

## **Fertile City Council Minutes September 8, 2014**

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Linda Widrig, Todd Wise, and Tanner Lehmann.

The meeting began with Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works giving his report to the Council. Nephew reported that he was working with Steve Emery on various options for a sewer extension to the properties on north highway 32. He thought he had worked out the best option as far as cost and access for property owners but that would require getting an easement from Mel Bohnenkamp and Bohnenkamp was not willing to provide an easement.

Nephew then went on to explain that he was looking at an insulated sewer pipe that he had just learned about. If this pipe wasn't too costly and worked well, it may be possible to run an extension going south from the manhole by Northside but he cautioned that the elevations still were not good going that direction.

The cost estimate for going through Bohnenkamp's lot would be about \$25,000. If the extension were to be located on the western edge of the Industrial Park, the cost would be around \$20,000 but it would cost another \$5,000 or so to run a line west to serve Bauer's and Halls. Since it would not be possible to complete the extension yet this fall, Nephew stated that he would work with Steve Emery on getting better estimates.

The next item that Nephew reported on was a sewer line that TDS wanted to install to serve their new shop. He explained that the line would have to run south to the manhole on Nelson Ave. for about 500 feet. Nephew suggested that the City buy the materials for the line at a cost of roughly \$5000 and TDS pay for the installation. TDS would also have to grant an easement on their property for the City portion of the main.

The next item discussed was the persistent problems with discolored water. Nephew explained that he had looked at a product, called Clearitas, about two years ago that supposedly helped with discoloration. He had presented the information to the Council at that time and had also recommended that the City wait to start using it since there wasn't much information and proof about how effective it was at that time. This was followed by a discussion of flushing hydrants and how the treatment plant is functioning. Also discussed was a meeting with Moore Engineering regarding potential future water projects and possible grant or low interest loan funds.

Nephew then reported that there was still some leveling that needed to be done on the middle lots in the Industrial Park and that work would probably be done next spring if equipment was not available yet this fall. He stated that there was good gravel on those four lots and that it would be used on the roads in the Park.

The final item that was discussed was the Code Amendment that was on the agenda allowing for private wells within the City. Nephew stated that he had no problem with the amendment since any new wells would have to be approved by the City Council.

Barry Robertson, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator, then gave his monthly report to the Council. He reported that they began the month of August with 44 residents and ended with 41, operating at 85.16% capacity. In addition they served 147 home delivered meals and provided 27 days of adult day care.

Robertson then reported that the Fair Meadow Foundation had approved a donation of \$100,000 to the nursing home to help with the cost of the new walk-in cooler/freezer as well as the boiler replacement.

Robertson ended his report by announcing to the Council that he was planning to retire in April of 2015. He had informed the Fair Meadow Board of his plans a few months prior and that the Board had approved his recommendation to have Angela Leiting succeed him as Administrator. He explained that Leiting had worked for the nursing home for 17 years and that she was taking classes to get certified. Leiting had also been working with Robertson as his Assistant Administrator for several months to get hands on training.

The minutes of the August 11, 2014 meeting and the Treasurer's Report and Bills were the next items addressed on the agenda. After a brief review of the financial statements and bills, the minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved on a motion by Council member Widrig that was seconded by Council member Wise and carried.

The first agenda item under new business was the bids on airport drainage. Administrator Lisa Liden reported that the bids had come in substantially higher than the estimates that WSN had done on the project. She explained that Steve Emery thought it may be possible to get lower bids if the project were advertised in December.

After a brief discussion, Council member Lehmann made the motion to reject all the bids on the airport drainage project and to go out for bids again later this winter. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

The next item on the agenda was an amendment to the City Code. Administrator Liden explained that there was a party interested in subdividing and developing a property on the southwest side of Fertile along Summit Avenue. Preliminary cost estimates for extending City sewer and water to the properties was roughly \$100,000 for each service which made the project cost prohibitive. Liden further explained that City Code does allow for private septic systems within the City but that private wells were categorically prohibited under Chapter 52, Section 52.68. In order to allow development of these lots, Liden proposed that the City Code be amended to allow for private wells only when city water is not available and when City Council has determined that providing City water is not reasonably practicable.

After a discussion of the matter, Council member Lehmann made the motion to pass Ordinance #2014-01, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 52 of the Fertile City Code Concerning Use of Private Wells Within the City. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

The final agenda item addressed by the Council was the preliminary budget and levy request for 2015. Liden explained that there had been only a few changes to the budget that had been presented at the August meeting and that the changes made had very little impact on the bottom line since the changes involved funds coming in to the City from Fair Meadow that were then paid out. Liden explained further that salary amounts on the budget were the same as in the previous budget since the Personnel Committee needed to meet with some employees to discuss salary expectations.

After discussing the budget and levy request, Council member Wise made the motion to approve Resolution #9-1-14 City Clerk's Certificate of Proposed Tax Levy. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig 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