

## **Fertile City Council Minutes August 12, 2013**

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, August 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Dennis Hasler, Tanner Lehmann and Linda Widrig.

The meeting began with Fair Meadow Administrator Barry Robertson giving his report. The month of July began with 41 residents and ended with 44, operating at 82.64% capacity. A total of 173 home delivered meals had been served in addition to 12 days of adult day care.

Robertson then reported on the assisted living project. He stated that there would be a walkthrough of the building on August 14<sup>th</sup> with the architect from ICON. Robertson was still looking at a September 1<sup>st</sup> opening date and the employers for the assisted living had been hired and would start orientation on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

It was also reported that the Department of Health inspector had come on a Sunday afternoon and left on Tuesday, after finding only four minor deficiencies. The State Fire Marshall had also done an inspection and found only two minor deficiencies.

Robertson then went on to report that Fair Meadow Foundation was working with Anchor Marketing to make a brochure to solicit donations for the nursing home. Anchor Marketing would also be designing a website.

Administrator Lisa Liden then inquired about Fair Meadows current operating funds. Robertson explained that the MA reimbursement check had been short by about \$13,000 due to an error at the State. He had already contacted the State and the error would be corrected and the funds sent shortly. Fair Meadows balance as of the end of July was \$26,324.86 and Robertson predicted that they could be short of funds by the end of August. He explained that they would get their rate increase on September 1 and that the increased rate due to ECPN would take effect October 1. Robertson said he would wait and see how things looked towards the end of the month and would maybe go to the bank and renegotiate a more favorable rate for issuing warrants.

Libby Eid then gave the report for Agassiz Environmental Learning Center. She reported that there had been no volunteers at the Center during the month of July due to the road construction.

The Personnel Committee then gave their report to the Council. Council member Widrig explained that evaluations would need to be done before the preliminary budget could be approved. This was followed by a discussion on who should evaluate who as well as a discussion on possible changes to the Personnel Manual.

Upon review of the minutes of the July 8, 2013 meeting, Council member Widrig made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then reviewed. After questions regarding the checks to Airborne Custom Spraying and Encompass Group were answered by Administrator Liden, a motion was made by Council member Widrig to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

Public Works Director Kevin Nephew had arrived at the meeting and began his report. The first item Nephew addressed was the possible addition of Clearitas to the water system. This was followed by a discussion on whether or not Clearitas would be effective clearing up the problem with the discolored water. Nephew had spoken to a few people about the product and it was still unclear how effective it was.

He explained that Clearitas is basically an oxidated chlorine and that the person he had spoken with at the State said that he could just increase the amount of chlorine in the system and it would have the same effect. This was followed by a discussion of the increased hydrant flushing and whether this was helping. It was decided to hold off on added Clearitas at this time.

The next item up for discussion was diseased elm trees in town. Liden explained that letters had been sent out to the property owners who had diseased elms in town. Council member Hasler stated that he wanted the City to follow the City Code and take action after 60 days if the elm trees had not been removed. Liden stated that after 60 days the trees would be marked and the City would advertise for bids on their removal. The cost of the removal would then be assessed on the homeowner's property taxes.

Nephew then gave a report on the leveling project in the Industrial Park. He stated that a lot of work had been done but there was more left to do. Nephew showed the Council the cut and fill map that he had gotten from Widseth Smith and Nolting and indicated where the work had been done and also where further work was needed. This was followed by a discussion on how to proceed with the funding that was available from the TIF bonds.

Mayor Nephew then inquired about the last sprayer that the City had purchased a few years ago and whether or not that could be sold and what the proper procedure would be for doing so. Liden stated that she would check the State Statutes to see what requirements there would be for such a sale.

The next agenda item addressed was the Clean Water Grant application for erosion control by the Learning Center. The item was tabled since neither Dan Wilkens nor Gary Lee was present at the meeting to answer questions.

The Rural Service District annual review was the next item addressed. It was determined that there had been no changes in any of the properties since the last review.

The final agenda item up for discussion was the preliminary budget. Liden explained that the proposed levy request would be due to the county in mid-September and that the preliminary budget would need to be approved at the September meeting. Liden briefly went over the budget and explained that certain expense categories had been color coded because they represented either discretionary expenses or else project based expenses that needed to be budgeted for the coming year. Liden also explained that the water and sewer income amounts had been highlighted since the Council needed to look at increasing the rates to address the losses in the water fund for the past few years. Mayor Nephew then asked Liden to put together information for the September meeting on water and sewer rates including the rates currently charged by other cities in the area. This was followed by further discussion of various income and expense categories.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian Nephew, Mayor

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Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator