

Fertile City Council Minutes

May 8, 2023

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were Mayor Daniel Wilkens and Council members Mary Kiefert, Matthew Massmann, Amanda Bosman, and Todd Wise. Also present was City Administrator Lisa Liden, Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting, and Nicole Rivera 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 Bosman that was seconded by Council member Kiefert and carried.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the April 10, 2023 regular meeting and April 13, 2023 and April 20, 2023 special meetings 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 April. There were no out of the ordinary deposits. Under the check listing Liden noted only the quarterly checks to the Fire Department and the Learning Center. 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. The month of April began with 38 residents and ended with 40, operating at 91.26% capacity. They had also served 140 home delivered meals. Council member Massmann asked if there had been any negative feedback on the price increase for the home delivered meals. Leiting stated that no one had dropped out of the program and that there had only been one phone call with questions about the increase.

Leiting reported that Fair Meadow had gotten four nursing staff from Pioneer Nursing Home in Erskine and there was also a maintenance staff person interested in Fair Meadow as well.

The profit and loss for the month of April showed a combined profit of almost \$85,000 with the nursing home showing a profit of over \$92,000 and the assisted living a loss of over \$7,000. The year-to-date profit and loss showed a combined profit of over \$179,000 with the nursing home showing a profit of over \$241,000 and the assisted living a loss of over \$61,000. For the budget to actual report, both income and expenses were either at or a little below the budgeted level.

Next Leiting gave an update on the situation with getting a new medical director. Riverview was unable to assist with getting a new medical director but Essentia agreed to provide one for one year. Leiting asked Riverview if they would reconsider it again in one year. Leiting had also advertised for bids on snow removal to see if that cost could be reduced. Todd's Landscaping currently provides services for snow removal.

She went on to report on some statistics from Leading Age on long term care in Minnesota. Currently there were 15 counties in the state with only one nursing home and 2,597 beds had been taken out of service since 2020. Sixteen nursing homes had closed since 2020 with two closures taking place in the last 30 days. She ended by noting that the public health crisis due to Covid would be ending on Thursday, May 11th and that they were currently not required to mask at the nursing home.

There was nothing to report from either the airport or the City Engineer.

Kevin Nephew, Public Works Director, gave his report next. Council member Massmann began by asking Nephew a question on the size of trees allowed in the yard waste site. Nephew responded that whole trees are okay but that stumps were not.

Nephew went on to report that the water main leak by the nursing home had been repaired and that the process was greatly complicated by not being able to entirely turn the water off in that area. The hole kept filling up with water so they had to deal with getting that pumped out of the way in addition to working around water mains, sewer mains, gas lines, and fiber optics. The repair took longer than they had initially hoped but it was finally done. He noted that there had been a significant drop in the daily gallons of water pumped since the repair had been made.

Nephew reported that he had finalized the gravel map and had given a copy to the City Administrator. Council member Massmann asked who hauls the gravel for the City and Nephew responded that currently it was Wagner Sand and Gravel. A brief discussion was held on the locations and alleys that would be graveled during the summer.

Nephew went on to report that he had gotten some bids on asphalt for a few different areas in town, including the City lot behind the drug store and Encore as well as the Community Center parking areas on the north and south sides of the building in addition to the alley between the fire hall and Community Center. It was decided to wait on the Community Center alley and parking areas until the building project was complete.

Discussion was then held on the paving of the City owned parking lot downtown as well as the alley on the north end of the lot. Two quotes had been submitted for the paving and they were quite close in cost. The low quote in the amount of \$58,485.50 had been submitted by ReitRock paving. Nephew had reached out to some of the neighboring business owners and they had indicated that they would be interested in possibly sharing the cost of the asphalt since they would like to see it paved. After discussion of the matter, Council indicated that the City could pay half the cost of the paving if the six businesses along the parking lot and alley would be willing to split the remaining cost. Council asked Administrator Liden and Kevin Nephew to reach out to the business owners to see if they would be willing to share the cost.

Kevin Nephew ended by noting that hydrants would be flushed on Thursday and Friday and that the filter media at the water treatment plant would be cleaned the following week. The cleaning would take three days so the City would get its water from the tower during that process. Nephew wanted to get the cleaning done before the summer lawn watering season began and increased the City's daily water usage.

Administrator Liden briefly reviewed her monthly report noting that the annual audit process had just begun and that the audit field work would happen the following week. She also noted the quarterly reports that were filed, her continued work on the financing for the Community Center project, and that she had written an article for the Fertile Journal on the upcoming project.

Under the Learning Center, it was reported that they had held three or four meetings for strategic planning and there would be just one more meeting to finalize the plan. Mayor Wilkens reported that the shop addition was currently under construction and everything was proceeding as planned.

For the Fire Department, it was reported that the department had responded to three calls in April. Two were for carbon monoxide and the other for an auto accident. The department had approved the purchase of two SCBA packs and four air tanks. Since the bids for those had come in substantially higher than expected, they would be looking for used equipment instead. Half of the fire department had attended a weekend training course during the first part of March.

The first item up under new business was an application for a tobacco license for Main Street Station and Deli LLC. Amy Motteberg is the new owner of what was formerly known as JT's Station and needed to change the license into the new name.

A motion was made by Council member Massmann to approve the tobacco license for Main Street Station and Deli LLC. The motion was seconded by Council member Kiefert and was carried.

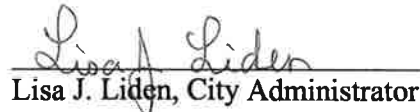
The final item up under new business was the usual Polk County Fair items. The Fair Board needed approval for a parade permit, a 5K permit, and a 3.2 beer license for Sunday of the Fair. Since these items are requested and approved each year, there was no discussion. A motion was made by Council member Wise to approve the Fair Board requests, seconded by Council member Massmann and carried.

Under announcements, City Administrator Liden reminded Council that there was a special meeting scheduled for May 22nd at 6:30 to approve the financing on the Community Center project and to formally accept the low bid.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. on a motion by Council member Massmann.



Daniel Wilkens, Mayor



Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator