

Fertile City Council Minutes October 15, 2012

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2012 at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Dennis Hasler and Todd Wise.

The meeting began with Barry Robertson, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator, reporting to the Council. Fair Meadow began the month of September with 45 residents and ended the month with 44. They operated at 88.87% capacity, delivered 137 meals and provided 18 days of adult day care.

Robertson reported that the Minnesota Department of Health had done their annual inspection and the only issue was the way the Nursing Home was reporting their TB testing results. The personnel policy had been changed to reflect the new way of reporting those results.

Robertson then reported that Riverview had closed 40 of their nursing home beds and would only be doing memory care. He felt this would have a positive effect on Fair Meadow's occupancy. One resident from Riverview had been transferred to Fair Meadow last week and another was expected this week. He also commented that Riverview was handling the transfers very well with a Riverview staff accompanying the new resident to get them settled in.

Mayor Nephew had then inquired about whether or not Fair Meadow provided IV therapy and if they should perhaps start providing that service. Robertson felt that providing such therapy would not be very effective cost wise since the reimbursement rates were so low and that the requirements for staff training and education were so stringent and costly.

Robertson then reported that the wage scale had been increased by 3%. He noted that the revenues didn't support giving such an increase, but that it had been so many years since wages had been increased they felt it was necessary in order to maintain staff. Mayor Nephew requested that the Council be given a copy of the new wage scale as soon as it was typed up.

Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works, then gave his report to the Council. He stated that the work was progressing on the Peterson Subdivision and that they were 75% done. The only remaining part was the south loop and he stated that could wait until spring if necessary.

Nephew then updated the Council on the water and sewer projects for the Assisted Living. He explained that the sanitary sewer could wait for the time being since the nursing home was still being served by the line that ran under the new facility. The new line would be installed in a couple of weeks and when it was finished that the line under the new Assisted Living would be capped off.

Nephew then reported that the crew was here this week televising the sewer lines and that they would be doing roughly one-fourth of the City's lines. They would also be looking at a couple of lines that have been problematic in the past.

The next item reported on was a problem last week with the lift station. The pump had stopped working because it was plugged solid with rags and debris. This was causing the pump to trip the Otter Tail breaker as well. When Electric Pump had come to work on the pump, it was also discovered that some gate valves and check valves were not working properly. Kevin had gotten a couple of quotes on repairing these, but he needed further clarification on the two quotes as there was a \$2,000 difference between the two. He explained that the least expensive quote involved the City doing some of the work and Kevin wanted to get a better idea on what the City would be expected to do on their end and whether or not Tim Olson would be available to do the necessary excavating.

Reid Jensrud then addressed the Council regarding a Community Garden that he is proposing to set up on the northwest edge of town. He explained the particulars about the location, the size of the garden plots and how much

rent would be charged for the lots. He was asking that the City install the water lines to the property line free of charge and then his group would install the necessary lines within the garden. Kevin Nephew had provided an estimate of \$4,960 for installing a four inch line to the property.

Mayor Nephew then suggested that a six inch line be installed to better prepare for further development on that end of town. When Mayor Nephew inquired as to the cost for the larger line, Kevin Nephew stated that would almost double the cost of the lines increasing the cost of the project by about \$1,000.

Reid Jensrud then asked the Council what the cost of the water for the gardens would be. He explained that since the project was like a City Park in some aspects and that it was a non-profit group that was in charge of the project he wondered whether they could get the water either free or at a reduced rate. This was followed by some discussion on what had been done in the past on the water rates for the Veteran's Memorial and the Sports Complex.

Following further discussion on the project, Council member Hasler made a motion that the City install six inch line to the property line of the garden and that the water would be free for the first year. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Libby Eid then reported to the Council on the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center. She explained that an appreciation coffee for friends and volunteers of the Center had been held on October 8th. She also reported that during the month of September 15 volunteers had worked a total of 52 hours.

The next item up for discussion was the Airport Capital Improvement Plan. Administrator Frohrip explained that this needed to be updated every year with the State. He further explained that with all of the other activity this past year that the project on the list for this year had not been done. He recommended that we just push out all the projects on the current plan out one more year.

After discussion, Council member Hasler made that motion, seconded by Council member Wise, to move the estimated construction dates on the current CIP out one more year. The motion was carried.

After reviewing the minutes of the September 10th Council meeting, Council member Wise moved that they be approved. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The Treasurers Report and Bills were then reviewed. Administrator Frohrip explained that a new format was used on the one report to break out the information further on some of the revenue and expense accounts that were used for flow through activity. He also reported that the bond funds had come in to the EDA account at the bank and then had been sent on to the new investment account that had been opened with TD Ameritrade.

Mayor Nephew then inquired whether the costs on the Peterson project were in line with what had been approved and anticipated. Frohrip assured the Council that the costs were close to what had been planned for and that any of the costs incurred to date would be reimbursed to the City once the TIF project was bonded for.

Council member Hasler, seconded by Council member Wise, moved to accept the Treasurers Report and Bills. The motion carried.

The Council was then informed that Craig Gorder had applied for and been approved for a building permit for a house in his lots in Olmscheid's Addition.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

John J. Frohrip, City Administrator