

Fertile City Council Minutes April 14, 2014

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Linda Widrig, Tanner Lehmann, Todd Wise and Dennis Hasler.

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

The meeting began with Barry Robertson reporting on Fair Meadow Nursing Home. The month of March began with 45 residents and ended with 44, operating at 90.9% capacity. In addition they served 243 home delivered meals and provided 27 days of adult day care.

Robertson then reported that the Fair Meadow Foundation had approved payment for the new walk-in cooler and freezer. The unit would arrive in about four weeks and would cost about \$35,000 for installation. He reported also that some demolition would be required to remove the old unit.

The Department of Health had recently conducted an unannounced inspection but that no report had been issued yet. Robertson felt the inspection had gone really well with only a couple of minor items found. The Fire Marshall had also conducted an inspection and found no deficiencies.

Finally, Robertson reported that they had been experiencing minor leaks in the hot water pipes in the older two wings. The pipes were getting thin with age and would need to be replaced soon.

Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works, then appeared before the Council. Nephew stated that even with the warmer temperatures that frozen water lines were still an issue and that residents should continue to run their water until the end of April.

Council member Wise then inquired about the water being discolored a faint pink. Nephew said that he had received a couple of other calls about this so he had checked into it and had cut down slightly on the permanganate that is added during the treatment process. Some of the other discoloration problems in another area of town was due to the fact that they had to open a couple of hydrants briefly and weren't able to flush them completely.

Nephew then reported that he was waiting on bids for street paving. He stated that he would like to work with Polk County on joining some of the City projects with County ones in order to get lower quotes.

The Council then moved on to opening the three gravel bids that had been submitted for 2014 street and alley work. The three bids submitted were D.R. Gravel for \$7.85 per ton, Lindberg Enterprises for \$7.95 per ton and Christian Excavating for \$8.96 per ton.

This was followed by some discussion on last year's bids and the fact that it had been split between Lindberg and Rice since the two bids were so close. Kevin Nephew explained that he had Lindberg supply the gravel for Peterson's Subdivision and Rice for the street and alley work. Mayor Nephew then inquired whether there was any difference in quality between Rice and Lindberg and Kevin stated that there was no real difference between the two. Council member Lehmann then stated that if there was no difference in quality that the low bid is the bid that should be accepted.

Council member Lehmann then made the motion to award the gravel bid to D.R. Gravel. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

This was followed by a discussion of the airport mowing. Kevin Nephew explained that in the past this land was mowed mostly for convenience for the City. He then commented that if the land was rented at more of a profit for the City that there was also a 30 acre field at the Learning Center that had been hayed for the past several years for \$100 per year. Nephew suggested that this also be put out to bid for haying. Administrator Liden explained that the \$100 for 2014 had already been paid to the Learning Center and that it might be better to wait until next year to put that out on bid.

Airport lighting was the next topic up for discussion. Kevin Nephew explained that currently about one-fourth of the runway lights are not working. Since the airport capital improvement plan includes changing the runway lights to MIRL lighting in three years, there had been discussion with the State about moving this project ahead on the schedule rather than fixing the current lighting only to take it out in three years. Liden explained that the project could be moved up since it would qualify as an emergency. She also stated that an electrical engineer from MNDOT had been contacted and that the engineer would put us on his spring schedule to come out and take a look at the current problem with the lighting. This was followed by a brief discussion on the potential ditching project at the airport.

The minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting were then reviewed. Council member Widrig made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then reviewed by Administrator Liden. There was a short discussion on the Titan bill for repair of the tractor and the high cost was questioned in light of the fact that the tractor only has 505 hours on it. Council member Widrig then made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The next item addressed on the agenda was airport haying. Since there seemed to be more interest in haying at the airport and the possibility of getting more money for renting out the airport land, it was determined that it should be put out on bids. This was followed by a discussion on the acreage available as well as the timing of the advertisement and the bid opening. Also discussed was the option of opening the bidding to oral bids at the bid opening.

After further discussion, Council member Widrig made the motion to advertise for bids on haying. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried. Council member Widrig then made a motion, seconded by Council member Lehmann, to open the bids at a Special City Council meeting to be held on April 28th at 6:30 p.m. The motion was carried.

Airport drainage was the next item up for discussion. Liden explained that this project was on the schedule for the State's upcoming fiscal year and that in order to apply for the funding that the Council needed to vote to proceed on the project. She also explained that the plans for the project would have to be submitted to the State before the project was officially funded and this meant that the engineering costs would have to be paid without a guarantee that the project would get approved this year. Mayor Nephew stated that if the project wasn't funded for this year that the plans would at least be done for when it did get funded.

After a discussion of the benefits and costs of the project, Council member Hasler made the motion to proceed with MNDOT on the plans and specifications for the airport drainage project. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

A request for placement of a directional sign for Hope Church was then briefly addressed. Liden explained that the State had not yet responded to her email requesting further information on what was allowed on the State right-of-way for signage. Mayor Nephew recommended contacting the State again to get information on what was allowed and then passing that information on to Hope Church.

Gaming permits for the Fire Department were then reviewed. Council member Hasler made the motion to approve gaming permits for The Other Place, Erickson's Smokehouse and Side Street Bar and Grill. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

The next item up for consideration was Resolution #4-1-14 which would start the vacation process on an Industrial Park easement. Liden gave a brief explanation regarding the easement to be vacated and also explained that the statutory vacation process needed to be followed which included holding a public hearing.

After a brief discussion Council member Wise made the motion to approve Resolution #4-1-14 Setting a Public Hearing on a Vacation. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

The final agenda item to address was Resolution #4-2-14 in regard to the sale of property to TDS that had been approved earlier. Liden explained that the Resolution was a formality that was needed to get the sale recorded. Council member Hasler made the motion to approve Resolution #4-2-14 A Resolution Approving the Sale or Disposal of Real Property. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator