

Fertile City Council Minutes February 10, 2014

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Linda Widrig, Dennis Hasler, and Tanner Lehmann.

The meeting began with Barry Robertson reporting on Fair Meadow Nursing Home. The month of January began with 46 and ended with 45 residents, operating at 91.3% capacity. In addition they served 187 home delivered meals and provided 12 days of adult day care.

Robertson then reported that he was currently waiting for the Fair Meadow Foundation Board to meet so he could request funding from them to replace the walk-in cooler at the Nursing Home. He also reported that the nursing home in Red Lake Falls was closing and would be reopening as an assisted living. He had not yet received any phone calls inquiring about the availability of beds in Fair Meadow as a result of the closing.

Kevin Nephew, Public Works Supervisor, then gave his report to the Council. Nephew reported that he had been dealing with a frozen water service line due to the extreme cold. Kevin explained that he had contacted Crookston Welding about jetting the line to thaw it and that they should be coming to do the work the following day. He reported further that Crookston Welding charged \$110 per hour for that type of work.

Nephew also reported that the frozen water line at Boutique of Joy was more than likely in the building's crawl space rather than the service line itself. Nephew then stated that there were several homeowners with a history of water lines freezing that had been contacted regarding running their water to prevent a possible freeze up.

The next item that Nephew brought to the attention of the Council was a recent problem with the Case tractor. A rear engine oil seal had gone out on it and it had been leaking oil. In addition to fixing the original problem that caused the leak, the clutch also had to be replaced since oil had leaked onto it. The tractor was currently at Titan being repaired and would be returned sometime in the next couple of days.

Nephew then went on to briefly review the cost estimate that Widseth Smith Nolting had provided for the Industrial Park water and sewer project. He stated that he was going to ask that the asphalt removal and salvage be removed from the job since Tim Olson could do the work for a much lower cost than what WSN had estimated. Nephew also pointed out that the cost estimates were somewhat higher than expected since the line going west to service Northside and the Strem property resulted in the main sewer line having to be installed much deeper than what would normally be required.

The cost of how much to charge for hooking up to water and sewer in the Industrial Park and Peterson's subdivision was then briefly discussed. Nephew stated that the City would also have to determine hookup costs for Northside, Polk County, Danny Strem and the bus garage.

After a review of the minutes of the January 13, 2014 minutes Council member Widrig made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then reviewed. After Administrator Liden briefly went over the out of the ordinary disbursements and financial reports, Council member Widrig made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The request for a 2 a.m. closing license by Elizabeth Valdez was tabled until the full Council could be present to discuss and vote upon.

Administrator Liden then reported on a building permit request by Reid and Shanna Jensrud. Since the proposed addition would require a side yard setback variance, Council member Hasler made the motion to hold a Public Hearing on the variance in March. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

Administrator Liden then presented information to the Council on locating a food shelf in the Community Center space that was previously occupied by the Sheriff's Department. Liden explained that the flooring would need to be replaced in the room and that shelving as well as a fridge and freezer would need to be purchased and installed for the food shelf. She reported that the equipment did not need to be new and that it could be donated. There were also grant funds available to purchase the start up equipment. Liden also requested that the Council provide some start up funding for the food shelf since the initial inventory would need to be purchased from North Country Food Bank for a nominal fee.

After a brief discussion, Council member Widrig made the motion to move forward on the food shelf, to approve the replacement of the flooring in the room and also for the City to contribute \$500 for start up costs. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The next item up for discussion was the placement of a sand volleyball court in JD Mason Park. Liden reported that the Horizons group had decided not to set up a disc golf course in the Sand Hills since poison ivy was a big concern. Instead they would be funding several different youth activities including a sand volleyball court. The Horizons group was requesting Council permission to have the court in the park as well as the assistance of City maintenance staff in setting the court up.

This led to a discussion of the other activities currently located in the park and also the need to update or replace the bathroom facilities in the park. After further discussion, Council member Widrig made the motion, seconded by Council member Hasler, to allow a sand volleyball court to be installed in JD Mason Park.

Lee Cariveau from Widseth Smith and Nolting then presented the Council with the Plans and Specifications for the Industrial Park water and sewer project. He gave a brief overview of the plans and then explained the procedure for bidding the project out. He stated that the Council needed to approve and file the plans, set a bid date and then give WSN the authority to go forward on the bids. He reported further that March 6th would be the date that they would like to set for the bid opening since that would allow WSN to review and tabulate the bills for presenting at the March Council meeting.

Kevin Nephew then explained to Cariveau that he would like the asphalt removal taken off the plans since the City could take care of that work. Cariveau said that the plans could be amended but that the original plans could still be filed with the Dept. of Health since the asphalt removal was a minor change.

After further discussion, Council member Hasler made the motion to accept and file the plans and to set March 6th as the bid opening date. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator