

Fertile City Council Minutes
Special Meeting
August 24, 2017

The Fertile City Council held a special meeting on Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Daniel Wilkens and Council members Linda Widrig, Reid Jensrud, Todd Wise, and Stanton Wang. Also present were City Administrator Lisa Liden, Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, and Alex Ranz and Brian Hiles from Ulteig Engineers.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Wilkens. Brian Hiles from Ulteig Engineers introduced himself to those present and explained that he was the “de facto water guy” from Ulteig. He explained that he and Alex Ranz had received information from Kevin Nephew and Lisa Liden on the current water system including existing types and sizes of water lines, the treatment plant, wells and water tower. That information had been fed into a CAD program to determine water pressure at various points in the City. The elevations throughout town had also been input to the program.

Based on that information, they were able to run a base model which shows the flows at certain “nodes” and also residual pressures in the water lines at those nodes. Hiles noted that a residual pressure of zero at those nodes was a problem since there was little to no water left in the pipe and could lead to pipe collapse if there was ever a fire in those areas with trucks pulling a lot of water in a short period of time.

This was followed by a discussion of guidelines required by the Insurance Safety Office (ISO) regarding gallons per minute and pounds per square inch put out by municipal water systems. The current requirements are 500 GPM with a minimum of 10 PSI.

Hiles went on to explain that the water tower is 92 feet tall at the bottom of the tower and 110 feet at the top. When the tower is low on water, the water flow is 45 PSI static pressure. When the tower is full the static pressure is 55 pounds. This was followed by a discussion on whether or not it would be feasible to raise the tower to increase water pressure throughout town. Hiles and Ranz explained that it would not improve the pressure that much further out in the system, especially in those areas that are restricted by size of the water lines.

The discussion then moved on to financing water improvement projects. From a financing standpoint, Hiles explained that bigger projects are better than smaller ones since the larger projects can involve grant funding. Hiles then explained the formula that is used for financing projects and that it is based on median household income for the city. He also stated that the current rate for loans through PFA was 1.08% and 2+% through Rural Development.

Hiles and Ranz explained that they would work through various scenarios, costs and funding options to present to Council in October.

The next item up for discussion was scheduling the public presentation of the operational assessment results. After comparing calendars, it was determined that all of Council was available on both September 12th and 13th for a meeting if Health Dimensions was available that

night. Those dates would be discussed with Kathy Karr the following day when she would be giving a preview of the presentation to Council and Fair Meadow Administration.

Compensation and benefits for the open public works position was then up for discussion. Council members Widrig and Jensrud explained that the Personnel Committee had met to discuss pay and benefits for the position and that they recommended starting pay of \$18 to \$20 per hour depending on qualifications and experience. The Committee also recommended offering \$500 per month towards health insurance, a \$16 per month life insurance policy offered through PERA and up to \$30 per month for a dental plan. The benefits plan would be available to all full time City staff.

After further discussion of the matter, from Council member Wang abstained, a motion was made by Council member Wise to offer starting pay of \$18 to \$20 per hour for the open position and to offer the benefits package of \$500 towards health insurance, \$16 PERA life insurance, and \$30 towards dental insurance for all full time City staff. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig. The motion carried with Council member Wang abstaining.

The public presentation of the assessment was then briefly discussed again. Mayor Wilkens explained that Administrator Liden had proposed hiring a moderator to run the meeting. Liden explained that having a neutral third party moderator could help the meeting run more smoothly by enforcing time limits on public comments as well as making sure that everyone present follows proper meeting decorum and Robert's Rules of Order. After discussing the matter, Mayor Wilkens told Liden to check with the extension service to see if they could assist with locating a moderator.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator