

Fertile City Council Minutes January 13, 2014

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Todd Wise, Dennis Hasler, and Tanner Lehmann.

The meeting began with Barry Robertson reporting on Fair Meadow Nursing Home. The month of December began with 44 and ended with 46 residents, operating at 91.2% capacity. In addition they served 159 home delivered meals and provided 14 days of adult day care.

Robertson then went on to report that the Fair Meadow Board has asked the Fair Meadow Foundation for up to \$40,000 to replace the walk-in cooler/freezer. The Foundation Board had not yet met to approve providing the funding. This was followed by a discussion of the types of freezers, the timing of the replacement as well as locating a freezer/cooling truck to have on-site while the old unit was removed and the new one installed.

Barry Robertson then asked the Council to approve appointing Carolyn Christian to the Fair Meadow Board. He explained that Cindy Engelstad's and Gary Werner's terms on the Board had expired and that he would have the name of a second appointee for the February meeting.

Council member Wise made the motion to appoint Carolyn Christian to the Fair Meadow Board. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

Barry Robertson then gave a brief report on the Assisted Living. He reported that eight of the units were currently occupied and that one more resident would be moving in during March. He also reported that there had been a water leak in the ceiling and that Downs & Nowacki had repaired it. Administrator Liden then asked Robertson for the bill to be forwarded to her since the repair would be covered under warranty.

Robertson then reported on the recent Fair Meadow Foundation fund drive. Over 1,500 appeal letters had been mailed out and that just that day, they had hit the \$80,000 mark in donations. Those donations will help to fund some of the capital needs at the nursing home, such as the cooler that needs replacing.

Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works, then gave his report to the Council. He stated that there was very little to report except that they were getting caught up on the snow removal and that there were just a few more piles to be removed. Mayor Nephew then commented that Highway 32 looked really good after the State had been through. He also inquired as to whether all of the equipment was working alright. Nephew responded that there had been a few little things that had needed repair but that everything was working fine.

Mayor Nephew then asked about snow removal around the fire hydrants. Kevin reported that he had cleaned around a few of them that were barely visible and that he would work on clearing the rest as needed.

Libby Eid then gave her report on the Learning Center. She stated that the weather had been difficult the past month and that the building had been closed when the temperature was below zero. She also reported that there had been a couple of large groups out skiing the previous weekend.

After a review of the minutes of the December 9, 2013 minutes Council member Hasler made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then reviewed. Administrator Liden briefly went over the out of the ordinary disbursements and after a couple of questions regarding the report, Council member Wise made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

Then came review of the annual appointments. The appointments remained the same as the previous year since the Council members serving in the various capacities were willing to continue doing so. Council member Hasler made the motion to approve Resolution #1-1-14 Resolution of Annual Appointments as it was presented in the Council packets. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

The next agenda item up for discussion was the annual decision on whether to waive the statutory limits on liability insurance. Administrator Liden gave a brief explanation of what this meant for the City and stated that in previous years the City had not waived the statutory limits. After a brief discussion, Council member Hasler made the motion, seconded by Council member Wise, to not waive the statutory limits on liability insurance. The motion was carried.

A proposed boundary agreement between the City and Dave and Ginny Strem was the next item up for discussion. Administrator Liden explained what the issue was with the property line and that the proposed agreement would officially put the property line at the location both parties thought it was. After some discussion on the matter, Council member Hasler made the motion to approve entering into the boundary agreement with Strem's. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

The liquor license applications by Elizabeth Valdez were then taken into consideration. Administrator Liden explained that Valdez would be reopening the bar that was formerly known as Oliver's Bar and Grill. The new establishment would be named Side Street Bar and Grill.

Council member Hasler had a few questions for Ms. Valdez who was present at the meeting. The questions mainly pertained to the letter that Valdez had written the Council requesting she be granted a 2 a.m. opening license. Given the questions and concerns the Council had regarding granting that license, it was decided to table that issue until the February meeting when Council member Widrig would be present.

After some discussion, Council member Hasler then made the motion to grant Elizabeth Valdez the off-sale, on-sale and Sunday liquor licenses that she was applying for pending approval by the County and State. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

The final item that was addressed was an offer made by Ronald Hanson to donate a piano for the Community Center. He had become aware of the fact that the current piano was very old and out of tune and he indicated that he would like to donate his mother's piano. Mayor Nephew stated that it was a very gracious offer that the Council would gratefully accept. Council member Hasler stated that arrangements should be made with Hanson to get the piano moved as soon as it was convenient for them and the weather was cooperative.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator