

Committee of the Whole
July 12, 2023

The Fergus Falls City Council held a Committee of the Whole meeting on Wednesday July 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: Fish, Job, Kvamme, Kremeier, Thompson, Rachels, and Hicks. Rufer was absent.

Capital Improvement Plan Services

Dedicating staff time to inputting information into the Capital Improvement Plan has been a hinderance to updating the plan. Staff have been searching for a better system to share the city's Capital Improvement Plan with the public through an interactive online map. AE2S Nexus provided a quote for the OptX application to provide capital planning services. They would input the initial information and the city provide the updates on street and infrastructure projects, cost estimates, revenue sources, inflation, and larger cost capital equipment such as fire trucks, and street equipment. The quote is \$30,000 for the initial development and importing of the capital improvement plan plus an annual hosting fee of \$1,500. Funding would come from the city's refuse, sewer, water and stormwater enterprise funds, equipment internal service fund and permanent improvement revolving fund. AE2S could start the work on August 1, 2023 with completion expected by the end of the year. A motion and second were made by Hicks and Rachels to recommend the council approve a contract with AE2S Nexus for capital improvement planning services and OptX deployment and the motion carried.

PI 9767, Downtown Riverfront Project Change Order

Grant Kuper from Bolton & Menk described the progress being made for the Phase II downtown riverfront project. Utility relocations and excavation work is done. They are drilling pilings to support the structures and foundations and utility work will happen next. Several change orders have been recommended. It has been advised to add an accessible sidewalk to serve the federal courthouse's ADA entrance/exit as well as providing a direct path for pedestrians crossing the alleyway to the splashpad for safety purposes. During the final design process, Bolton & Menk submitted permit applications to regulatory agencies to review. The Department of Health will not allow the use of limestone as the chemicals in the splash pad's recirculating water system may have an adverse impact on limestone. This would affect two areas of the project. The multi-level water feature limestone has been revised to include a concrete form liner that mimics the look of limestone, but is made of concrete, which is an approved material. The limestone block seat wall is not in direct contact with the system water, but due to its proximity to the splash pad and potential for overspray, this material would also be changed. The engineers have also proposed changing the layout in this area to add staircases which would enhance safety and prevent users from scaling down the seat wall. This project has received significant funding from both the Roger Dell Trust and the Frank Veden Trust. The original project scope included one donor plaque and this project has been fortunate enough to have received significant funding from both the Roger Dell Trust and the Frank Veden Trust. A second donor plaque has been proposed to acknowledge both generous donations. The proposed changes amount to an increase of \$71,994.11 which can be covered in the projects contingency budget. Hicks felt these changes should have incorporated into the original project plans and requested a project budget and proposed schedule. A motion and second were made by Fish and Thompson to recommend the council execute Change Order #2 for PI 9767, the Downtown Riverfront Project Phase II and the motion carried.

Grant Acceptance

The City of Fergus Falls is the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from First Children's Finance Community Child Care. They will work with PioneerCare to develop a building plan, site layout and leasing structure to create scalable pod model childcare solutions. PioneerCare will occupy the first model which can be adapted for other organizations or businesses interested in investing in solutions to the childcare shortage. A motion and second were made by Kvamme and Fish to recommend the council accept a \$10,000 grant from First Children's Finance Community childcare grant program to provide the funding to develop plans for a scalable cohort of physical childcare locations for pod-model style care and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 am

Lynne Olson