

**Fertile City Council Minutes**  
**Special Meeting**  
**March 10, 2022**

The Fertile City Council held a special meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 10 a.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Daniel Wilkens and Council members Todd Wise, Mary Kiefert, and Matthew Massmann. Also present was City Administrator Lisa Liden and Jeff Ebsch from Moore Engineering.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. and began with those present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wilkens stated that the purpose of the meeting was to pick an engineer firm to serve the City of Fertile. He noted that four firms had presented at the previous meeting and that the search had been narrowed to two firms, Moore Engineering and Apex. He went on to comment that at the first meeting Moore was the first firm to interview and that some questions that came up in later interviews had not been asked of Moore and he would like to ask those questions now.

The first question was in regard to the GIS mapping that all four firms had discussed. Wilkens noted that a couple of the firms had stated that those services would be free and he was wondering if Moore would also provide that service at no cost. Administrator Liden noted that none of the firms really elaborated on how much of the mapping would be provided free of charge.

Jeff Ebsch stated that they would start with mapping the gate valves and manholes and that water and sewer mains would be added after that. Eventually the curb stops for the individual water services would be added.

Council member Massmann asked about whether Moore had a water specialist on staff since Fertile has periodically had issues with rusty water. Ebsch stated that they had the resources to address those type of issues.

Mayor Wilkens noted that the first big project the City would be looking at would be some upgrades to the Community Center involving siding, the roof, cooling and heating. Wilkens asked if Moore had access to an architect and a structural engineer to assist with plans for that project. Ebsch replied that they don't have those services covered by Moore staff, but that they had firms they worked with frequently for architects and structural engineers.

Council member Wise asked about the potential for grants for installing solar panels. A brief discussion was then held on solar power and how that was expanding substantially in the area. Council member Massmann inquired about the firm's expertise in funding. Ebsch stated that they didn't have a funding expert per se on staff but that all project managers were cross trained in working on the funding aspects for projects, finding grants when they were available, and working with the traditional funding sources when bonding was required. Moore did all the legwork so the City just had to sign the necessary paperwork to secure low-cost funding.

Jeff Ebsch then gave a brief review of a capital improvement plan sample that he had submitted prior to the meeting. He said that it was a proprietary planning method that Moore used to help map out a city's upcoming needs as well as a city's current debt. The CIP was an excellent reference tool for planning for the future and that inclusion of anything on the plan didn't commit a City to doing any particular project.

Discussion was then opened up on which firm would best serve Fertile's needs. Council member Kiefert noted that she was conflicted about which firm to choose. She liked that Moore was a bigger firm with more experience but also liked that Apex was a smaller firm that seemed to offer more personal service. Council member Massmann agreed with that assessment.

Council member Wise stated that he felt more comfortable with the experience and staffing levels that were offered through Moore. Administrator Liden noted that Moore had also made a point of staying in contact and usually stopped in to visit a couple of times each year. They stayed pretty up to date with what was going on in Fertile as well regarding projects and planning.

After further discussion of the matter, a motion was made by Council member Wise to choose Moore Engineering as the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Council member Kiefert and was carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Council member Massmann at 10:32 a.m.

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Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

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Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator