

Fertile City Council Minutes

Special Meeting

April 19, 2021

The Fertile City Council held a special meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Daniel Wilkens and Council members Stanton Wang, Todd Wise, and Matthew Massmann. Also present was City Administrator Lisa Liden. The purpose of the meeting was discussion of a golf cart ordinance, additional work that was needed at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, and street pole banners for the senior class.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Wilkens.

The first item up for discussion was banners for the graduating seniors. Administrator Liden explained that the banners were done for the first time last year to honor the seniors in a special way since their last school year had been so disrupted by Covid. The cost of the banners the previous year had been split between the Fire Department and the City.

High School Principal Natty Messick had contacted Administrator Liden to see if the City would be willing to cost share on the banners again this year. Liden estimated that the total cost would be about the same as the previous year and that the Community Club was also willing to contribute towards the banners.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Council member Massmann for the City to pay the balance of the cost on the banners after the Fire Department and Community Club contributions. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Additional work that was needed at the cemetery was the next item on the agenda. Administrator Liden explained that when Valley Cemetery Maintenance had worked on fixing all the monuments and head and foot stones last summer, the City was unaware of three rows of sites in the cemetery that belonged to the City and not Concordia Church as was previously believed. The cost of repairing the monuments and markers in those rows would total \$6,820. Additional discussion was held on getting signage for the cemetery to more clearly mark which sections were Pleasant Hill.

A motion was made by Council member Wang to have the additional work done as quoted by Valley Cemetery Maintenance. The motion was seconded by Council member Massmann and was carried with Mayor Wilkens abstaining from the vote.

The adoption of a golf cart ordinance was the final agenda item to be addressed. Administrator Liden began by explaining that while the City does not have anything in the City Code regarding golf carts there is a section on ATVs, mini-trucks, and snowmobiles. Liden had included that Code section in Council's meeting packets as well as the League of Minnesota Cities model ordinance on special vehicles. Liden had also contacted the City Attorney to get his opinion on whether a new Code section should be added to include golf carts and other special vehicles or if it would be best to remove to repeal and replace the current Code section with an ordinance that

would cover all special vehicles. After reviewing the current Code section and the League Model ordinance, the City Attorney had advised repealing and replacing the current Code.

Discussion was then held on some of the specifics required under the ordinance. Liden noted that there were some conditions that were dictated by State Statute and those items were non-negotiable at the local level. One of the topics of discussion was the period for licensing and whether the permits would be good for one year or three years. Since one of the permitting requirements was showing proof of insurance, Liden noted that an annual renewal would be best to allow checking insurance status each year. The cost of the permits was also discussed and it was determined that \$10 per year would offset the cost of licensing materials and staff time.

Another item discussed was the actual permits themselves and what they should look like. It was determined that a post card sized reflective sticker would work well and would be issued with the first permit. Then, with each year's renewal, a year sticker would be issued much like they do with vehicle license plates. Mayor Wilkens asked Liden to get some price quotes on the permit stickers and the year stickers.

The process for adopting the ordinance was the final item to be addressed. Mayor Wilkens felt that it would be best to discuss the ordinance at the May meeting and invite the public to offer their input as well. After a review in May, the ordinance can then be passed at the June Council meeting. The extra month would also allow for the permits and tags to be ordered and for the permit forms to be developed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 on a motion by Council member Massmann.

Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator