

Fertile City Council Minutes

November 14, 2022

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were Mayor Daniel Wilkens, and Council members Todd Wise, Matthew Massmann, Amanda Bosman, and Mary Kiefert. Also present was City Administrator Lisa Liden, Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, City Billing Clerk Stacy Erickson, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting, and Nicole Rivera 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.

Under agenda approval Administrator Liden noted that three items had been added to the agenda including insulating the city shop and selling the ice machine under the public works part of the agenda and the addition of the election canvass resolution under new business. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Council member Massmann that was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the October 10, 2022 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Council member Kiefert that was seconded by Council member Wise and 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 October. Under the deposits Liden noted that there were no out of the ordinary deposits for the month. Under the check listing Liden noted the checks to Fertile Oil for aviation fuel at the airport, the check to Steffes Auction for the purchase of the batwing mower, the check to Mid Valley Electric for the work done at the city shop, and the check to Wagner Sand and Gravel for this year's graveling done in the alleys. The balance sheet, profit and loss, and budget to actual reports were also reviewed.

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

Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting gave the report for Fair Meadow Nursing Home. Leiting began her report with a brief review of the financial statements for the end of September which is the end of the fiscal year for the home. She noted that the financials were not yet official as they were not audited. The profit and loss showed a combined loss of \$258,700 with the nursing home showing a loss of over \$231,000 and the assisted living a loss of over \$27,000. Leiting noted that the report included depreciation expense of \$286,400 so the loss was not a cash loss. She also noted that she was pleased with year-end figures given how many temp staff they had to utilize through the year and the high cost of temp staff compared to regular staff. For the budget to actual report Leiting noted that income was at 106% and expenses were at 108% for the nursing home and 110% for the assisted living.

The month of October began with 38 residents and ended with 42, operating at 90.55% capacity. They had also served 173 home delivered meals. The profit and loss for the month of October

showed a combined profit of almost \$126,000 with the nursing home showing a profit of \$114,700 and the assisted living a profit of \$11,200.

Council member Massmann inquired about the status of staffing and Leiting replied that they could still use four or five more CNA's, they were still low on LPN's but they were fully staffed with RN's. Leiting also commented that they currently had only two temp staff working and that one of them would be done soon.

Leiting continued her report explaining that they had just gotten their health insurance quote for 2023. The amount shown on the budget was higher than what the total would be based on the quote that was received. There was, however, an increase in the amount that employees would have to pay for the family policy. The employee share would increase from \$340 per month to \$482.

The next nursing home matter up for discussion was participation in 2023 under the Equitable Cost Sharing Program for Publicly Owned Nursing Homes (ECPN). Participation in the program would result in an increase from the current rate of \$23.09 to \$43.91 per resident per day which would result in a net increase in income of \$366,495 for the year. The city's contribution would increase from \$9,816 per month to over \$16,000 per month. Leiting noted that they could choose to lower the amount of the increase later in the year if needed.

After a brief discussion of the matter, a motion was made by Council member Wise to approve participation in the ECPN program for 2023 at the full amount. The motion was seconded by Council member Massmann and was carried.

Health insurance rates were discussed further and then a motion was made by Council member Massmann to continue the insurance benefit as the nursing home does currently with the home paying 100% of the single policy and the value of the single policy plus an additional \$300 towards a family policy. The Health Savings Account contribution would remain at \$1,500 per year. The motion was seconded by Council member Bosman and was carried.

Leiting ended by reporting that Doctor Ring had formally resigned as Medical Director for the nursing home. She gave a copy of his resignation letter to Mayor Wilkens who then read the letter aloud. Dr. Ring had served as Medical Director for 42 years.

Under the airport Mayor Wilkens reported that the Learning Center would be meeting later in the month and would vote on whether to sign the safari van over to the City to be used as a courtesy car at the airport.

Under the City Engineer, there was no formal report, but Administrator Liden had given an updated Community Center project list to Council to show that the insulation of the roof and walls had been added. She noted that Mutchler Bartram would soon be sending a contract for the project and that it would be up for Council approval at the December meeting.

Kevin Nephew, Public Works Director, gave his report next. He reported that he had gotten a quote from the Fertile Building Center on steel and blow-in insulation for the roof of the shop. He reported also that he had gotten a quote for having the walls spray foamed for insulation. Administrator Liden noted that another quote on the insulation would be sought before approval since the one quote was from a related party. Discussion was then held on the insulation project and the cost of the blow-in

insulation. Mayor Wilkens asked Kevin Nephew to get another quote on the roof insulation in case it could be done for less cost by a third party.

After discussion of the timing of the insulation project, a motion was made by Council member Massmann to allow Kevin Nephew and Administrator Liden to approve the low quote from a responsible, reputable firm for insulating the shop. The motion was seconded by Council member Bosman and was carried.

Discussion then moved to selling the Olympia ice machine. Nephew reported that it currently wouldn't stay running after it left the heated shop. Since the machine runs on propane, it was noted that there were a couple of people locally who worked on the propane fork lifts that could perhaps help in figuring out why the machine wouldn't run in the cold. Discussion was then held on selling the machine and whether to sell it on an auction. It was recommended to call the mechanic/dealer who had worked on the machine to see if he knew whether or not there would be a market for it.

Snow removal in the downtown area was the next item up for discussion. A business owner had questioned where the snow removed from the east side of highway 32 would be piled since the snow piles in the back of the Journal and insurance office didn't allow for proper employee parking in the back. It was decided that the Public Works Department would work on removing the snow piles more often as time allowed.

Under the fire department, Mayor Wilkens noted that there had been a discussion the previous month about the City working with the fire department to acquire one or more generators as needed to provide power to the fire department, city shop, and community center in the event of an emergency. Wilkens noted that he would like to keep working with the fire department in order to get that done.

City Administrator Liden gave her report and noted that she had been working with the City Attorney, the fire department, and the financing company to finalize the paperwork for the new fire truck lease. Liden noted that the City Attorney had questions about the acquisition process so the fire department would be working on finalizing a few items so it could be shown that the proper bidding process had been followed.

Under the Learning Center Mayor Wilkens reported that the concrete slab for the shop addition had been poured and that construction on the addition would hopefully begin in mid to late December depending on the contractor's availability.

The final item to be addressed under new business was Resolution #11-1-22 which was the Resolution Approving the Canvass of the Municipal General Election Held on November 8, 2022. After a brief review of the election tally provided by the Polk County Auditor's Office, a motion was made by Council member Wise to approve Resolution #11-1-22. The motion was seconded by Council member Massmann and was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. on a motion by Council member Massmann.

Daniel Wilkens, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator