

Fertile City Council Minutes October 9, 2017

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, October 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Daniel Wilkens and Council members Reid Jensrud, Linda Widrig, Stanton Wang, and Todd Wise. Also present were Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting, Fair Meadow Business Manager Dani Nelson, Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, and Twylla Altepeter from the Fertile Journal. Other visitors were Brian King from Ulteig and Dana Knutson.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkens at 6:30 and the agenda was approved on a motion by Council member Jensrud that was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the September 11th regular meeting, the September 25th Special meeting, and September 26th Special meeting were approved on a motion by Council member Jensrud, seconded by Council member Wise and carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then briefly reviewed and a motion was made by Council member Widrig to approve them. The motion was seconded by Council member Wang and was carried.

Fair Meadow Administrator Leiting then gave her monthly report to Council. The home started and ended the month of September with 39 residents operating at 91.58% capacity. They had also served 426 home delivered meals.

The discussion then turned to the time clock proposal that Brady Martz had submitted for Fair Meadow. After discussion of the matter it was decided to schedule a webinar for Brady Martz to give a presentation on the time clock system so that Council could ask any questions that they had.

The next item up for discussion were the two new members that Angie Leiting wanted appointed to the Advisory Board. Both Cheryl Hegg and Michelle Cote had indicated that they were interested in serving on the board. Given the fact that Health Dimensions had, as part of their operational assessment, stated that the Advisory Board should consist of people with Nursing Home experience and knowledge, it was decided to wait and have a later meeting between Council and the Advisory Board to define the duties and qualifications of the Board.

The next Nursing Home item on the agenda was participation in the ECPN program for 2018. Currently the City is participating in the program and the monthly amount that is paid into the State of Minnesota is \$3,444.12. The monthly payment amount would increase to \$4,568.11 and would result in additional revenue for the nursing home of \$112,900.64 for 2018. The rental agreement with Fair Meadow was also discussed.

A motion was then made by Council member Wise, seconded by Council member Jensrud to continue participating in the ECPN program in 2018 with the monthly rental fee continuing in an increased amount. The motion was carried.

Public Works Director Kevin Nephew then gave his report to the Council. He reported that Dan Lene had started in the maintenance department and that he was very willing to learn all the aspects of the job. The hydraulics on the street sweeper had been repaired so that was now operational. He also stated that they would be flushing hydrants on Thursday and Friday of next week. Discussion was then held on which hydrants would be flushed. Kevin said that not all hydrants would be flushed. Council member Jensrud expressed his concern about not all the hydrants being flushed on a regular basis.

Council member Wang then brought up the current condition of the ranger. He had been driving it during Haunted Trails and the brakes were bad on it and the windshield was so scratched up it was hard to see through. Nephew said that he would take care of fixing those items.

The discussion then turned to the plow truck that the City plans on buying from MnDOT later this year. Kevin Nephew said that the truck was a good idea and that it would work quite well for some things but that he would like to see the City purchase a newer grader as well. Nephew also reported that the signage is here for the dump station and that he needs to make brackets to mount it on the street light pole on Highway 32 by Northside.

Council member Jensrud then reported that the State would also have a diesel 5350 going up for auction in December. The approximate cost would be about \$7,500 for a 2009 four-wheel drive.

The discussion then turned to the old equipment and other items stored in the shop that are no longer in use. Nephew was asked to take inventory and make a list of all the items that should be sold and an auction sale could be arranged at a later date to free up some space in the shop.

The next item up for discussion was work that should be done on Old Mill Road. The hill just east of the bridge was prone to washing out on the sides in heavy rainfall, and the field crossing on that section of road was also hazardous as it was located directly below the crest of the hill. Kevin Nephew stated that he had been visiting with Garfield Township regarding those issues and that the township would need to work with the City on addressing the problems.

The City Engineer reported that they were still working on the potential upgrades that may be necessary for the water system.

Mayor Wilkens then brought up some concerns the golf course had with the storm sewer that crosses the course. There were cave-ins in some locations that they had to repair on an ongoing basis so it would appear as though the sewer is in need of repair or replacement. The City Engineer promised to look into the matter further.

Under Agassiz Environmental Learning Center the only item to address was the semi-annual support that the City gave to the center. Normally the \$5,000 cash support was split into one payment in June and the second one in early December. The Learning Center Board was interested in getting the second payment earlier in the year to cover expenses in the fall.

After a brief discussion, Council member Wang made the motion to make the second \$2,500 payment to the AELC now rather than in December. Council member Wise seconded the motion and it was carried.

Council member Jensrud reported that the fire department had responded to four calls but that two of them had been call backs. The department was also doing research on the Jaws of Life and they were debating doing an update on their equipment.

The Personnel Committee then reported that they had met and would like to make a change in the Personnel Policies under the section dealing with vacation time. After discussion of the matter Council member Wise made the motion to amend the language under the “Earnings and Use” section to add that vacation leaves longer than ten consecutive working days must be approved by Council. The motion was seconded by Council member Jensrud and carried.

The next item up for discussion was a change to the City fee schedule regarding permits for chicken coops. It was noted that the permit for a shed cost the same as a permit for a garage or a house. This seemed to be rather unfair since yard sheds are quite small and shouldn't, therefore, be treated the same as houses or garages. It was decided to further research the building permit fees in other cities in order to determine the proper charge for sheds and also chicken coops.

A brief discussion was then held on how sick time and vacation pay are currently addressed in the Personnel Policy. A new City logo was also briefly addressed.

The meeting was then adjourned on a motion by Council member Wise that was seconded by Council member Jensrud.

Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator