

Fertile City Council Minutes November 14, 2016

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Dennis Hasler, Todd Wise, and Reid Jensrud. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, City Administrator Lisa Liden, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting, Marjorie Broden, Dan Wilkens and LaVonne Sannes from the Fertile Journal.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nephew and there were no additions to the agenda.

Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting then gave her report to the Council. She reported that they began the month of October with 40 residents and ended with 41, operating at 93% capacity. The home had also served a total of 344 home delivered meals.

This was followed by a discussion on the renovation project and whether or not to move forward on the renovation of six bathrooms during phase one of the project. Leiting explained that there were three options available. The first option was to renovate the bathrooms during phase one. The second option was to wait until phase two to do the renovations, and the final option was to not do the renovations at all. She explained further that the bathroom renovations would cost \$90,000 and that they didn't currently have the funds to pay that amount.

City Administrator Liden then went over some of the reasons it made the most sense to do those renovations during phase one. Council member Jensrud also stated that he felt that the renovations should be done now. This was followed by a discussion on whether the City could afford to pay for the project at this time. Liden explained that the money would be needed in December and that the funds would be available at that time since property taxes and Local Government Aid would come in December.

After further discussion of the matter, a motion was made by Council member Jensrud, seconded by Council member Hasler, for the City to loan Fair Meadow the \$90,000 that was needed to renovate the six bathrooms during phase one of the project. The motion was carried.

Director of Public Works, Kevin Nephew, then gave his report to the Council. Nephew reported that the Christmas lights would be going up this week in time for the Holiday Open Houses downtown. He also reported that J & R Wastewater were in town jetting the sewers this week. He explained that the sewers are done on a four year rotation and that there were a few lines that were done on an every other year rotation. Mayor Nephew then inquired whether or not there were any concerns about lines freezing up this winter. Kevin Nephew explained that there were a few lines that were problematic and that he usually notified those customers in February and had them start trickling their water to avoid a freeze-up.

Nephew then reported that the street sweeper was back and working good. The whole town had been swept at least twice and Dana Knutson would be coming in early the following morning to do all of Mill Street before the sweeper was parked for the season. This was followed by a discussion on the bids for the shop furnace and bids for the ceiling and lighting in the shop. Nephew also reported that the Massey has a leak in the master cylinder so all the brake fluid leaks out. He would be calling around to see about getting it repaired.

The next item Nephew addressed was the splash park as well as the replacement of the bathrooms in JD Mason Park. He reminded Council that once the splash park is built that we would need some

structure to house the mechanicals. He also asked whether the Council was seriously considering moving the skating rink over to the park as well. If the rink were to be moved, he explained that it would make sense to build something that would house the bathrooms, warming house and mechanical room for the splash park. Kevin stated that he would work on a few designs for Council to look at later. Kevin also stated that he would like the building to be a block structure rather than stick built so it would be more durable.

Mayor Nephew then invited Marji Broden to address the Council and give an update on the splash park. Broden explained that the ECI had done several fundraisers to raise money for the splash park. She also said that there was a Facebook page as well as a page on the NW MN Foundation page where people could make a donation online. The splash park committee was planning on sending out a letter to area residents and businesses seeking donations. To date, they had been able to raise \$33,598 of the \$55,000 to \$60,000 that was needed and they were hopeful that they would be able to place the order for the equipment in April or May. The equipment typically takes ten weeks to arrive so they were hoping to have the installation complete in July sometime.

This was followed by a discussion on possible grant funding available. Mayor Nephew asked Dan Wilkens if he knew of any DNR funds that might be available for building the warming house and bathroom building. Since the building was along the ATV/snowmobile trail, the building could be made available for trail users to use the bathroom and warm up. Discussion was also held regarding in-kind donations for the project.

Liden then gave a brief report on the Haunted Trails. She reported that attendance this year was excellent and had nearly reached 1,800 total for the five nights that it was open. She also reported that the busiest night had attendance of 479.

The minutes of the October 10, 2016 and November 7, 2016 special meeting were approved on a motion by Council member Jensrud that was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills was then presented by Administrator Liden. Liden went over some of the bills that had been paid in October as well as explanations on a couple of revenue items for the month. Liden also clarified some of the numbers on the profit and loss that Council member Hasler had inquired about the previous month.

Council member Widrig then made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The final item to be addressed was the election canvass for the general election. After a review of the results, Council member Wise made the motion to approve Resolution #11-1-2016 A Resolution Approving the Canvass of the Municipal General Election Held on November 8, 2016. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator