

Fertile City Council Minutes July 13, 2015

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, July 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Tanner Lehmann, Linda Widrig, Todd Wise and Dennis Hasler. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting, City Engineer Steve Emery, Lee Meier, Miriam Buchanan, Scott Hall, Dale Bauer, and Twylla Altepeter.

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

Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting gave her report to the Council. She reported that the month of June had begun with 43 residents and ended with 47. There had been five admissions and one death.

Leiting also reported that the bids for the remodeling project would close at 2 p.m. on July 14, 2015. The project had been broken down into six different categories for the bidding.

Public Works Director Kevin Nephew then reported to the Council. The drainage project at the airport had been completed but that the ditches may need to be reseeded after all the rain we had received.

Steve Emery and Kevin Nephew then presented information on the options for installing sewer on the east side of Highway 32 on the north end of town. Emery presented three options and it was determined that only two of them were financially feasible. Emery explained that easements would be needed for both of the realistic options.

This was followed by a discussion on the sewer extension. Dale Bauer and Scott Hall were present at the meeting to voice their support for the project. Since one of the options for the new line involved crossing property owned by Mel Bohnenkamp, Mayor Nephew phoned Bohnenkamp to see if he would be willing to grant an easement. There was no answer, so Nephew left a message. After that, bids, easements, financing for the project as well as necessary permits were discussed.

The next item up for discussion was a request by St. Joseph's Church to extend City water to their new building which will be built just outside of City limits on the east end of Fertile. One option discussed for the extension was to come off the end of the line by Eric Ellegaard's house on Stephen Drive. Again, easements would be needed for this extension and Kevin would need to get some cost estimates.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were passed on a motion by Council member Hasler, seconded by Council member Wise.

The Summerfield lease extension was the next item up on the agenda. Lee Meier from Northwest MN Multi-County Housing was present to answer any questions that the Council had. He began by bringing everyone up to date on the proposed 2015 bond issuance. He explained

that Fertile's facility was a general occupancy building with 14 apartments and that currently 12 were occupied by long term residents. The rents that were charged included all utilities and that total utility cost for the facility was around \$11,000.

Miriam Buchanan, also with NWMNMCH, also answered questions on the local apartments and explained that they were no longer called Summerfield and that the new name was Fertile Cottages. She explained that residents have been surveyed on their satisfaction with the facility and that all maintenance, including snow removal and lawn mowing, is done by local residents.

After further discussion, Council member Hasler made the motion to approve Resolution #7-1-15, a Resolution Giving Approval to NW MN Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority To Issue Refunding Bonds. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

Council member Lehmann then gave his verbal resignation from the Council. Lehmann explained that his house had sold so he was no longer a resident of Fertile. A motion was made by Council member Wise to accept Lehmann's resignation from the Council. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

Mayor Nephew explained that Lehmann's term of office was up at the end of 2016 and that he had contacted a person that had previously expressed interest in being on the City Council. It was decided that the Council would appoint someone to fill Lehmann's vacant seat at the next meeting. In the meantime, the open position will be posted in the Fertile Journal to see if there was anyone else that might be interested in the position.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator