

## **Fertile City Council Minutes**

### **May 9, 2016**

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Reid Jensrud, Linda Widrig, Dennis Hasler, and Todd Wise. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, City Administrator Lisa Liden, Pete Rainville, Jon Larson, and Twylla Altepeter.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nephew and there were no additions to the agenda.

Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting was the first to report to the Council. She reported that they began the month of April with 39 residents and ended with 38, operating at 89.76% capacity. The home had also served a total of 164 home delivered meals. Leiting also reported that the remodeling in the front lounge was now complete.

Director of Public Works, Kevin Nephew, then gave his report to the Council. He reported that building permits had been approved for Terry Larson for a fence, Vern Anderson for an addition to his store, John Farley for a deck and entry and Sherman Johnson for a deck. While on the subject of building permits, Administrator Lisa Liden then reported that Ralph Menke had applied for a building permit for a garage but it didn't fall within the setback guidelines so a Public Hearing would need to be held at the June meeting.

Nephew reported that they would possibly be starting on the water extension project by the end of the month. He had also learned that St. Joseph's would not need to install a sprinkler system in the new church as was previously reported. This was followed by a discussion of whether or not the increase to an eight inch main was now necessary. Nephew stated that the plans, which were for an eight inch line, had already been approved by the State.

Nephew then had a question for the Personnel Committee. He stated that when he first began work for the City that his vacation for his first year of employment was not accrued to him until the beginning of his second year. Since the City is now under the new system, where vacation is accrued monthly, Nephew stated that he's owed one year of vacation since from the beginning of his employment his vacation hours that were given on January 1 were for the previous year's employment. The Personnel Committee asked Administrator Liden to look into the matter so it could be discussed at their next meeting.

Nephew also reported that there had been no applicants for the mowing position so he was wondering how he should proceed in filling the position. After a brief discussion it was determined that he should make a few calls to see if he could find one or more people interested in applying for the position.

This was followed by brief discussions on when and where gravel would be hauled in during the summer as well as mosquito spraying.

Council member Jensrud then gave the fire department report. The department had answered six calls during the month of April. Four calls were for grass fires, one was for a bale fire and the

other was a false alarm. Stone's Radio Repair would be looking at the City's fire sirens since they don't appear to be working when the state wide test happens. Jensrud also reported that the regional meeting had been held in Fertile and was very well attended. The department was still looking at either fixing the 6X6 or replacing it. He ended by reporting that one member had quit the department so they had put together a committee to look at the applications that they had on file and to take in new applications for the open position.

Mayor Nephew then closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing to address the variance requested by Pete and Julie Rainville. Administrator Liden reported that letters had gone out to all property owners within 350 feet of the Rainville property and that notice of the hearing had been published in the Fertile Journal two times. Only three property owners had called the office wondering about the variance but none of them had a problem with it being granted.

Mayor Nephew then closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the regular Council meeting. A motion was then made by Council member Hasler to grant the variance request made by Pete and Julie Rainville. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer's Report and Bills. Administrator Liden briefly reviewed the receipts and disbursements for the month of April. The report was approved on a motion by Council member Widrig that was seconded by Council member Jensrud and carried.

Council member Wise then inquired about the status of outstanding EDA loans. Liden reported that one loan with a small balance was seriously past due and there was no way to get in touch with the borrower since they had apparently moved. The balance of that loan was only around \$200. She reported also that a couple of loans with one borrower were delinquent by one month due to a possible change in the partnership of the business.

The next item on the agenda was the financing for the remodeling project at Fair Meadow. Liden reported that she and Angie Leiting had been working with David Drown to provide him with the information to put together a proposal on financing. His proposal would be ready for the June Council meeting.

Liden also reported that she had forwarded the Council minutes to Mr. Drown where the financing of the project had been discussed. After discussing the interim financing with the Bond Attorney as well as what was indicated in the minutes, it was determined that the early portion of the project costs would likely not be eligible for tax exempt status. However, since the City had passed a reimbursement resolution in 2012 in relation to the TIF project, costs for the last 60 days would be eligible as tax exempt once those costs were listed on an "Exhibit A" as spelled out in the earlier resolution.

In relation to the Lions sign being added to the south side City sign, Council member Jensrud then inquired about the status of the sign of the north side of town. Liden explained that there had been an issue in the beginning regarding an error in the County records as to ownership of the property. Once that was resolved Liden learned that the original sign committee wanted to make some small changes to the sign on the south side of town, and since the north side was to

be a duplicate of that one that she had been waiting for those changes to be made before proceeding on the new sign for the north end of town.

The next item on the agenda was the nuisance property owned by JR Dale. Mayor Nephew reported that JR had called him earlier in the day and said that he is planning on having the building torn down, dirt hauled in, and grass seeded prior to the fair. JR was also planning on tearing down the brick building on the property across the street from the warehouse building at the same time so he had inquired about blocking the street during the removal process. Nephew reported that he had told JR that the City would be okay with the street being barricaded for the purpose of getting the building removed.

Mayor Nephew then asked if there were any updates on the progress of the splash park, new bathrooms and also the moving of the skating rink. Liden reported that ECI was still in the planning and fundraising stages for the splash park but that Marji Broden had met with her and Kevin to look at the water requirements of the splash park. Due to the amount of water that would be used by the park, it was determined that it would only be open for three to four days a week for a limited number of hours each day. As for the park bathrooms, Liden reported that Kevin Nephew was still working on the layout of the bathroom to possibly accommodate some of the equipment that would be needed for the splash park. Council member Jensrud reported that he would check with the school on the status of the classroom building behind the school to see if that would be available for a rink warming house.

Jon Larson who was present at the meeting then had some questions regarding the splash park and stated that as a property owner he would be willing to pay higher property taxes if the City was going to help fund the construction of the splash park.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian Nephew, Mayor

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Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator