

**City of Fertile – City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, August 14, 2023**  
**Response to Community Requests & Petition**

I would like to say a few things, on behalf of the Council, in response to the various requests and concerns that have been brought forward by the community members of the City of Fertile.

I believe I can safely say, on behalf of the entire City Council, that we feel it is essential that the Council openly address and respond to the various concerns and questions that have been brought forward by community members. Many of these concerns were brought forth after Ms. Angie Leiting's employment with the City of Fertile separated on June 20, 2023, after she resigned from her position effective immediately. I believe I can also safely say, that the City Council will take no further action or make any further statements regarding Ms. Leiting, as her employment with the City has ended.

However, with regard to the other requests and concerns the City has received, I want to say that I do not believe it is an appropriate forum for the Council to try to respond and react to each and every concern that has been raised, and the City may need to respond to some questions and requests for data through the statutory process that applies to those type of requests, but I will say a few things about a few of the concerns, and then the City may follow-up on the rest of it later.

A request was made for the City to hold a special meeting. I, and the Council, understand that community members have concerns, but a Special Meeting is not required to address these concerns. The City Council recognizes that it is in the best interests of the community to be able to voice their concerns, however, which is why a public comment period takes place at the start of each meeting. It is my understanding that the City will consider adopting a policy regarding a public comment period for all meetings moving forward.

Some concerns were also raised regarding the posting of notices for open, closed, and committee meetings. The City of Fertile follows all requirements of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law with regard to the posting of meetings. However, in the interest of addressing concerns regarding closed meetings, the City Administrator will begin posting notices for special and emergency meetings on the outside door of the City Hall, so that it can be viewed outside of City offices. Closed meetings will continue to be added to the agenda as needed, and as allowed by law.

It was also requested that the City televise all public meetings. If citizens are interested in what happened at a meeting, meeting minutes are available for the public to inspect and review, and the City of Fertile does record open meetings as required by law. However, this request is appreciated, and the City is also interested in making City Council meetings more accessible to the public, and the City Administrator is looking at options for what might be the best way to do so.

There have also been some concerns raised regarding the Fair Meadow Advisory Board. The Fair Meadow Advisory Board paused on meeting after the pandemic, however, it was never dissolved. With these concerns in mind, it is my understanding that the Fair Meadow Advisory Board will begin to meet again, on at least a quarterly basis.

Finally, the Council received a list of 47 questions, and for the most part, this is a data request. The City is actively working on preparing a response to each question. The City will respond to the point of contact for the request in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. A copy of any public data responsive to the request will be available at City Hall for the public for free inspection. Copies may be requested and will be provided pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, which may include payment of a fee for the copies.

I, and again I think I can speak for all of us on the Council here, thank the members of the community for being active members of the community, and for bringing your concerns to the City's attention. The City Council has always prioritized the concerns of citizens, and we will continue to work on, and prioritize, these concerns as best we are able, and in doing so, will follow and comply with state law regarding the Council's authority, decision-making, and all other procedures.