

Fertile City Council Minutes
Special Meeting
May 1, 2019

The Fertile City Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Daniel Wilkens and Council members Reid Jensrud, and Stanton Wang. Also present was City Administrator Lisa Liden, Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, and City Engineer Alex Ranz. Council member Widrig joined the meeting at 6:30.

Mayor Wilkens called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and the first item up for discussion was the water line extension through JD Mason Park. Alex Ranz explained that the plans for the water line through the park were made before the skating rink was in place so the plans showed it going through the current rink location.

Ranz explained further that there were three options to address the matter. The first would be to bore under the skating rink at a cost of \$13,300. The second option would be to take down dasher boards on portions of both the east and west sides and cut out the concrete footings to allow the water line to be dug in. The third option would be to not put the water line in. Ranz noted, however, that the purpose of the project in that area was to tie in all the dead end lines and that it wouldn't make sense to eliminate that extension and leave the Polk Avenue water line as a dead end.

After a brief discussion of the matter, a motion was made by Council member Jensrud, seconded by Council member Wang to go with option #1 and bore the line in under the rink. The motion was carried.

Alex Ranz then noted that with the added cost of the boring, that almost half of the contingency amount for the project was already spent. Once the contingency amount is fully spent any future changes would cost the City out of pocket. Further discussion was then held on the water project in general.

The next item to be discussed was equipment needs for the City Maintenance Department. Kevin Nephew explained that the truck was basically on its last legs. It was smoking really bad and burning through oil. He stated that there's either a hole in a piston or the rings are gone. Mayor Wilkens then asked what the truck was used for and Nephew explained that this time of year it was used for hauling street sweepings and that it's also used for hauling snow in the winter and for hauling materials for road work. Nephew then asked Council member Jensrud what the status was on the plow truck that the City could purchase from MnDOT.

Council member Jensrud reported that he had met with MnDOT and they had moved some of their equipment around a bit and that a tandem axle truck could be available shortly and would cost right around \$16,000. Mayor Wilkens then commented that he was a little concerned about going with a tandem axle since they don't corner very well in town. Further discussion was then held on single axle versus tandem axle trucks, manual versus automatic transmission and also different size engines.

Mayor Wilkens then asked which direction we should go with the truck. Council member Jensrud said that the truck could be available in about two weeks and that Administrator Liden could email Steve Scholand at MnDOT to get more specifics on the truck such as what type of engine and transmission and also how many miles are on the truck. Mayor Wilkens said that the matter could be taken up at the next Council meeting once more information was received on the truck.

Discussion then moved on to equipment needs in general. Mayor Wilkens said that he would like to have Kevin Nephew compile a list of all the tasks that various equipment is used for as well as which equipment is currently used to perform those tasks. This was followed by a general discussion on equipment needs for mowing, snow plowing and snow blowing.

Discussion was also held on the current John Deere mower and the various attachments that could be purchased so it could be used for snow blowing and sweeping. Nephew stated that he would get information on the attachments that are available. Council member Jensrud asked Nephew to also get information on putting a cab on the mower.

Mayor Wilkens then asked about looking for a new snow blower and if Nephew would like a rear mount like the City currently has or if a front mount would be better. Nephew stated that he would prefer a rear mount and Council member Jensrud agreed that a rear mount blower works much better than a front mount.

Kevin Nephew then turned the discussion to the maintainer. He explained that he had been talking to Garfield Township since they were looking at replacing theirs. Their current maintainer has about 6,000 hours on it and they might be willing to sell it to the City for a little more than what they would get for trade in. Nephew noted also that the engine and transmission had been replaced a couple of years ago due to an issue they had with it.

The discussion then turned to pickup plows. Council member Wang said that he could be on the lookout for any that became available at Christian so he asked Nephew what his preferences were as far as single cab versus club cab. Nephew stated that a single cab would be good since he preferred a longer box for hauling tools.

It was decided that the Equipment Committee would meet again on May 13th at 5:30 before the regular Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on a motion by Council member Jensrud.

Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator