

Fertile City Council Minutes February 14, 2022

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were Mayor Daniel Wilkens, and Council members Mary Kiefert and Matthew Massmann. Also present were City Administrator Lisa Liden, Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, Barry Glienke from Apex Engineers, and Twylla Altepeter from 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 January 10, 2022 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Council member Kiefert, that was seconded by Council member Massmann 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 January. Liden noted that the deposits for the month were missing the payments from Fair Meadow since she had been out of the office sick at the end of the month. The payments had been made on time but were not deposited before the end of the month. Under the check listing Liden noted the amounts that had been spent for the fire department, the check to Baker Tilly for the wage study, and the amounts that had been wired at the end of the month for bond payments.

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

Under the airport Administrator Liden reported that the runway expansion project and environmental study for the expansion were no longer slated for 2022. Originally the State had included the projects in their funding list for 2022 but due to the large number of projects that required funding, it had been decided to put the runway expansion on hold until further notice. Matt Lebens with MnDOT Aeronautics recommended moving everything back one year on the CIP and it would be determined next year if it could be funded. Lebens did caution, however, that the City would likely have to prove the need for the expansion before it would be approved. The need could be proven by submitting letters from airplane owners with larger aircraft stating that they needed the longer runway to base out of the Fertile Airport. Mayor Wilkens noted that he knew a few pilots and airplane owners who would be willing to submit letters of support.

Under the City Engineer report Administrator Liden distributed the responses that had been submitted for the Request for Proposals (RFP) that the City had advertised in December and January. Four firms had submitted proposals and discussion was held on the next step in the process of finding a new City Engineer. It was decided that all four firms that had submitted

proposals would be interviewed at a special meeting. A motion to hold a special meeting on February 28th to interview the engineer firms was made by Council member Massmann as long as Council member Wise was available for a meeting that day. The motion was seconded by Council member Kiefert and was carried.

Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Liden was absent from the meeting but had submitted her monthly reports which were briefly reviewed.

Kevin Nephew, Public Works Supervisor, was next to give his report to Council. Nephew began by reporting that the Ford F350 pickup that had been discussed in January was still available. He explained that the box on the pickup was quite rusty and that the dealer had removed the old box and was putting on a new one. Once that was completed, Nephew and Chris Zimmel would drive to Fergus Falls to look at the pickup and take it for a test drive. Discussion was held on checking over the frame under the box and the brake lines to make sure that those weren't rusted as well.

A discussion of the ongoing snow removal was then held. Nephew reported that they were continuing to work on removing the snow piles in the downtown area but those efforts were put to a halt frequently to deal with storms and blowing snow.

Administrator Liden gave a brief review of her activities for the month which included the quarter end and year-end tax filings as well as meeting with engineer firms to discuss the RFP. Liden noted also that she had been out of the office sick with Covid for eight days.

Under the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center Mayor Wilkens gave a report on Winterfest that had been held on February 6th. He said that the event was well attended and that many people came out to try skiing for the first time including several families with young kids. Wilkens also noted that the Center was now staffed on both Saturday and Sunday for people to come and rent cross country skis or snowshoes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m. on a motion by Council member Massmann.

Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator