

Fertile City Council Minutes

August 11, 2014

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, August 11, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Dennis Hasler, Todd Wise, Tanner Lehmann, and Linda Widrig.

The meeting began with Barry Robertson, Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator, giving his monthly report to the Council. He reported that they began the month of July with 45 residents and ended with 44, operating at 88.65% capacity. In addition they served 141 home delivered meals and provided 26 days of adult day care.

Robertson then went on to report that the Fair Meadow Board had approved the estimate submitted by Downs and Nowacki for the replacement of the back-up boiler at the nursing home. The estimate was for \$125,000 and, given the high cost of the replacement, Robertson asked for the City Council to also approve the replacement of the boiler system. He went on to explain that the new system consisted of six small in-line boilers and that they would only have to use the number of boilers required to maintain proper temperature.

After a brief discussion, Council member Widrig made the motion to approve the replacement of the boiler by Downs and Nowacki. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

Robertson then reported that the Personnel Policy had been amended to stay in compliance with new legislation passed by the State. The Fair Meadow Board had also approved two scholarships for Fair Meadow employees to further their education.

Administrator Lisa Liden then gave a brief report on Agassiz Environmental Learning Center. She explained that Libby Eid had stepped down from the position of RSVP Station Manager and that RSVP was currently looking to fill that position.

There was no Public Works report since Kevin Nephew was absent due to a family illness.

The minutes of the July 14, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion made by Council member Widrig, seconded by Council member Hasler. The motion was carried.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then presented by Administrator Liden. Council member Lehmann made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

The first item up for discussion was the replacement of the dehumidifiers at the water treatment plant. Liden reported that the compressors had gone out on the two dehumidifiers that were installed when the treatment plant was built. Those two units were commercial units, but were not designed for cold operation. She explained further that Brian Downs had done some research on units that would function specifically in low temperatures since the treatment plant is consistently much cooler than 65 degrees. Downs also recommended installing the new unit just below the ceiling where the temperatures run higher than at floor level.

After discussing the matter, Council member Hasler made the motion to accept the quote from Downs and Nowacki contingent upon acceptance being within State guidelines on bidding. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

The annual review of the Rural Service District was the next item up on the agenda. After a review of the parcels that make up the District, Council member Widrig made a motion that those parcels were still eligible for the Rural Service District. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

Administrator Liden then reported that she had participated in a sales webinar promoting an online water billing system offered by Softline Data. She explained that the new system was more user-friendly and that more options would be available for online customer service and payment. Liden had also checked with another city that was using this system and that they were quite happy with the service. Liden also provided information on the annual cost savings with the new system compared to the current Banyon program that was being used.

Upon further discussion Council member Hasler approved changing the water billing system over to UBmax offered by Softline Data. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehmann and was carried.

City Engineer Steve Emery then presented the Council with the plans and specifications for the airport grading and ditching project. Emery explained that the project involved ditching and grading work on the northeast side of the runway as well as grading work on the north end of the runway to provide for a runway safety area. He went on to explain that the preliminary plans had already been approved by MNDOT Aeronautics and that the cost share for the project would be 90% State and 10% local. If approved, the City would advertise for bids with a bid opening date of September 4th at 11 a.m. so that the bids could be tabulated and ready to present at the September 8th Council meeting. The project completion date would be October 30th.

After further discussion, Council member Wise made the motion to approve the plans and specifications and authorize WSN to proceed on seeking bids. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

Mayor Nephew then asked Steve Emery if he would be able to assist with the persistent problems in town with discolored water. Nephew explained that the treatment plant was working properly and that the water was leaving the plant crystal clear. The water, however, tended to be discolored when it reached certain homes and businesses and that hydrant flushing only offered a temporary solution to the problem. Emery said that he would follow up with Kevin Nephew and discuss the matter further to see if there were any possible solutions.

This was followed by a discussion of the various options available for extending a sewer main to service properties along Highway 32 north that currently did not have access to sewer. Several possibilities were discussed and Steve Emery said that he would work with Kevin Nephew to get some estimates on one or more of the options discussed.

Mayor Nephew then asked Steve Emery about the dehumidifier that Downs was recommending for the water treatment plant. Nephew also inquired whether it was normal or acceptable for the two original units to burn out so quickly. Emery stated that the two original units were appropriate for that use at the time that they were installed and that he was not aware of any problems with them. He said that he would also have a colleague at WSN review the information on the unit that Downs was recommending for replacement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator