

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF FOSSTON, POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA
MARCH 9, 2015

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fosston, Polk County Minnesota was held in council chambers on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Offerdahl with the following members present: Veum, Hoialmen, Dufault and Anderson. Also present was Dave Larson, Karen Graham, Kenny Rose, Mike Halland, Woody Enerson, Ed Lavelle, Deputies Bellamy and Sondrol, Lee Cariveau.

Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Hoialmen to approve the agenda with the following modification: Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 1) Consider approval of Lenex Invoices for the Johnson Avenue Development Project Contamination Cleanup and Demolition Costs.

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

- A) To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 9, 2015 as per copies furnished each member.
- B) To approve Accounts Payable Bill Listing #15-03 in the amount of \$78,078.47 and AP Bill Listing #15-03A in the amount of \$38,076.89

COMMITTEES/BOARDS & COMMISSION:

Law Enforcement: Polk County Officers Sondrol and Bellamy were present to discuss law enforcement matters.

- Two people confessed to the bomb threat at the school in February.
- Council asked law enforcement to watch traffic speeds as vehicles enter city limits – especially noting that Sundays are bad.
- Council also stated that law enforcement is doing a nice job around the schools.

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

- Street sweeper repairs have been made and is ready to go.
- Storm drains are being opened and mowers have been serviced and are ready for spring.
- We've had four water breaks this year.
- Garden Valley will be overlaying Fosston this year so we'll be working with them a lot.
- Utilities is purchasing a new trencher.

Civic Center/Parks & Recreation: Karen Graham reported on matters pertaining to her departments:

- Quotes for tile & grid replacement were reviewed again. She got three quotes. She feels all quotes are comparable but would recommend that All Round Plumbing do the job. Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Hoialmen to award the bid to All Round Plumbing at a cost of \$10,213.63. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- The Fosston/Lengby Lions Club donated 15 basketballs to the Civic Center.
- Pool heater repairs were made.
- Fosston will be the host site for the State EE Men's Slow Pitch Tournament August 8/9 with 23 to 27 teams expected.

- Softball league activities will be run through the city. The softball association used to take care of this.
- Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Veum to approve moving Ernie to full time status as the Night Supervisor. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Hospital: Administrator Lucken provided a report on hospital activities and informed the council that a new doctor is coming this summer.

Bus:

- We are still operating the Sunday Service.

Community/Economic Development:

- The FEDA Board met today.
- Request for Proposals to develop the Taflin property went out.
- An RFQ for demolition of the Taflin building went out also.

Star Committee: Laurel Skala reported on Star Committee activities:

- We have an opportunity to bring a fair back to town. The open weekend dates are June 26-28 and July 4th weekend. Council would like to see a fair in town again so the committee will continue moving forward on this.
- The Easter Egg Hunt is April 4th at the Elementary School Playground
- A "Yard of the Week" program will be implemented this summer.

Animal Control:

- Curt Nelson has agreed to be Fosston's Animal Control Officer. Feral cats seem to be quite a problem at this time. The Pet Clinic was contacted to see if it would be interested in housing them when caught. They are not as they spray and the smell then becomes an issue. Mike Halland is interested in helping the City with cats as he already has the dog pound. However, his wife is allergic to cats so we need crates or something he can keep them kenneled. Once we start to catch cats they need to be licensed, they have to wear the tag and have to have proof of vaccination. We need to inform the community that we will begin catching cats and setting traps. All need to be licensed and tagged.

Member Hoialmen introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR
USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY
RESOLUTION NO. 15-12**

WHEREAS, the City of Fosston owns land that it leases to individuals for the purpose of farming and,

WHEREAS, the City of Fosston is required by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to name the city officials who are authorized to sign various FSA documents and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fosston City Council authorizes the Mayor and the City Administrator to sign all Farm Service Agency documents as required by FSA.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Veum and upon vote being taken thereon the following members voted in favor thereof: Hoialmen, Veum, Anderson, Dufault and Offerdahl

and the following voted against same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted this 9th day of March, 2015.

James Offerdahl, Mayor

Attest:

Charles Lucken, City Administrator

Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Veum to approve Change Order No. 2 from Gordon Construction for the Downtown Street and Utility Project. Motion carried by unanimous vote. This change order extends the completion date from July 4th to October 17th.

Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Hoialmen to approve the Pay request from Gordon Construction for Contaminated Soil Removal at the former Clark Station on Second Street South and County Road #1 in the amount of \$4,050.00. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lee Cariveau of WSN presented the Preliminary Engineering Report for the 2015 projects. One discussion was the streets in town that are still gravel. He prepared preliminary cost estimates for these as well as the alley along BNSF RR tracks from Inderlee to Granum Ave. (behind city hall), the city shop area, Berge/Stafford/Third Street NW Drainage, Kaiser storm sewer and the alleyway along BNSF RR tracks from Inderlee to Johnson Ave. and some spot repairs. Typically we do about \$350,000 of work per year. All projects in this preliminary report total \$1,595,375. Council then chose the projects to move forward with for 2015.

Member Hoialmen introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RECEIVING REPORT
AND CALLING HEARING ON 2015 STREET
AND ALLEY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
RESOLUTION NO. 15-13**

WHEREAS, pursuant to resolution of the council adopted February 9, 2015, a report has been prepared by Widseth Smith Nolting with reference to the improvement of the following streets:

Alley right-of-way between Granum Avenue South and Inderlee Avenue South

Mary Avenue North between 9th St. N.W. and 10th St. NW

and to assess the benefited property for all or a portion of the cost of the improvement, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429, and this report was received by the council on March 9, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the report provides information regarding whether the proposed project is necessary, cost-effective, and feasible,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF FOSSTON,
MINNESOTA:**

1. The council will consider the improvement of such streets in accordance with the report and the assessment abutting property for all or a portion of the cost of the improvement pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429 at an estimated total cost of the improvement of \$450,000.
2. A public hearing shall be held on such proposed improvement on the 13th day of April, 2015, in the council chambers of the city hall at 7:00 p.m. and the City Administrator shall give mailed and published notice of such hearing and improvement as required by law.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Anderson and upon vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof: Hoialmen, Anderson, Veum, Dufault and Offerdahl

and the following voted against same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted this 9th day of March, 2015.

Jim Offerdahl, Mayor

Attest:

Charles Lucken, City Administrator

Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Veum to approve the Farm Lease with Glen Tangen for 2015 at \$50 per acre (the Aspen property). Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Hoialmen to approve the quote from Peterson Painting for interior painting at the library for \$4,200.00. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Hoialmen seconded by Anderson to approve the quote from Rustad Heating and Plumbing for replacement of the natural gas boiler at the Library for \$6,611.00. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Member Veum introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION #15-14

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEDICATED STATE FUNDING FOR CITY
STREETS**

WHEREAS, Minnesota contains over 141,000 miles of roadway, and over 19,000 miles—or 13 percent—are owned and maintained by Minnesota’s 852 cities; and

WHEREAS, over 80 percent of municipal streets are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

WHEREAS, the more than 700 Minnesota cities with populations below 5,000 are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

WHEREAS, city streets are a separate but integral piece of the network of roads supporting movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS, existing funding mechanisms, such as Municipal State Aid (MSA), property taxes and special assessments, have limited applications, leaving cities under-equipped to address growing needs; and

WHEREAS, city cost participation in state and county highway projects diverts resources from city-owned streets; and

WHEREAS, maintenance costs increase as road systems age, and no city—large or small—is spending enough on roadway capital improvements to maintain a 50-year lifecycle; and

WHEREAS, for every one dollar spent on maintenance, a road authority—and therefore taxpayers—save seven dollars in repairs; and

WHEREAS, cities need greater resources, including an additional dedicated state funding source for transportation, and flexible policies in order to meet growing demands for street improvements and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FOSSTON that the City of Fosston supports an omnibus transportation funding bill that provides additional dedicated state funding for city streets including funding that can be used for non-MSA city street maintenance, construction and reconstruction.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Anderson and upon vote being taken thereon the following members voted in favor thereof: Veum, Anderson, Hoialmen, Dufault and Offerdahl

And the following voted against same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted this 9th day of March, 2015.

James Offerdahl, Mayor

Attest:

Charles Lucken, City Administrator

Member Hoialmen introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING
AN EARLY VOTING PROCESS FOR VOTERS IN MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 15-15**

WHEREAS, Minnesota law currently provides for no-excuse absentee voting by mail and in-person; and

WHEREAS, with in-person absentee voting, the voter must place their voted ballot in a series of envelopes that is processed at a later date by election officials; and

WHEREAS, early voting would allow a voter to place their voted ballot directly into the ballot tabulator, thereby reducing the risk of voter errors and reducing the administrative costs involved with in-person absentee voting; and

WHEREAS, a process will still be provided for voters to request and submit an absentee ballot by mail;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fosston hereby supports legislation establishing an early voting process for the voters in the State of Minnesota;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by establishing an early voting process, taxpayer dollars will be saved and a better service will be provided to Minnesota voters.

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

And the following voted against same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted this 9th day of March, 2015.

James Offerdahl, Mayor

Attest:

Charles Lucken, City Administrator

Council reviewed invoices submitted by Lenex Sand & Gravel for contamination cleanup on the Johnson Avenue Development Project/Contamination Cleanup and Demolition Costs in the amount of \$175,652.44. Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Hoialmen to approve payment to Lenex Sand & Gravel in the amount of \$175,652.44. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council reviewed an update on the Veteran's Memorial plans and the improvements that we hope to have done by Memorial Day. We need to commit to moving forward and give Karvakko the go-ahead. We know that we do not need the wall for the statues at this time but the raised bed and seating area as well as the sign needs to be done. Motion was made by Anderson seconded by Veum to authorize Karvakko to move forward with Task Order #4. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Charles Lucken, City Administrator