

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

May, 24 2007, 7:00 PM, City Hall

### 1.) Call to Order

The Council Meeting scheduled for May 16, 2007 was postponed due to schedule conflicts.

The Fertile City Council met at 7:00 PM in regular session, May 24, 2007, at Fertile City Hall.

### 2.) Roll Call

Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell, Council Members: Jeff Berg, Loren Hoffman, Patrick Renchin, and City Clerk Eddie May.

Absent were Council Members: Tad Miller, Gail Shropshire, and City Maintenance Manager Warren Bruns.

### 3.) Minutes Approval.

- *Renchin motioned and Hoffmann 2nd to approve the April minutes.* Motion Carried.

### 4.) Roads Proposal

- Mayor Russell proposed the blacktopping of the three remaining gravel alleyways within the city limits.

- *Hoffmann motioned and Renchin 2nd to approve the paving of 3 alleys. Berg disapproved.* Motion Carried.

### 5.) Mayor's Report

- The Sherriff has dealt with the canines that have been killing local chicken and sheep.
- The city has obtained a map showing the lot lines for the properties east of the water treatment plant. Trees will be thinned and/or removed in order to allow access to the north side of the affected properties.
- Mayor Russell presented an updated Emergency Operations Plan for the NIMS program. This is an Emergency Management program. Without the approval of this program, the city cannot receive Federal Funding.
- Mayor Russell would like to remind the residents to consider their neighbors by keeping properties free from noxious weeds, garbage and other hazards. The Worth County Weed Inspector is investigating several complaints within the City.
- The City has a contract which provides a new lawn mower every two years. Fertile received a new Country Clipper as part of this contract this spring.
- Mayor Russell has researched the cost of creating a skating park for area skateboarders. The cost for new equipment would be over \$34,000.00. The council suggested looking for used equipment. Our insurance has also notified us that they will not cover anything related to a skate park.
- The City would like to remind parents and youth that it is illegal to skateboard on any public road within the State of Iowa. Skateboards can be confiscated and fines can be given. The tennis courts have been designated as a skateboarding area.
- A teenager was recently found climbing the water tower. Please realize that this is a Federal offense.
- The ball diamond project is nearing completion. The picnic tables should be installed this weekend, and the playground should arrive on June 6 or 7.
- The City has installed a new volleyball net near the ball diamonds. Please feel free to use the court at your leisure.
- Alliant Energy has added a new street light to cover the playground equipment.

- Several houses within City limits will be foreclosed within the month of June. Information about each foreclosure is posted on each home affected.

- The City is applying for a \$5,000 grant for street signs and posts.
- Kids have been seen vandalizing postal boxes again this spring. Please report any vandalism to the Post Office and the Sherriff's Office. We need everyone's help to stop the vandalism. Remember, this also is a Federal offense.

- The vandalism continued as the bridge lights were destroyed again. (THANK YOU DICK WORSLEY for replacing the lights!!!). Graffiti has also been found at City Hall and at the ball diamonds.

- It was asked if residents with pools would have to pay sewer usage on the portion of water used for filling their pools. The response was yes, they have to pay, even though the water does not go into the sewers. This is because it is currently impossible to measure the amount of water used for filling pools, watering lawns, washing cars, etc.

- Mayor Russell would like to thank Advantage Business Solutions for creating a website for the City of Fertile. ([www.fertileiowa.us](http://www.fertileiowa.us)) The site looks great, check it out today.

### 6.) City Clerk's Report

- May presented the April financials.
- A lien was presented for overdue utility bills against the property at 205 East Main Street.
- *Renchin moved, Berg 2nd to approve the lien.* Motion Carried.
- May suggested to offer an option for City Utility bills to be emailed rather than mailed. He also suggested the use of PayPal for City utility payments on the website. The council agreed, as long as each option is purely voluntary for residents
- *Hoffmann moved, Renchin 2nd to approve the set-up of a PayPal account. Berg abstained.* Motion Carried.
- *Hoffman moved, Renchin 2nd to approve the expenditures.* Motion Carried.

### 7.) City Maintenance Report

- Bruns was absent due to conflicting City schedules. Mayor Russell presented his notes.
- A valve at the water plant is being repaired. Warren has had to manually fill the water tower in the interim.
- A damaged grinder pump for the lagoon is being replaced and we are re-building the damaged pump. We will then have 3 reliable grinder pumps.
- Both phases of the sewer project are now complete. Because we are under budget, we will be replacing 3-4 more manholes than planned. Heartland Asphalt will be black-topping the roads once they are finished with the highway 18 project in Clear Lake.

### 8.) Other Business

- The Fire Department will be straightening out the flag poles on the fire hydrants within the City. They will also be adding reflectors to make them more visible at night.
- Residents have been complaining about dog barking. Please respect your neighbors and follow the noise ordinances.
- Tom Kirshbaum voiced his opinion that City needs to dig out the culverts along the roadside. This will allow the storm water to flow to the river.
- Tom also voiced his opinion that the City should not lowered the water and sewer usage minimum. He is concerned that the current rates will discourage people from living in Fertile. The

City responded that the cost increases only cover the actual costs associated with providing utilities to the residents of Fertile as well as the costs of complying with the DNR and other regulatory agencies. May suggested that if anyone can find another more equitable way to divide the higher costs, he is more than willing to discuss their suggestions and to present them to the Council for approval.

- May presented an initial rough draft of the community center plans. A survey will be mailed to residents within the next 60 days giving information and requesting opinions.

9.) **Next Meeting**

- The Fertile City Council will meet at 7:00PM in regular session, June 19, 2007, at Fertile City Hall.

10.) **Adjourn - Renchin moved, Hoffmann 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned.

**City of Fertile  
Expenditures and Revenues  
As of April 30, 2007**

Type	Name	Paid
<b>General Fund Checking</b>		
Bill Pmt -Check	ICAP	-12,038.07
Bill Pmt -Check	Iowa Jetting	-1,240.70
Bill Pmt -Check	Larry Elwood Construction	-21.46
Bill Pmt -Check	LGI	-9.80
Bill Pmt -Check	North Iowa Media Group	-99.63
Bill Pmt -Check	Pronto	-154.00
Bill Pmt -Check	UPS	-10.75
Bill Pmt -Check	Waste Management	-1,802.10
Bill Pmt -Check	WCTA	-127.70
Bill Pmt -Check	Northwood Anchor, Inc.	-34.00
Bill Pmt -Check	Aquila	-424.23
Bill Pmt -Check	Barco Municipal Products, Inc.	-291.03
Bill Pmt -Check	Bruns, Warren V	-59.10
Bill Pmt -Check	Menards	-42.03
Bill Pmt -Check	Thompson's Garage	-191.69
Bill Pmt -Check	UPS	-18.52
Check	Fertile Fire Department V	-1,625.00
Check	Fertile Public Library V	-3,375.00
Check	Berg, Jeffrey V	-215.00
Check	US Post Office	-72.00
Check	mydiscountdomains.com	-8.88
Check	Cherry Tree Builders	-3,274.00
Check	Fertile Garden Club	-500.00
Check	First State Bank	-10.00
Deposit		3,802.12
Deposit		3,822.47
Deposit		2,747.51
Deposit		5,870.36
Deposit	Diamond Joe Casino	1,971.40
Deposit		41.75
Deposit	Treasurer - Worth County	3,921.40
Paycheck	Bruns, Warren	-1,403.26
Paycheck	Ganz, Dennis	-53.07
Paycheck	Low, David	-300.73
Paycheck	May III, Edgar F	-642.37
Total General Fund Checking		-5,867.11
<b>Roads Revenue Fund Savings</b>		
Deposit		61.70
Total Roads Revenue Fund Savings		61.70
<b>Water Revenue Fund Checking</b>		
Deposit		2.25
Total Water Revenue Fund Checking		2.25
<b>Sewage Revenue Fund Checking</b>		
Deposit		3.32
Total Sewage Revenue Fund Checking		3.32
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-5,799.84</b>