

Fertile City Council Minutes September 14, 2015

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Linda Widrig, Dennis Hasler, Reid Jensrud, and Todd Wise. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting, City Administrator Lisa Liden, Paul Reese, Father Joe Richards, Ron and Linda Hanson and Jon Larson

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

The consent agenda was approved on a motion by Council member Widrig that was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting gave her report to the Council. She reported that the month of August began with 42 residents and ended with 40 and operated at 81.8% capacity for the month. They had also served 184 home delivered meals and provided two days of adult day care.

Leiting also reported that the contractors and engineers would be in this week to discuss the capital improvement project and that they would be setting a firm start date. She also reported that Vern Anderson had been awarded the bid on the flooring for the residents' rooms.

Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works then gave his report to the Council. Nephew began by questioning whether the final payment for the airport project should be made given the fact that there were some ditch areas that had washed out in torrential rains and those areas still needed to be repaired. Nephew stated that he would get in touch with Steve Emery regarding the ditch repair and it was decided to hold off on making the final payment until that matter was resolved.

As for the highway 32 north sewer extension, there was nothing new to report since there was one easement that still needed to be signed before the engineers could proceed on the plans and specs for the project.

Nephew reported that it was possible that TDS would be hooking up to the City sewer from the south of their new building. TDS had put in an offer on the Swenby property south of their new shop location and if the sale went through that the sewer could go across that property and would save them about 80 feet of sewer line. If the sale didn't go through, they would try to seek an easement from Swenby to cross the property.

The next public works item up for discussion was the water extension to St. Joseph's new church. Kevin Nephew had compiled an estimate on supplies as well as an estimate from Tim Olson on digging the new water line. He calculated the cost to be roughly \$30,000 and that was using a high estimate on the digging. As for the engineer's estimate for the project, Nephew felt that the engineer's portion was a little high at \$13,000. He felt that we didn't need to have WSN provide oversight on the project and that all we would need would be the plans and some work on property descriptions for easements. Administrator Liden commented that the engineer costs

on the Olmscheid's sewer extension were only \$4,700 and that the plans on this project should be more in that cost area rather than \$13,000.

Nephew then reported that he had spoken with Mike Strodtman at MN Rural Water and that our Wellhead Protection Plan would be amended prior to the public hearing in October. Since the new church location is in our wellhead protection area, Mike felt that we could secure some grant funding from the MN Department of Health to bring city water to the location in order to avoid another well being dug in our protection area. Nephew said that a grant could cover up to \$10,000 in costs for the new water main.

This was followed by a discussion with Council and Paul Reese, who was present from St. Joseph's building committee. The discussion centered on how the cost of the water main would be shared between the City and St. Joseph's. Also discussed was the timing of the project. It was determined that the City and the church would split the cost of the installation that was above any grant funding provided by the state.

As for timing of the project, both Reese and Kevin Nephew had spoken with Tim Olson and it would work best for his schedule to do part of the line this fall and the remainder in the spring. This fall the line would be dug as far as the township road and the line going south from that would be dug in the spring. Since Ron Hanson was present at the meeting and an easement would be required from him to cross his property, Hanson was asked if he would grant such an easement. After discussing where the line would be run on his property Hanson verbally agreed to the easement.

The next item up for discussion was the establishment of a yard waste dump site for City residents. Ron Hanson was present at the meeting and requested that the City look into setting up a site. He was in the process of clearing out the tree line on the south end of his field since that had been used for many years as a dump site for his own yard waste as well as for some of his neighbors. Jon Larson, who was also present at the meeting, explained that while it was nice that burning of yard waste was allowed it was not always possible to burn and that there was always a concern that the smoke would irritate neighbors.

Kevin Nephew then explained that he felt it would be possible to set up a dump site on the south east area of the Industrial Park. This was followed by a discussion of how other cities operate their dump sites, as well as security issues to prevent unauthorized dumping.

After discussion, a motion was made by Council member Jensrud to set up a yard waste dump site in the Industrial Park. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

Kevin Nephew then reported on a couple of items that should be included in future budgets. The first item was new siding for the Community Center since the current siding was starting to show its age. Another item to look at for the 2017 budget would be an inspection of the water tower. This was followed by a discussion on when the tower was last painted and how long a paint job typically lasts.

Nephew reported also that the sewer guys were in town and were jetting and televising about 1/3 of the City's sewer lines. Normally they only do about 1/4 of the lines but since they were unable to come last year Nephew increased the number of lines this year so they can catch up for the year that was missed.

Under department reports, Council member Jensrud gave a report on the Fire Department. The department had been out on three calls for the month of August and had been out on a total of 21 calls for the year. A pump had been replaced on one of the brush rigs and the department would be testing fire hydrant flows in the next couple of weeks. The department bylaws were currently being reviewed and would be revised in the next few months. Finally, Jensrud reported that the fire department and County EMS would be managing and auditing a FEMA grant that the department had written for the purchase of new radios for all the fire departments in Polk County. The grant was for \$727,000 and would pay for 12 base station units, 70 mobile units and 152 hand-held radios.

The Personnel Committee reported that they had met with Kevin and Lisa since the last meeting and that they had also met with Dana Knutson.

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were then reviewed. Administrator Liden briefly went over the receipts and disbursements for the month of August as well as the profit and loss reports. A motion was made by Council member Widrig to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Hasler and was carried.

The final agenda item to be addressed was the preliminary levy request and budget for 2016. Liden explained that she had increased the levy request by another \$2,000 for a total increase of \$6,000. She explained that it was necessary to do this in order to make sure that the City was keeping up with covering the inflationary increases in operating costs.

After further discussion of the matter, Council member Hasler made the motion to approve Resolution #9-1-15 City's Clerks Certificate of Proposed Tax Levy with a total levy amount of \$198,000. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator