

Fertile City Council Minutes November 9, 2015

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Dennis Hasler, Todd Wise, Linda Widrig, and Reid Jensrud. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, City Administrator Lisa Liden, Dan Wilkens, and Twylla Altepeter.

Mayor Nephew called the meeting to order and there were no additions to the agenda.

The consent agenda was the first item addressed and the two agenda items were the Minutes of the October 12, 2015 meeting and tobacco licenses for 2016. The consent agenda was approved on a motion by Council member Widrig that was seconded by Council member Jensrud and carried.

Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting was not present for the meeting but had submitted a written report to the Council. The report showed that the month of October began with 41 residents and ended with 40 and operated at 82.38% capacity for the month. They had also served 157 home delivered meals. The report also stated that Fair Meadow was no longer offering Adult Day Care.

Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works then gave his report to the Council. Nephew began by asking about the natural gas service that would be coming to Fertile and whether the lines would be put in on the streets or the alleys. Mayor Nephew explained that the lines would be bored in along the alleys wherever possible and that any streets or alleys that were disturbed would be repair by Community Co-op.

This was followed by a discussion of the natural gas service. Mayor Nephew reported that the line would be coming from Beltrami and that they would begin boring in the spring. The cost for customers to hook up would be \$275 and that \$200 of that would be credited on customers' first bills. That hook up fee would also cover the first 100 feet of service line which would normally be enough to get the service to most residences and businesses. In 2017 customers would be eligible for dividend checks based on their usage.

Kevin Nephew then reported that the leaking fire hydrants had all been repaired. This was followed by a brief discussion of the fire hydrants that don't drain down and what maintenance staff does to prevent those from freezing up. Nephew also reported that the water service line to TDS had been installed and that the sewer would be going in the following day. The ponds had all been prepared for winter and that the leaves had all been swept from the streets. Nephew ended by reporting that the dump site was being used by residents and that he would try to compost some of the leaves.

Council member Jensrud then gave the fire department report. There were two calls during the month of October; one was for a lift assist and the other was to investigate a report of a gas smell. He reported that bids for the radio grant are due to be submitted on November 13th. Sign up for training classes would be starting soon and also that all firemen in the county would be getting photo ID's.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then reviewed. Administrator Liden briefly went over the receipts and disbursements for the month of October and Council members Widrig and Hasler asked about a few of the expense categories and why there was such a variation between budget and actual. Liden explained that the overage in signage category was due to the replacement of several street signs due to new retro-reflectivity standards. The high amount in street light expense was due to the installation of the new LED lights, which was unbudgeted but was done to take advantage of the rebates offered by Otter Tail.

Finally, the high amount in water equipment repair was due mostly to the installation of the new dehumidifiers at the treatment plant. After further discussion, a motion was made by Council member Jensrud to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

Under Old Business, Administrator Liden reported that signatures had been secured on the unconfined easements for the Highway 32 north sewer project and that Widseth Smith Nolting would now proceed with the plans and specs for the project.

The next agenda item up for discussion was the Mutual Aid Agreement for the fire department. Council member Jensrud explained that all the departments in Polk County were updating the agreements. He explained further that a consultant had worked with the departments earlier this year and had done an inventory of each departments' equipment so that each department knew what equipment was available in the county to provide assistance if it was required.

After further discussion Council member Hasler made the motion to approve the new Mutual Aid Agreement. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

Updating the Capital Improvement Plan for the airport was the next item up for discussion. Administrator Liden explained that MNDOT asked for this to be done on an annual basis so they had a long term outlook on what funding would be required in the future. She also reported that the State would be prefer a list of projects going out for 20 years, but that it was difficult for smaller airports such as Fertile to come up with 20 years of projects and pavement upkeep projects. Mayor Nephew recommended adding in the addition of a turn-around or cul-de-sac at the end of the runway along with the runway resurfacing project that was listed for 2018. No motion was made or required.

Council member Widrig then expressed concern over the recent vehicle break-ins that had happened in town. In response, Council member Jensrud reported that Garden Valley would be providing a quote on the installation of streetlight cameras and that there were some residents who felt that these cameras could provide useful information to law enforcement when there were break-ins or incidents of vandalism in town.

Dan Wilkens then inquired about the ditching at the airport. It had been mentioned to him that the new ditch was partially blocked. Mayor Nephew explained that part of the ditch had washed out due to a torrential rainfall shortly after the ditch had been finished. He explained further that the ditch had been fixed but that he would check into it further.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator