

Fertile City Council Minutes February 13, 2017

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Vice Mayor Linda Widrig, and Council members Reid Jensrud, Stanton Wang, and Todd Wise. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, City Administrator Lisa Liden, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting, and Twylla Altepeter from the Fertile Journal.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Widrig in Mayor Wilkens absence. There was one addition to the agenda which was a request for a zoning change.

Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting then gave her report to the Council. She reported that they began the month of January with 40 residents and ended with 39, operating at 94% capacity. The home had also served a total of 302 home delivered meals. Leiting then reported that there would be no admissions at this time due to the remodel project. They are currently working on two single rooms and one of the suites. Once those were done, the only remaining room to be done was the other suite and that one would just be getting a facelift. Leiting also reported that the Home would not need to borrow the \$90,000 that they had requested a few months back to complete the renovation project. There were enough Nursing Home funds available to pay for the remainder of the renovation work.

Leiting then reported on the audit. Eide Bailly would be willing to come and present the audit to Council, but it would cost an additional \$500 plus mileage. Leiting thought it would be a good idea to have them present since they could provide a good explanation of what all the numbers mean. It was decided to wait until the March meeting to decide on whether or not to have Eide Bailly present the audit. Leiting then briefly went over the newly expanded financial reports that had been provided to Council in their meeting packets and also explained some of the checks in the check listing.

Administrator Liden then reported that she and Council member Widrig had met with Administrator Liden and Marla Swenson of the Advisory Board to discuss oversight duties. She explained that Leiting had provided a sample of how another City had written up the Advisory Board duties and that it appeared as though the document was taken out of that City's Code. Liden stated that she believed it would be a good idea to also incorporate those duties in Fertile's City Code so there was a permanent and easily located reference on what the Advisory Board duties were. It was agreed that Liden and Leiting would work with Council member Widrig to get an Ordinance written up to add a section to the City Code.

Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works, then gave his report to the Council. He reported that he was currently looking at a couple of possible water and sewer extensions that could be done this coming summer. The first involved the piece of property that needed to be discussed later in the meeting in regard to rezoning. Nephew said that there were several options available for the sewer and water and that he would work with the engineers to come up with the best possible solution. A discussion was then held on the various options.

The other potential water extension was to bring water to the new Dollar General store that was possibly going to be built this summer. The store would be just outside City limits north of town,

and it would be possible to supply water by boring north under County Road 12 and then west under Highway 32. Due to elevations, it might not be possible to extend sewer to that location.

Council member Jensrud then inquired about the City getting an easement for a road right-of-way for future development at the east end of town to the north side of Washington Avenue in case there was a need for future residential lots on the property currently farmed by Keith Christianson. After further discussion, it was determined to discuss the matter later in the meeting when Christianson would be present to discuss his re-zoning request.

Kevin Nephew then reported that the ceiling and lighting work would be started in the shop later in the week. The steel for the ceiling had been delivered and he had Downs lined up to begin the work. Tom Oftedahl and Craig Gorder would be doing the ceiling work and a scissor lift had been rented to assist with the job.

Council member Wang then inquired about a couple of cars that had been sitting on the street on the far west end on Lincoln Avenue. Both cars had been there since the fall and one of them was clearly not operational since it was partially taken apart. The street had gotten very narrow in those two locations since the snow had never been fully removed all winter. After discussion it was decided that Administrator Liden would send letters to both owners to have the cars removed or face having them towed at owner's expense.

Council member Jensrud then brought the discussion back to the re-zoning matter that had been discussed during Nephew's discussion on sewer and water extensions. Administrator Liden explained that she had been in contact with the City Attorney to confirm the procedure for re-zoning and that it would likely require a Public Hearing at the next meeting. Council member Jensrud made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for March 13th during the next regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Administrator Liden then presented the Administrator's reported. She reviewed the employee attendance information for the month of January as well as the list of her activities for the month of January. Those activities involved filing many annual reports for the City as well as working with Kevin Nephew on Public Works items throughout the month such as the current shop project as well as street sanding. Council member Widrig also reported to those present that Culligan was under new management.

Council members Jensrud and Wang then gave a brief report on the fire department. The department had only gone out on one call and they were called back right away since it was a false alarm. They also reported the department Annual Meeting and dinner would be held on Thursday and that everyone on Council was invited to attend.

The minutes of the meetings held on January 9th, January 25th, and February 6th were approved on a motion by Council member Jensrud that was seconded by Council member Wang and carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then presented by Liden. A brief overview of the bills and receipts for the month of January were given including the out of the ordinary bills for the month. Liden also gave a brief overview of the Budget to Actual report since it was the yearend report. She explained that a few of the items on the water and sewer fund reports were related to non-budgeted projects but that those items would be pulled off the profit and loss with the year end adjusting entries and transferred to the balance sheet as depreciable assets. Council member Jensrud made the

motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wise and was carried.

The next item up on the agenda was to revisit the request for a re-zoning since the property owner, Keith Christianson, had arrived at the meeting. Christianson explained that he had been approached about selling approximately one acre of his land that was located on the west end of Washington Avenue on the north side. The land was currently in CRP and was zoned as commercial. Council member Widrig explained to Christianson that the matter had been discussed during Kevin Nephew's report to the Council and that Council had called for a Public Hearing on the matter in March. They then reviewed the various options that were available for bringing water and sewer to the property.

The final item up for discussion was Liz Valdez' request for a 2 am closing license for Side Street Bar and Grill. Liz Valdez was present and addressed Council regarding her reasons for wanting the license. She stated that the extra hour of opening would help her business and also that it would benefit her patrons and others in the community since people would no longer be leaving town to go to establishments in other neighboring towns that have a 2 am license. She explained that she had been in business for about three years and that she hadn't gotten any liquor violations during that time.

Discussion was then opened up on the matter, and Council member Wang stated that he was in favor of granting the license. He felt that it wasn't up to Council to determine the hours that any business in town was open and that he didn't think that extra hour would be harmful to the City. Council member Widrig then stated that she wasn't in favor of granting the license since she didn't see that staying open an extra hour was necessary. Council member Jensrud stated that he agreed with Council member Wang.

Council member Wang then made a motion to grant a 2 am closing license to Liz Valdez. The motion was seconded by Council member Jensrud. Vice Mayor Widrig then brought the motion to a vote. Council members Wang and Jensrud voted in the affirmative and Council members Widrig and Wise voted no on the matter, resulting in a tie. Valdez was then asked if she would like the matter brought to the March meeting when all five Council members would be present. Valdez stated that she would.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator