documented and needs some extra attention as it's been an ongoing problem.

Streets/Sanitation/Utilities: Dave Larson reported on matters pertaining to his departments:

- There have been 13 water breaks this year.
- Crews will be working on keeping storm drains open with the snow melting.

Civic Center/Parks & Recreation: Pat Hanlon reported on matters pertaining to his departments.

- Training for Lifeguard & WSI will begin in April.
- New communities will be using the Civic Center pool for aquatics.

Hospital:

- The process of hiring a new administrator has begun.

Community/Economic Development:

- A committee was formed to implement some new ideas. Offering incentives for new homes to be built in the city is one possibility.

Star Committee:

- The Come Home to Fosston newsletter will go to print soon.

Council Considered a Resolution naming City Hall for former Mayor Arvid Clementson. Mayor Offerdahl stated that as our longest tenured Mayor we thought it was appropriate to do something. He was on the ballot when he passed away. He was a true Son of Fosston. After six years a decision needs to be made. He feels strongly about naming City Hall after Clementson and read the following to the attendees:

Mayor Offerdahl's statement:

As many of you may know, your City Council has discussed over the years since his passing, honoring Fosston's longest tenured Mayor, Arvid Clementson in some way. Discussions have included naming a street or building for Arvid. I believe that the time has come to make a decision and I will be introducing a resolution at the City Council meeting to name Fosston's City Hall for Arvid, naming it the Arvid Clementson Municipal Building. Arvid served on the City council as a councilman from January 1, 1962 to December 31, 1963, then as its Mayor from January 1, 1966 to October 25, 1976 and January 1, 1984 to October 12, 2006. No other Mayor in the history of Fosston has done more to promote the growth and prosperity of the City. From the construction of the Fosston Civic Center, the new Municipal Hospital, Municipal Nursing Home, Prairie pines Assisted Living Facility, two Industrial Park expansions and the redevelopment of downtown, to the expansion of the Library and Arts Center. There was never a bigger promoter of Fosston than Arvid. A true Son of Fosston, born and raised, graduated from high school here as well as having raised his family and served the City and citizens with unselfish passion. I firmly believe the appropriate way to honor Arvid's service to our fine city is by naming City Hall for him.

Barb Muesing read her support letter:

Naming City Hall the Arvid Clementson Municipal Building is a big thing, and it should be. Arvid Clementson was all about big ideas and big things for Fosston. That's why I encourage unanimous support for the resolution to name City Hall in his honor.

As small towns go, Fosston has a reputation as a progressive forward thinking community. Businesses and business people prosper in Fosston. We take pride in our school, hospital, library and arts center. Service organizations are thriving. We all benefit from the local access to a wide range of goods, services, and opportunities.

The success of our town didn't just happen on its own. Community vitality, which we take for granted, happened over time. For more than three decades of that time, Arvid Clementson served as Mayor. And, serve he did. He was a servant leader in the best way. He respected history and heritage, he was resolved to work toward a better future, and he was resourceful – finding ways to get things done for Fosston.

Arvid Clementson was a visionary leader, leading a city that lives his legacy today. He wasn't perfect, no one is. He may have had disagreements with folks from time to time. But at the end of the day, he made a positive difference for Fosston – worthy of his name on City Hall.

Pat Wangler: He was persistent. He's a reason we have good development and a great community. Getting elected for 34 consecutive years says he had more support and friends than enemies. Naming city hall is very fitting.

Pat Hanlon: He was an avid supporter of the civic center. The city would not be where it is today if not for him.

Dave Larson: Began working the city in 1972. Look back then and to today. Clem was one of those to get things done.

Pete Nelson: Name the building for him.

Gary Carlin: He knew Clem all these years and is very happy that we are planning on doing this in his memory.

Larry Miller: He did what he felt was best for the City. He had influential friends to help get things done. This included former Senator Mondale. The Civic Center is very important for our quality of life.

Bonnie Stewart: Thanked the Mayor and council for bringing this forward. In the Women's Business Center days, she went to Washington and into former Senator Mark Dayton's Office. Upon hearing that she was from Fosston, he stated that Fosston's Mayor was his hero. Naming the building means a lot to Bonnie's family.

Phil Ehlke: Came to town in the mid 1980's and through the radio station was involved with Clem a lot too. One reason he got on the council was to slow the Mayor down a little bit. They had great discussions. He was a visionary leader of the community. Should he be honored for his service? Of course he should be.

Dustin Carlson: Clem became his customer. Other towns are dying. Obviously we're thriving.

Other written comments the Mayor received in support of the naming of city hall are attached as Exhibit A.

Member Offerdahl introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NAMING CITY HALL FOR  
MAYOR ARVID CLEMENTSON**

**Resolution No. 13-08**

**WHEREAS**, Arvid Clementson served on the Fosston City Council from January 1, 1962 to December 31, 1963; and

**WHEREAS**, Arvid served as Fosston's mayor from January 1, 1966 to October 25, 1976 and again from January 1, 1984 until his death on October 12, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Arvid was a "True Son of Fosston", born & raised in the community, a lifelong resident and an enthusiastic, unselfish supporter of the City of Fosston; and

**WHEREAS**, Arvid was passionate in his efforts to promote the growth and prosperity of the City for its residents and taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, Arvid's leadership as Mayor was instrumental in the construction of the Civic Center/Swimming Pool, the new Municipal Hospital and Nursing Home, Prairie

Pines Assisted Living, two industrial park expansions, redevelopment of downtown Fosston and the expansion of the Library & Arts Center; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in appreciation to Mayor Arvid Clementson for his longtime service to the City and its citizens, the City Council hereby approves the naming of the Fosston City Hall the **Arvid Clementson Municipal Building**.

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Ehlke and upon vote being taken thereon the following members voted in favor thereof: Offerdahl, Ehlke and Carlson

and the following voted against same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.

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James Offerdahl, Mayor

Attest:

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Charles Lucken, City Administrator

Greg Mireault was present to discuss the sale of the Fosston Golf Course. He spoke with the Mayor and Administrator regarding his intention to sell the golf course. He believes the golf course is an amenity that goes along with the Civic Center and quality of living and feels it is important that we retain a golf course. He asked that the city be involved if necessary. As Lucken explained, the city won't be in the business of running a golf course. There is a group that does not want to see the golf course close and there is talk about forming an association. Mireault explained that he and his wife have decided not to work so many hours. He has put 17 years into the golf course. His goal is to keep it as a golf course but without knowing who the buyer is there is no guarantee it would stay a golf course. It's not unusual for towns to own golf courses. We can get 50 to 100 people and have them put in a certain amount of money and form a corporation. Then establish a board of directors. It is not uncommon and is very doable. The golf course is a business that is walk in ready and there are 118 acres of land. For the critics – it's an investment. Mayor Offerdahl believes the city wants to see it remain a golf course. He would not be opposed to the city buying this. The city has capacity to do this without bonding as we have reserves. Real estate might appreciate better than cash in the bank. If a private or non-profit can be formed to run it and the city can facilitate the purchase of the land he wants to see it happen. Ehlke asked if this can cash flow to put away some money for capital improvements. Mireault said it will be close but if it's run by an association there are members that could volunteer to do things that would save money. Memberships have remained steady. Gary Carlin was present to support the golf course and told how it all began. Bernice Carlin was instrumental in getting the ladies organization going and served as president the first two years and had 50 members. She reported that not all the ladies golfed – some played bridge and it was a very active group old to young. We need to get the women to organize. The golfers coming out of our

school have represented us very well at state. Others speaking in support of the golf course were Pete Nelson, Randy Landsverk and Wayne Holt. The consensus of the council is that we continue this discussion, form a core group and move forward on this. We need to begin with an appraisal of the property. The cost to do that is around \$1,500. Councilmember Carlson suggested that we wait until the full council is present before moving forward. The Mayor assured him that the absent council members are interested in furthering this discussion. Carlson wants to see the names of the 50 to 100 potential association members on paper at the next council meeting.

The next step is to get the appraisal done so we know where we're at. Then we need to go to the utilities commission as that is where the money will come from for a purchase. Being able to do this as an investment, we can seriously look at doing this without levying and bonding. We will have more information by the next meeting on a core group and details on potential interested association member. The appraisal is part of the due diligence and Lucken was directed to find an appraiser and work towards the goal.

Council considered a Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Fire Truck by the Fosston Rural Fire District. As Lucken explained, there was a special meeting of the fire board in February and approved this. The cost is around \$320,000. They prefer the ten year amortization and the city to act as finance agent. The City's share is half the cost of the truck - \$160,000. We have some reserves and the fire hall bonds are coming off the levy this year. We have plenty of levy capacity for future levies so that will not be a problem.

Member Carlson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE  
OF FIRE TRUCK BY THE FOSSTON RURAL FIRE DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 13-09**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fosston is a voting member of the Fosston Rural Fire District;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fosston owns 50% of the capital equipment and has agreed in the Joint Powers Agreement to contribute 50% of the operating budget of the District;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the Fosston Rural Fire District desires to purchase a new pumper truck to be used by the Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost for the new pumper truck is \$320,000 and the Rural Fire District has authorized a purchase price not to exceed \$320,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Chief has been authorized to solicit bids for a new pumper truck;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fosston will act as the fiduciary agent in the purchase of the pumper truck and intends to use the Rural Water Association MIDI Loan Program to finance the purchase; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that City Council hereby authorizes the purchase of a new pumper truck in an amount not to exceed \$320,000, upon review of the final bids.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Fosston's share of the pumper truck shall not exceed \$160,000 less the City's share of the Truck Reserve Account.

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Ehlke and upon vote being taken thereon the following members voted in favor thereof: Carlson, Ehlke and Offerdahl

and the following voted against same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.

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James Offerdahl, Mayor

Attest:

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Charles Lucken, City Administrator

Council considered approval of the Application for Transient Merchant License for Greg Parenteau, DBA Oof-Da Tacos. This was tabled at the last council meeting because council wanted to see what other towns are charging for licenses. A list of towns showed that they are all over the board. We charge \$100/year and limit the number of consecutive days of operation to 14 but not the number of times they are in town. Motion was made by Ehlke seconded by Carlson to approve the Transient Merchant License for Greg Parenteau, DBA Oof-Da Tacos. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lee Cariveau of Widseth, Smith Nolting was present to discuss city projects:

- A) Fosston Inspiration Trail (FIT) project. About half the easements have been developed. There are some ownership questions along the east side that will be worked on. Project start time: If the DNR says the project has to begin in 2013, we will look at a late summer construction start as DOT funds don't come into play until 2014.
- B) Status of Alley project and BNSF discussions. Council needs to consider approval of a quote from Tinjum Appraisal Company to write appraisal reports on Second Street South and the First Street Alley for \$4,500.00. Consensus is that the more property we can purchase from the railroad, the better. If all goes well, the paving of the alley could be done this summer. LePier and Burggraf would like to see this happen before the All School Reunion which is July 4<sup>th</sup>. However, we are dealing with the railroad and do

not know what their turnaround time would be. We also don't know when the appraiser will begin. Motion was made by Ehlke seconded by Carlson to approve proceeding with the appraisal. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council reviewed a preliminary draft of an Ordinance Authorizing the Keeping of Chickens within the City of Fosston. This is for discussion purposes only and no action was taken.

Council discussed an Ordinance Authorizing and Regulating the Conduct of Lawful Gambling within the City of Fosston. As Lucken explained, the Mentor Firemen's Relief Association operates the gambling in town now. The intent was that the Mentor group would contribute funds to the community. Council reviewed donations to our organizations since 2008. That shows a total of \$4,525 from 2008 to 2012 was donated. Council has the authority to mandate a certain percentage be donated. After further discussion, council directed Lucken to ask the Mentor Firemen's Relief Association to attend the next council meeting and bring with them financial information so we know how much money they have for making donations.

Council considered approval of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the former Harry & Lloyd's gas station at 103 East First Street. At a recent EDA meeting, there is some interest in getting this property redeveloped. The unknown is if there is cleanup needed with the underground fuel storage. The owners indicate an interest in selling the property. Councilor Ehlke asked if we have helped with this at other areas in town or if the city has refused to help any private developers with this. Lucken stated that the EDA has recommended in the past that the city buy this property. This was considered the first step. Offerdahl feels we should move forward and get this study done. Motion was made by Carlson seconded by Ehlke to approve a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment by Landmark Environment for a flat fee of \$2,000. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the council, motion was made by Carlson seconded by Ehlke to adjourn.

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Charles Lucken City Administrator

ATTACHMENTS IN SUPPORT OF RENAMING CITY HALL