

## **Fertile City Council Minutes January 12, 2015**

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Todd Wise, Tanner Lehmann, Linda Widrig and Dennis Hasler. Also present were Administrator Lisa Liden, Mark Askelson from KRJB, Dan Wilkens, and Twylla Altepeter.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nephew and under agenda revisions, Council member Lehmann requested that the agenda be revised to allow for a public comment period at the beginning of the meetings. Lehmann went on to explain that both the School Board and County Commissioners follow an agenda format that allows for public comment with a time restriction on the comment period allowed each person.

This was followed by a discussion of the benefits of allowing a comment period at the beginning of the meeting rather than at the end as well as the recommendation that more complicated issues could be briefly heard and then moved to the agenda for the following month's meeting. This would allow for any research and materials to be gathered so the Council could properly address those matters.

A discussion was also held regarding the use of a Consent Agenda and the items that could be on that type of agenda. Administrator Liden explained that when the agenda is typed up for each meeting that the Minutes and other regular, recurring items could be placed on the consent agenda. At meeting time if any Council member wished to have an item removed from the consent agenda the item would then go on the regular agenda and could be discussed further if needed.

After further discussion, Council member Hasler made the motion to approve the use of a consent agenda in future meetings. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Council member Widrig then made the motion to add a public comment period to the meeting agenda between agenda revision/adoption and Department Reports. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

Barry Robertson, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator then gave his report to the Council. Fair Meadow began the month of December with 45 residents and ended with 46, operating at a capacity of 91.74%. The nursing home had also provided 18 days of adult day care and served 149 home delivered meals.

Robertson then gave a brief overview of the audited financials for the last fiscal year. The operating income for the last year was \$184,195 and the Assisted Living operated at a loss of \$190,189. Robertson noted that the majority of the loss was due to depreciation and that the actual cash operating loss was just over \$18,000.

The next item that Robertson reported on was a remodeling job that the Nursing Home was contemplating to improve resident accessibility in the bathrooms. He reported that they were currently waiting to hear from the Department of Health about whether the project would be approved.

Council member Hasler then inquired whether or not the Administrator position at the Nursing Home had been advertised. Robertson explained that the Fair Meadow Board had approved the succession plan that had been proposed so there had been no need to advertise since the position was being filled in-house by someone with more than 20 years experience at Fair Meadow.

Council member Hasler then inquired about the rate increase on January 1 at the Assisted Living. Robertson explained that the increase was necessary since the bond requirements dictated that rents cover 110% of the principal and interest payments on the bond. The previous rates had been based on 100% rather than 110%.

Council member Hasler then asked whether or not the Fair Meadow Board met monthly and Robertson explained that they generally meet every two or three months. Council member Hasler then apologized for all the questions

and explained that he had a phone call from a citizen with several questions about the Nursing Home and that he wanted to make sure he had accurate information before answering those questions.

There was no Public Works report since Kevin Nephew was unable to attend the meeting.

Administrator Liden then gave a brief report on the Learning Center. Liden reported that the vacant Education Director position would be advertised over the next two weeks and that interviews would be scheduled for the end of the month. She also reported that the annual meeting would also be held at the end of January.

After a review of the minutes of the December 8, 2014 meeting, Council member Hasler made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

A review of the Treasurer's Report and Bills was presented by Administrator Liden. Liden went over the receipts and disbursements for the month as well as a brief overview of the balance sheet and budget to actual reports.

Council member Lehmann made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

The next item addressed was a brief update on the airport drainage project. Liden explained that the bid opening date had been moved to later in the month to accommodate any possible changes to the plans made by the Watershed Board. The new bid opening date was January 29<sup>th</sup> and the bids would be presented to Council at the February meeting. Liden also reported that installing a culvert rather than having a ditch on the north end of the runway had been added as an addendum to the plans so that both options would be bid. Dan Wilkens reported that the ditch permit had been approved by the Watershed but that the Board had some misgivings about the project completion date since the airport can be quite wet well through June and July.

Administrator Liden then administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Nephew and Council members Wise and Widrig.

The Resolution of Annual Appointments was the next item on the agenda. Mayor Nephew went through the various designations and then appointed Council member Hasler as Vice Mayor, Council member Widrig as Nursing Home Liaison and Council members Wise and Lehmann to the EDA Board. As for the Emergency Management Team, Mayor Nephew appointed himself, Vice-Mayor Hasler, the Fire Chief and First Assistant. Mayor Nephew then made the appointments to the Airport Commission and those appointed were Tom Rongen, Mayor Nephew, Stuart Christian, Roger Raaen, Kyle Tucker and Tanner Lehmann as an alternate.

Council member Hasler made the motion to approve Resolution #1-1-15 A Resolution of Annual Appointments and Designations for 2015. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

The final agenda item that was addressed was the liability insurance coverage for the year. Administrator Liden explained that the Council had to determine the coverage each year by deciding whether or not the City would waive the statutory limits on liability. Liden explained that in previous years the Council had decided to not waive the statutory limits.

After a brief discussion, Council member Wise made the motion to accept the coverage without waiving the statutory liability limits. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian Nephew, Mayor

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Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator

