

## **Fertile City Council Minutes**

### **April 11, 2016**

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Todd Wise, Reid Jensrud, Linda Widrig, and Dennis Hasler. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, City Administrator Lisa Liden, and Twylla Altepeter.

Mayor Nephew called the meeting to order and the open custodial position was added to the agenda.

The consent agenda, which included the minutes of the March 14, 2016 meeting and the annual fire department gaming permits, was approved on a motion by Council member Hasler that was seconded by Council member Jensrud and was carried.

Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Angie Leiting was unable to attend the meeting but had emailed her monthly report so those were distributed to Council. The report showed that the month of March began and ended with 40 residents operating at 78.84% capacity. The home had also served a total of 173 home delivered meals. City Administrator Liden also shared an email from Leiting regarding a meeting to discuss possible bond financing for the nursing home renovation project. Liden explained that Randy Aarestad from Red River State Bank had contacted a bond writer on behalf of the nursing home and that the bond writer had requested a meeting with Council to discuss financing. After discussion of the dates available to meet, a Special Meeting was called for 6:30 p.m. on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works, then gave his report. Nephew explained that Community Co-op was getting ready to start boring in the natural gas mains and that he had met with them two times regarding locations of City utilities. There had also been discussions on changing the locations of some of the mains from where they were currently shown on the map. Community Co-op would also be scoping and doing GPS on some of the lateral sewer service lines in town in order to avoid hitting them when the natural gas lines are bored in. They would be focusing on laterals that were dug fairly shallow and in line with where the mains were going.

Nephew also reported that he had been working with WSN on establishing the easement going south on 105<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW to the new church. He explained that the easement would be located in the road right-of-way so he would be going to the Garfield Township meeting after he was done so that he could get their verbal approval on the easement before it was formally written up by the City Attorney.

Reid Jensrud then gave the fire department report. The department responded to three calls during the month of March; two were grass fires and one was for a CO2 alarm. The department was looking into purchasing two new CO2 detectors since their current ones were old and needed replacement. They were also getting pricing on a newer 6X6 for grass fires since the current one has a head gasket going out in addition to other problems.

Jensrud also reported that the department would be assisting with a prescribed burn at the Nature Center in the area of Death Valley to take care of the creeping juniper that was invading the area and choking out other vegetation. He ended by reporting that the department had agreed to be in charge of the burn out contest that would be held in conjunction with the Car Show on June 11<sup>th</sup> pending Fair Board approval to use the grand stands for the event. They would also be doing a pancake feed the morning of the car show.

The Personnel Committee had nothing to report since they had been unable to meet since the last Council meeting to go over the employee evaluations.

Administrator Liden then briefly reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Bills. After a brief discussion and questions on a few of the line items, 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 Jensrud and was carried.

The next item up for discussion was the natural gas franchise agreement. Included in Council packets was a letter from Elroy Hanson with proposed changes to the language in two sections of the agreement that the City attorney

had recommended changes to. This was followed by a discussion of the proposed changes and questions regarding what was involved with Alternative Dispute Resolution and arbitration in a district court setting.

Council member Hasler made the motion to table the matter until the special meeting later in the month so Administrator Liden could get further information from the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Council member Widrig and was carried.

The opening of gravel bids was the next item on the agenda. Mayor Nephew explained that requests for bids had been sent to four parties and that two had submitted sealed bids. The bids were then opened and read. Lindberg Enterprises had submitted a bid of \$8.55 per ton for class 5 gravel and D & R Gravel had submitted a bid of \$9.15 per ton.

A motion was made by Council member Hasler to accept the low bid made by Lindberg Enterprises. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

The next item up on the agenda was handicapped parking by the drug store. Liden explained that Thrifty White had asked to have a handicapped parking spot made available around the corner from the drugstore on Lincoln Ave. NW. Apparently some customers had commented about having difficulty finding parking space that was handicap accessible close to the drugstore. Liden recommended that if a spot was designated as handicapped that there also be a time limit of a half hour for parking so that the space wouldn't get long term use and be unavailable to customers.

After discussion of the matter Council member Wise made a motion to establish a half hour handicapped parking spot right around the corner from the drugstore on Lincoln Avenue NW. The motion was seconded by Council member Jensrud and was carried.

The final item up for discussion was the custodial position that had recently become available. Liden explained that Lindi Mosher had been away for a few months and that Wendie Hasler had been filling in for Lindi until she was expected to return from her absence. Liden had recently learned that Lindi would not be returning to Fertile so the cleaning position was now available and needed to be filled. Liden requested that Wendie Hasler be hired officially for the position since she had been cleaning for a couple of months and had been doing a satisfactory job.

Council member Wise then brought up an article that he had recently read in the League magazine regarding whether certain workers should be considered independent contractors or employees. The example given in the article was a custodial position and Council member Wise felt it applied to the Community Center custodial position. Liden explained that when Lindi was hired for the position that she actually had a cleaning business so Lindi was considered an independent contractor. If an individual was hired to fill the position, however, that person would probably be considered an employee.

This was followed by a discussion on other part-time positions with the City and whether or not all open positions should be advertised. Council member Widrig stated that she would like to see all positions advertised so that everyone in the community had the opportunity to apply.

After further discussion of part-time employees as well as the open custodial position it was decided to table the matter until the special meeting that had been called for on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Council member Jensrud then commented that he would be unavailable to meet at 6:30 on April 26<sup>th</sup> because he had a conflict. He would, however, be available at 7:30. At that time it was decided to move the meeting time to 7:30 on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian Nephew, Mayor

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Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator

