

Fertile City Council Minutes July 14, 2014

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Todd Wise, Linda Widrig, and Tanner Lehmann.

The meeting began with Barry Robertson, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator, giving his monthly report to the Council. He reported that they began the month of June with 46 residents and ended with 45, operating at 89.8% capacity. In addition they served 184 home delivered meals and provided 16 days of adult day care.

Robertson went on to report that the new walk in cooler/freezer was now installed and working correctly. He explained that there had been some operational difficulties in the beginning that required further work that was covered under the warranty. He went on to report that he was now in the process of getting some prices on replacing the old fuel oil boiler and that he hoped to have those numbers for the August meeting so the replacement could be done before the winter heating season.

Robertson also reported that he had spoken with Elissa Raaen about serving on the Fair Meadow Board and that she had agreed to serve. Ms. Raaen's appointment to serve on the Board was made on a motion by Council member Wise that was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

There was no Public Works report as Kevin Nephew was on vacation.

The minutes of the June 9th meeting were approved on a motion made by Council member Lehmann, seconded by Council member Widrig. The motion was carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then presented by Administrator Liden. Council member Wise made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

The next item addressed under Old Business was Elizabeth Valdez' request to again be heard by the Council regarding getting a 2 a.m. closing license for Side Street Bar and Grill. Since Ms. Valdez was not present and the Council had discussed the matter in June, Council member Wise made the motion to table the license request for six months. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

A permit request by Fertile 4H to hold a 5K run on August 9th during Crazy Days was then addressed. Council member Lehmann made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Council member Widrig. The motion was carried.

The appointment of an Emergency Response Team was the next item addressed. Mayor Nephew explained that without this appointment being made, if there were to be a local emergency, the response would be handled at the County level. He went on to explain that five members of the Fire Department had the proper certification to handle local emergencies and that the fire

department along with the Mayor and Vice Mayor would be able to make the necessary decisions in the event of an emergency.

After a brief discussion, Council member Wise made the motion to appoint the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Fire Chief and First Assistant to the Chief as Fertile's Emergency Response Team. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

The Council then moved on to discussion of water and sewer hook-up fees in Peterson's Subdivision and the Industrial Park. Administrator Liden explained that the City fee schedule calls for a \$500 hook-up fee for water and a \$250 hook-up fee for sewer on existing lines. She went on to explain that over the last few years on two different sewer extension projects that the homeowners and business owners are paying for those extension costs by making monthly installment payments on their water bill. In this instance, however, Liden explained that the costs of the extensions had been covered by TIF financing and that it would be counterproductive to further development in those areas to pass those costs on to the consumer. She reported that many communities even offer free water and sewer for a year or more as an incentive to locate in newly developed areas.

After further discussion of the matter, Council member Widrig made the motion to set the hook-up fees for Peterson's Subdivision and the Industrial Park at \$500 for water and \$250 for sewer. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Dale Bauer and Scott Hall then asked the Council about whether sewer service would be extended to the properties on Highway 32 north that were currently not served by City sewer. Dale Bauer stated that he had been promised sewer and water service when he located there 25 years ago and that he was still waiting for sewer service. This matter had been discussed at the May Council meeting so Kevin Nephew had obtained an estimate for that extension from the City Engineers. That estimate was distributed to the Council and also Bauer and Hall. Liden explained that this extension was not included with the sewer projects that had been done in Peterson's and the Industrial Park since those projects were eligible for TIF financing. Mayor Nephew also commented that an extension to the north along Highway 32 was only feasible now due to the lift station that had been installed with TIF funding.

After further discussion of the matter, Mayor Nephew assured Bauer and Hall that the City would look further into the matter to see if the project was financially feasible in the near future.

The next agenda item that was addressed was the final payment to Sellin Brothers for the water and sewer projects in the Industrial Park. Liden explained that the payment request had been reviewed by Steve Emery and approved for payment. Council member Wise made a motion to approve payment to Sellin Brothers for \$12,800.30. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

Mayor Nephew then adjourned the Council meeting to hold a Public Information Meeting on Part I of the Amended Wellhead Protection Plan. He then introduced Mike Strodman from Minnesota Rural Water who was present to review Part I and answer any questions that the Council may have.

Strodtman then explained that a Wellhead Protection Plan was valid for only 10 years and that Fertile's was due to expire in 2015 so we were currently in the process of amending that plan. He gave a brief outline of the process and explained what had been done to date to come up with the information contained in Part I. Mike then went over the map that showed both the previous and amended boundaries for the Wellhead Protection Area and the Drinking Water Supply Management Areas. It was noted that the new WHPA had been greatly modified due to new information on the source of the City's water and that the new area was mostly within City limits and no longer included part of the Industrial Park and a large area northeast of Fertile.

This was followed by a brief discussion on the next steps that will be taken during this process which will include identifying potential contaminants in the newly defined WHPA. The Public Information meeting was then concluded and Mayor Nephew reconvened the City Council meeting.

The final item to be addressed was further leveling and roadwork in the Industrial Park. Kevin Nephew had requested permission for funding to finish the leveling of the eastern half of block two and also for finishing the work on Elm Street in the Industrial Park. Kevin estimated that the leveling would cost an additional \$10,000 and the roadwork could be completed for \$5,000. Liden explained that there was roughly \$75,000 remaining in TIF funds for these projects.

A discussion of previous leveling costs and the work that needed to be done was then held. Council members Wise and Lehmann both questioned whether this could be formally bid out in order to get a guarantee on the work being completed for the amount stated. Administrator Liden explained that it was difficult to bid that type of job out without having formal plans and specs to bid off of and that getting those plans and specs in writing would also involve additional engineering costs.

After further discussion Council member Wise made the motion to approve spending another \$10,000 for leveling and \$5,000 for roadwork with a total cap of \$15,000 total to get all of the proposed work completed. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator