

## **Fertile City Council Minutes March 9, 2015**

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Linda Widrig, Tanner Lehmann, and Dennis Hasler. Also present were Administrator Lisa Liden, Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, Fair Meadow Administrator Barry Robertson, Elizabeth Valdez and Twylla Altepeter.

Barry Robertson was the first to report to the Council. He reported that month of February had began with 41 residents and ended with 43, operating at a capacity of 86.42%. Twelve days of adult day care had been provided and 153 home delivered meals had been served.

Robertson went on to report that he was seeking some additional estimates for the proposed capital project. EAPC had visited and taken measurements for flooring and wall coverings to provide them with an estimate. Robertson had also visited at the local bank to inquire about financing the project since the numbers provided by Ehlers had such low interest rates at the beginning of the finance period. He explained that since the first year financing costs were included as part of the rate increase that he needed to have the higher interest at the beginning of the loan period rather than at the end.

Next on the agenda was the Public Works report given by Kevin Nephew. Nephew reported that they had been working on some of the storm sewers and that it appeared as though most of them were now open. He then went on to report that the diesel tank at the side of the shop had sprung a leak over the weekend and would need replacing. Nephew commented that he would get some cost information from Fertile Oil on getting a 500 gallon tank. The new tank would possibly be on the ground with a pump for filling the grader.

Under old business, the next agenda item that was addressed was the 2 a.m. liquor license request made by Elizabeth Valdez for her business, Side Street Bar & Grill. Ms. Valdez had provided a letter to the Council just prior to the meeting, so the Council began by briefly reviewing the letter.

Referring the Ms. Valdez' letter, Council member Lehmann asked what challenges she faced in comparison to the other establishments in Fertile. Valdez responded that she is new to Fertile which she felt affected her business. She also replied that she was also faced with the bad reputation of the former owner, Tim Oliver.

Council member Widrig then asked if staying open an extra hour will make much difference financially. Valdez responded that she didn't know for sure whether or not it would, but that she would at least like to try it and see. Valdez also stated that she didn't plan on staying open every night until 2 a.m. but that she would like to be able to do so on the nights that she had entertainment.

This was followed by a discussion on whether or not to vote on the matter since not all Council members were present. Mayor Nephew explained that they could put it to a vote but in the event of a "no" vote or a tie that Ms. Valdez could bring the issue to the Council again next month if all Council members were present. Also discussed was how a temporary license would work and what type of issues or problems could result in the license being cancelled during the trial period.

Council member Lehmann then made a motion to grant a six month probationary 2 a.m. license to Side Street Bar & Grill. After three calls for a second on the motion, the motion died due to the lack of a second.

The next item up on the agenda under department reports was the report on Agassiz Environmental Learning Center. Administrator Liden reported that the new Education Director, Danielle Meunier, had started at the Center the week before and that she would be working about 20 hours per week. This was followed by a brief discussion of the sewer problem that had been resolved at the Center. Kevin Nephew reported that he would take a look at the pump in the septic this summer to see if it was working properly.

The minutes of the February 9, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Council member Widrig that was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then presented by Administrator Liden. After a brief overview of the receipts, disbursements and financial reports for the month of February, Council member Lehmann made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

The final item addressed was the request made by the Car Show committee to close a few blocks downtown on June 13<sup>th</sup> for a car and tractor show. Liden explained that cars would be displayed on the first blocks of Washington Ave. both east and west of Highway 32 and that tractors would be displayed on the first block of Washington Ave. W. The streets would be blocked from approximately 7 a.m. through 4 p.m. and would be properly barricaded. Liden also explained that the County would be contacted in regard to the closures on Washington since that street was a County Road.

After a brief discussion, Council member Hasler made the motion to approve the requested street closures for the car show. 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