

Fertile City Council Minutes February 8, 2016

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Dennis Hasler, Todd Wise, Linda Widrig, and Reid Jensrud. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Nephew, Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting, City Administrator Lisa Liden, and Twylla Altepeter.

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

Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator, Angie Leiting reported that the month of January began with 39 residents and ended with 38, operating at 73.74% of capacity. A total of 153 home-delivered meals had also been served.

Leiting also reported that the State had approved the decertification of the eight beds but that she had not officially applied for the reduction yet since it could affect the moving of patients when the renovations were being made. Leiting went on to report that the renovations had been completed on four of the rooms and that the nursing offices were now done. Four other resident rooms were currently being worked on as well as the activity room change to offices.

Kevin Nephew, Director of Public Works, then gave his report. Nephew reminded the Council that there had been a discussion the previous month about replacing the park bathrooms. With that possibility in mind, he had gotten some materials estimates from Fertile Building Center for an 18 foot by 20 foot building that would house both men's and women's restrooms. The structure would be stick built with concrete blocks at the base of the building and the remainder of the building would be covered in steel for durability. The price that Fuchs had provided did not include the concrete, plumbing, electric, fixtures or labor.

This was followed by a discussion of other possible building plans and whether or not to heat the building. Also discussed was the possibility of moving the skating rink to J.D. Mason Park and making the new bathroom building larger to accommodate a warming house.

Mayor Nephew then inquired about how well the grader was working. Kevin Nephew stated that it was working well but that it was very cold inside when it was windy. He said there were several air leaks in the cab that he would have to seal up.

This was followed by a brief discussion on the one-hour parking proposal that was on the agenda. Administrator Liden had requested that the area in front of the Community Center on Highway 32 be made into a one-hour parking zone from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking had become a problem in front of the building due to JT's employees parking in front of the building for eight or more hours while they were working across the street. Vehicles would also be dropped off there for hours when they were scheduled for service work. Liden felt that the area in front of the building should be available for short-term visitors to the library, clinic and City Office, many of whom are elderly.

Council member Wise asked how the City would enforce the one-hour parking if there were violations. Nephew and Administrator Liden responded that designating the area would eliminate many of the problems. Any chronic violators could also be towed if needed. This was followed by a discussion on sign placement and type of signs to use.

Council member Jensrud then gave the fire department report. He stated that there had been no fire calls yet in 2016. The fire department would now also be meeting quarterly to take care of maintenance issues with equipment. The portable radios would also be coming in sometime during the week. The retirement supper

would be held on March 11th and their annual City/township meeting would be held on Thursday, February 18th. Jensrud also reported that six of the department members had attended a “train the trainer” meeting in Fort Ripley.

Under the airport, Mayor Nephew reported that Tanner Lehmann had agreed to serve as an alternate on the Airport Commission.

The Personnel Committee had nothing to report.

The minutes of the January 11, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Council member Widrig that was seconded by Council member Hasler and carried.

The Treasurer’s Report was then presented by Administrator Liden. After a review of the Bills and the financial reports, a motion was made by Council member Wise to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Jensrud and was carried.

Mayor Nephew then told those present that there would be a community meeting on the new natural gas service on March 21st at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. The meeting was being held to answer any questions that residents may have and for those interested in signing up for the service, the process could be started that night. Since there could be questions directed to the City about the service and that there would likely be a quorum of Council members present, a special meeting would be called for that date and time.

The annual agreement with Widseth Smith Nolting to provide engineering services to the City was the next item up for discussion. After a brief discussion on the rising costs for the various services, Council member Hasler made the motion to approve the agreement for engineering services with WSN. The motion was seconded by Council member Jensrud and was carried.

The next item up on the agenda was the one-hour parking zone that had been discussed earlier during the Public Works report. After further discussion on enforcement of the new zone, a motion was made by Council member Jensrud to approve the establishment of a one-hour parking zone from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Highway 32 in front of the Community Center. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

The final item addressed on the agenda was the Airport Maintenance and Operations Agreement with the MN Dept of Transportation for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Administrator Liden briefly reviewed the agreement and the reimbursement rates that would apply to maintenance at the airport. Liden explained that this agreement covered reimbursement for costs such as mowing, snow removal, electricity and repairs to airport lighting. That reimbursement also paid an hourly rate for the use of City equipment for mowing and snow removal.

Council member Hasler then made the motion to approve Resolution #2-1-16 Authorization to Execute MN Department of Transportation Airport Maintenance and Operation Grant Contract. The motion was seconded by Council member Wise and was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

Lisa J. Liden, City Administrator

