

**Fertile City Council Minutes**  
**Special Meeting**  
**December 7, 2023**

The Fertile City Council held a special meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center Auditorium. Present were: Mayor Daniel Wilkens, and Council members Mary Kiefert, Amanda Bosman, and Matthew Massmann. Also present were City Administrator Lisa Liden, Deputy Administrator Stacy Erickson and Ashley Brandt-Duda of Eide Bailly. There were several community members in the audience. The purpose of the meeting was to host the audit presentation by Ashley Brandt-Duda of Eide Bailly.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Wilkens and began with those present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Ashley Brandt-Duda began the presentation by introducing herself and explaining the scope of their service as auditors. She explained that they do not look at every transaction, but a sampling of information to get an overview of the financial records and condition of the entity they are auditing as well as financial risks within said entity. She explained that their firm looks at internal controls, processes, and policies to find potential weaknesses.

She started with the audit opinion that both the City and Nursing Home had a “clean” audit. There was a going concern note that there was substantial doubt about the Nursing Home’s ability to continue as of the issuance date.

Under the internal controls portion of the presentation, Ms. Brandt-Duda explained the City and Nursing Home had multiple similar deficiencies. Limited segregation of duties was noted as a common problem for smaller organizations due to limited staffing. Material audit adjustments, and preparation of financial statements was also mentioned as being common for smaller organizations. The City had a deficiency in approval of employee hours and improper retention of employee personnel forms. The Nursing Home had a deficiency in account reconciliation.


The presentation continued with the City of Fertile report and a graph that compared the most recent 5 years. The fund balances were discussed, charts showed how the different fund accounts had performed during those years.

After the completion of the City report, the Nursing Home report was presented, starting with the annual trends. The audience presented a number of detailed questions after the presentation and questioned whether Covid had a part in some of the dramatic numbers. Ms. Brandt-Duda confirmed that it was a factor but she also cautioned that no single number or detail told the whole story of the financial reports. Council member Bosman asked about what appeared to be no cash on hand in 2017, and Brandt-Duda confirmed that there was less than one day of operating cash at that time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on a motion by Council member Massmann that was seconded by Council member Kiefert.



Daniel Wilkens, Mayor



Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator