

## **Fertile City Council Minutes**

### **March 17, 2014**

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 17, 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.

Barry Robertson was unable to attend the meeting but left each Council member a copy of his monthly report. Robertson's report showed that Fair Meadow began and ended the month of February with 45 residents and operated at 89.42% of capacity. In addition, 175 home delivered meals had been served and 17 days of adult day care had been provided.

Libby Eid then reported on Agassiz Environmental Learning Center. She explained that her volunteers had taken the month of February off to watch the Olympics on television and that she had worked all of the days that she was able to and when the weather allowed. She reported that she had worked a total of 48 hours during the month and that Lisa Liden had worked every Sunday for a total of 12 hours for the month.

Administrator Lisa Liden then reported to the Council that the Learning Center was currently accepting applications for the Education Director position since the former Director had resigned. She stated that only one application had been received so far but that the applicant was very qualified for the position.

Kevin Nephew, Public Works Director, then gave his monthly report to the Council. Nephew reported that the road grader had broken down again due to a portion of the crankshaft keyway being worn down. He explained that he had welded it and that it should work for some time. This was followed by a discussion of possible replacement options for the road grader when the time comes that a breakdown is too costly to repair.

Nephew then explained that there had been a total of 19 water line freeze ups in the City and that maintenance staff had thawed all but three of them. The last freeze up had occurred a week prior and that person had not been running their water to prevent it. He stated that he didn't anticipate any more issues as long as residents kept their water running.

Steve Emery from Widseth Smith and Nolting appeared before the Council to present the bids on the Industrial Park water and sewer project. Emery had Council members refer to the bid tabulation sheet that had been included in their packets. A total of five bids had been received and they ranged in cost from \$226,806 to \$385,735 with Sellin Brothers submitting the low bid. Emery reminded the Council that Sellin had worked on the lift station and Peterson Subdivision projects last summer and that they were, therefore, very familiar with the area they would be working in and also what the water and sewer expansions would be tying into.

After a brief discussion, Council member Wise made the motion to accept the bid of \$226,806 made by Sellin Brothers. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The Council minutes of the February 10, 2014 meeting were then approved as written on a motion by Council member Hasler, seconded by Council member Wise. Carried.

Liden then gave a brief overview of the disbursements report as well as the budget to actual information. Council member Lehmann then made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

Frozen water lines were the next item to be addressed on the agenda. This item had already been reported on by Kevin Nephew, so Mayor Nephew just reiterated that residents need to continue running their water until the danger of freeze ups had passed.

Gordy Gudvangen, representing the ART Board, then appeared before the Council. Gudvangen reported that as the contact person for the multi use trail from Crookston to Ulen he had received numerous phone calls expressing confusion over where the trail was located on the south end of Fertile. He explained that the trail is very clear in the winter months since it is groomed for snowmobiles. In the summer, however, the trail is not marked from the Learning Center road to the end of South Mill Street. He reported that the City Council had agreed several years ago that the trail could follow Garfield Avenue starting at the Learning Center road. Trail users would then follow Highway 32 South for a short distance to Mill Street South.

Gudvangen requested permission to put up about 20 signs to mark the stretch of trail along Garfield, Highway 32 and Mill Street South. This was followed by a discussion of State highway rules on signage as well as the possibility of using painted arrows on the street rather than posted signs. The Council recommended that Gudvangen get together with Kevin Nephew and work on the best options for signing this area since Kevin would be able to offer guidance on how far back any signs would need to be posted to allow for snow removal in the winter months.

Mayor Nephew then asked Mr. Gudvangen whether the snowmobile club or ART Trail would have any available funds to help with replacing the bathrooms in the City Park. This collaborative effort had been discussed a few years ago since the Snowcruisers had indicated that they could be interested in having bathroom facilities available year round. Gudvangen stated that right now the trend is in building "green" using energy efficient and even solar lighting. If some "green" energy options could be incorporated into a new bathroom facility Gudvangen felt that there could be grant funds available to cover some of the construction costs. He stated that he would look into the matter further.

Mayor Nephew then closed the City Council Meeting and convened the Public Hearing that had been called for the purpose of discussing a building variance request by Reid Jensrud. Reid Jensrud was available for questions, but nobody present had any questions. Administrator Liden reported that notice had been provided to all adjoining property owners and that only the neighbor to the south had contacted the City Office. That neighbor had no objections to the building addition and had just wanted clarification of where the addition was being built.

Mayor Nephew then closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the City Council meeting.

Council member Wise made a motion to approve the side yard setback variance that Reid Jensrud had applied for. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

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