

## **Fertile City Council Minutes January 14, 2013**

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew, Council members Todd Wise, Linda Widrig, Dennis Hasler and Tanner Lehmann.

The meeting began with City Administrator John Frohrip administering the Oath of Office to Tanner Lehmann.

Barry Robertson, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator, then gave his report to the Council. The nursing home operated at 83.16% capacity for the month of December. They began the month with 43 residents and ended with 41. During the month there had been one resident admitted, two discharged and one had passed away. Robertson noted that they were currently at 43 residents.

Robertson then reported that the construction on the Assisted Living facility appeared to be going well and that the rafters were now going up. It was also reported that the windows and shingles were being purchased from the Fertile Building Center. Robertson also reported that it no longer sounded like Downs Electric would be doing the electric work on the building. Apparently Downs did not want to submit a bid with all the details that ICON was requiring.

Public Works Superintendent Kevin Nephew then reported to the Council and said that he had very little to report. Mayor Nephew commended Kevin on the timely snow removal with the last snow falls. Kevin Nephew then commented that the new sand spreader was installed on the pickup but that it wasn't operating as well as expected. He thought this was perhaps due to the last load of sand being 50/50 sand to salt. He felt that the 25% salt would work better as it wouldn't freeze so solid.

Nephew also noted for the Council that ICON would be using the Garfield Avenue Shop for storage of the windows and shingles for the Assisted Living. He would have to move some equipment to make room if needed.

Libby Eid reported to the Council that 13 volunteers had worked a total of 42 hours at the Learning Center in December.

After a review of the minutes of the December 10, 2012 meeting Council member Wise made a motion to approve, seconded by Council member Hasler. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then reviewed. Administrator Frohrip reported that the City was in good financial shape and that current information from the State shows the 2014 local government aid could go down about \$8,000. He cautioned that this amount could change many times before the final decisions were made. After discussing a few of the bills, Council member Wise moved to approve, seconded by Council member Widrig. The motion carried.

Mayor Nephew then made reference to the Year in Review paperwork that was in the Council packets and explained that they were for information only. Administrator Frohrip then also noted the memo on future projects. He said that the Peterson Subdivision project will be discussed at the next meeting. Council member Hasler inquired whether we had the numbers yet for the Peterson project and Frohrip responded that we had just gotten the preliminary numbers and he needed to review them with Kevin Nephew and the City engineers.

Administrator Frohrip then reported that the Nature Center road and bridge projects would be let early in the year and that the projects will take about 30 days. Further discussion involved questions on access to the facility during the construction process.

Then came review of the annual appointments. These primarily remained the same with the exception of Council member Widrig being appointed as Nursing Home Board Liaison and Council member Lehmann appointed to the EDA. Council member Wise was appointed Law Enforcement Liaison should that position be needed and Mayor Nephew would serve on the Airport Commission.

Council member Hasler made a motion to approve the annual appointments. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

After review of the insurance plans for the coming year, Council member Wise, seconded by Council member Lehmann moved to take the coverage without waiving the statutory limits. The motion carried.

The next item up for discussion was the fire department contract. Wolfe Clark, Fire Chief approached the Council and explained that the contract amount had not been raised since 1999. The current amount was \$3,000 per quarter or \$12,000 per year. Clark explained that their ultimate goal was to raise the amount by \$1,000 per quarter or \$4,000 per year. He explained that the department is working on increasing their ISO rating, which costs a lot of money. Since this rating impacts the insurance premiums that homeowners pay, the department felt it imperative to improve their rating.

Council member Wise then inquired whether the township protection rates were also going to be increased. Clark explained that two years ago the townships had gone to a rate based on tax capacity rather than the per capita rate they had been calculated on.

Mayor Nephew then gave some additional background information on the fire department including the fact that the City pays the workmen's compensation premium for the department. He stated that last year this had amounted to \$2,837 for the year. Mayor Nephew then inquired whether there is still a dedicated City fire truck now that the old City truck had been sold. Fire Chief Clark assured the Council that one truck will still remain in the City and which truck that is can vary depending on the type of fire they are fighting out of town.

After receiving assurance from Administrator Frohrip that there was room in the 2013 budget for the increase, Council member Hasler made the motion to approve the \$4,000 annual increase in the fire protection contract bringing the annual contract amount up to \$16,000. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Fire Chief Clark then invited the Council and City staff to attend the Annual Fire Department meeting which was scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Brian Nephew, Mayor

---

John J. Frohrip, City Administrator