

Fertile City Council Minutes August 8, 2022

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, August 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were Mayor Daniel Wilkens, and Council members Todd Wise, Matthew Massmann and Mary Kiefert. Also present was City Administrator Lisa Liden, Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting, and Twylla Altepeter with the Fertile Journal.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkens at 6:30 p.m. and began with those present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved as presented on a motion by Council member Massmann that was seconded by Council member Kiefert and was carried.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the July 11, 2022 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Council member Kiefert that was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

City Administrator Lisa Liden gave the Treasurer's Report. Liden went over the out of the ordinary deposits and checks for the month of July. Under the deposits Liden noted that it was another good month with Local Government Aid being deposited. Under the check listing Liden noted that disbursements were also high for the month with checks to Fertile Oil for aviation fuel, Polk County Administrator for annual assessor cost, interest payments for water debt, Airborne Custom Spraying for mosquito spraying, Northwest Asphalt for the divot filling, and Polk County Highway Department for calcium chloride. The balance sheet, profit and loss, and budget to actual reports were also briefly reviewed.

The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Council member Massmann that was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Under the airport it was reported that the trees that had been marked as obstructions had been trimmed and that Short Elliott Hendrickson was now working on the paperwork with the Federal Aviation Administration to have another flight check scheduled. Discussion was also held on Public Works working up the old grass runway so it could no longer be used. Public Work Director Kevin Nephew noted that the grass runway had not been mowed in some time so the area was no longer identifiable as a grass runway.

There was no City Engineer report.

Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting gave the report for Fair Meadow Nursing Home. The month of July began and ended with 40 residents, operating at 94.8% capacity. They had also served 171 home delivered meals.

In reviewing the profit and loss reports, Leiting reported that for the month of July there was a combined total profit of over \$30,000 with the nursing home showing a profit of over \$31,000 and the assisted living showing a small loss of just under \$700. For the year-to-date profit and loss, the nursing home and assisted living showed a loss of over \$283,000 with the nursing home showing a loss of just over

\$280,000 and the assisted living a small loss of just over \$3,000. For the budget to actual comparison, income was about at the target amount and expenses for the nursing home and assisted living were higher than the target primarily due to the high costs of temp nursing staff.

Leiting gave a brief report on the recent meeting held with both the Fair Meadow Personnel and Finance Committees. She reported also that they had finally received word on the rate increase for 2022 and that they would soon be receiving the back payment for the rate increase which would greatly help with cash flow.

Discussion was held on the referral bonus that Fair Meadow was currently offering to staff members who brought in new employees. The current referral bonus that was offered was \$200 if the referred staff stayed for three months. Leiting would like approval to increase the referral bonus after three months of employment to \$500 with an additional \$1,000 paid at the end of one year of employment.

After discussion of the matter, a motion was made by Council member Massmann to approve increasing the referral bonus to \$500 after six months of employment and an additional \$1,000 at one year of employment. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Director of Public Works, Kevin Nephew, was next to give his report. He reported that they had been looking for a used 15-foot batwing mower for mowing at the airport, the perimeter trail at the Learning Center and other locations where it was feasible to use. In conversations with Titan Machinery they were willing to offer trade-in for two mowers that the City currently owned for a total of \$6,800 towards a used batwing mower.

Administrator Liden noted that a couple of mowers had been located but they had sold so quickly that it would offer Public Works staff more flexibility in purchasing a mower if Council would approve a top dollar amount to spend on a batwing mower. That way a special meeting wouldn't have to be called to approve the purchase of a specific mower. Chris Zimmel had been doing the preliminary shopping for the mower and he said that it would be good to have \$15,000 to work with but that ideally, they would be able to find one in the \$10,000 to \$12,000 range. Mayor Wilkens encouraged Nephew to keep looking at auction sites for the mower as well.

After further discussion of the matter, a motion was made by Council member Massmann to approve the purchase of a 15-foot batwing mower priced at \$15,000 before the trade-in was applied. The motion was seconded by Council member Kiefert and was carried.

Discussion was held on the sale of the Massey tractor and also the camo pickup on an upcoming auction with Resource Auction. Administrator Liden reminded Council that they had approved the sale of the camo truck on sealed bids but that later discussions had been held about putting it on an auction and there had been no formal motion to sell it on auction rather than sealed bids.

A motion was made by Council member Wise to list both the camo truck and the Massey tractor on auction with Resource Auction. The motion was seconded by Council member Massmann and was carried. Kevin Nephew noted that there was local interest in purchasing the camo truck so something should maybe be put in the Journal or on Facebook giving information on the auction site it was listed with.

Administrator Liden gave her report to Council noting that in addition to the regular monthly reports she normally files that the quarterly reports had been done as well. She noted that she had attended six hours of election training, billed out for mosquito spraying and calcium chloride, and had worked with

Alluma arranging for the suicide prevention training class that would be held later in the week. Liden also noted that she had assisted with planning the Customer Appreciation lunch that would be held at the Community Center on Friday. Liden ended by giving a brief update on the Learning Center building expansion grant process and noted that the Learning Center committee would be meeting to come up with a potential floor plan for the expansion.

There were no reports for the fire department or the personnel committee.

Under new business, the establishment of a Water Infrastructure Reserve Fund was discussed. Administrator Liden explained that the establishment of the fund was a requirement under the grant funds that had been received for the 2019 water project. In exchange for receiving the grant funding, the City had to set aside funds each year for future projects and the amount to set aside was 50 cents for each 1,000 gallons that the City pumped each year. For 2021 the deposit into the reserve fund would be \$14,810.

A motion to establish the Water Infrastructure Replacement Reserve Fund and to deposit \$14,810 into the fund for 2021 was made by Council member Wise. The motion was seconded by Council member Massmann and was carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on a motion by Council member Massmann.

Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator