

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2008, 7:00 PM, City Hall

1.) Call to Order

The Fertile City Council met at 7:00 PM in regular session, April 15, 2008, at Fertile City Hall.

2.) Roll Call

Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell, Council Members: Jeff Berg, Tad Miller, Cindy Peters, Pat Renchin, Gail Shropshire, City Manager Warren Bruns, and City Clerk Eddie May.

3.) Minutes Approval.

- Minutes were not available for approval.

4.) Ditch Excavating and Water Issues

- County Supervisor Darrell Bang, County Engineer Jim Hyde, Brian Nettleton and several residents were present to discuss the ground water issues.
- Hyde stated that anything within the City Limits is the responsibility of the City. He also mentioned that ice blocks and spring flooding is an “act of nature” and cannot be completely negated.
- Nettleton stated that the culvert under 1st street could be dug out a little better – fairly reasonably – but that this would not stop the long-term water issues.
- Peters motioned and Shropshire 2nd to approve of the replacement of the culvert under 1st street, north of Washington Street.* Motion Carried.
- Nettleton also discussed the run-off issues on West Washington.
- Peters motioned and Shropshire 2nd to approve of the proposed solutions by Nettleton.* Motion Carried.
- Other issues related to water flow restrictions created by residents will be addressed by the City on a per resident basis.

5.) Community Center Survey Report

- May presented the statistics from the survey. The results will be posted on the website at www.fertileiowa.us by the end of April.
- The Fire Department was ranked as the most needed improvement. The Library and Community came in second.
- There were several positive comments, several concerns and a few negative comments received.
- The committee presented several scenarios of how the project could progress. They were asked to come up with some figures representing the various scenarios. This will be presented at the next council meeting.
- Once the project is approved by the Council, the committee will present the information at an informal Town Meeting – opening up the meeting for questions and answers.
- The Council and the committee would still like to hear the community’s opinions. The survey is still available online and can be mailed in at any time.

6.) Knapper Building Appraisal

- The City has been considering the purchase of Doug Knapper’s building to be used by the Fire Department. Remax has appraised the Knapper building, and has found the asking price to be “well within fair market value.”
- The Fire Department is researching the price of a new Morton Building and also the costs associated with re-vamping

Knapper’s building for Fire Department use. The total cost of purchase plus the adaptation costs will be compared to the cost of a new building prior to making the final decision.

- Mayor Russell, City Clerk May along with the Fire Department, would write grants to pay for either scenario.

7.) Water Tower Paint & Repair Contract

- The City has been able to re-negotiate a contract with Water Tower Paint & Repair. According to the prior contract, the City would have been forced to paint the water tower next summer at a cost of \$70,000.
- The current contract calls for bi-annual cleaning and maintenance at a cost of \$1,660.00 every other year. The painting is not included in the contract and will be negotiated as needed. This contract is valid through 2018.

8.) Mayor’s Report

- Rich Mengas with Alliant, and Fred Hare are working on supplying 24 hour power to the City’s security cameras.
- Tom Steffany presented this year’s insurance premiums. The coverage increased in some areas. Due to depreciation, the City’s bill is \$10,888.30, almost \$2000 lower than last year. ☺
- Joyce now has a complete inventory of City vehicles.
- There have been several issues with utility payments over the winter. Several residents have been shut-off. Others have received notice for potential shut-off. We want to thank those who consistently pay their bill on time. You are greatly appreciated. ☺
- The City of Manly has offered to donate their old skate park to the City of Fertile. They have received a grant for a new park.
- Peters motioned and Shropshire 2nd to approve the acceptance of the skate park and the construction of a location to place it.* Berg abstained. Motion Carried.
- The Council has not decided where it should be placed yet.
- The North Iowa Tractor will come through Fertile on July 11th. The City is looking for parties to help host the event. Contact City Hall if you or your business may be interested.

9.) City Clerk’s Report

- May presented March’s financials.
- Renchin motioned and Shropshire 2nd to approve the March Expenditures.* Motion Carried.
- May mentioned that the landfill/recycling fund is consistently under budget due to temporarily withholding billing to residents who do not use the service – such as snowbirds ☺
- May will verify with Waste Management as to whether they charge the City for this or not. If they do charge the City, the City will need to bill the residents.

10.) City Maintenance Report

- Berg mentioned that the snow plow blades will need to be replaced before next winter’s season.
- Warren, Buck and Joyce cleaned out the City Garage and installed new commercial shelving. They also purchased a new Craftsman tool chest and tools.
- Warren and Buck are replacing the City’s signage. They have measured where the signs must legally be placed and marked them with blue flags. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE BLUE FLAGS NEAR CITY SIGNS.

11.) Other Business

•Questions were raised in regards to the barking Dogs and loose animals in the City. There is a City Ordinance prohibiting both. If a citizen wishes to report abuse of the ordinance they are instructed to contact the County Sherriff's Department. The City cannot enforce a civil fine.

12.) **Upcoming Meetings**

•The Fertile City Council will meet at 7:00PM in regular session, May 20, 2008, at Fertile City Hall.

13.) **Adjourn – Renchin moved, Berg 2nd to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned.

<i>Expenditures and Revenues</i>		
<i>As of February 29, 2008</i>		
<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>
General Fund Checking		
Bill Print - Check	Advantage Business Solutions	-130.00
Bill Print - Check	Alant Energy	-850.76
Bill Print - Check	Apala	-597.57
Bill Print - Check	Argy. Jeffrey V	-125.00
Bill Print - Check	Biot, Jr.	-143.00
Bill Print - Check	Harkins, Jr.	-5.00
Bill Print - Check	Jensen Shombing & Felting	-105.82
Bill Print - Check	LGH	-25.00
Bill Print - Check	Moards	-128.24
Bill Print - Check	Nils Foot Farm	-16.00
Bill Print - Check	North Iowa Media Group	-33.44
Bill Print - Check	Ponto	-82.00
Bill Print - Check	Pro-Kross Paint	-37.20
Bill Print - Check	Duplos	-120.35
Bill Print - Check	CEB	-11.76
Bill Print - Check	CDL The Lock	-178.36
Bill Print - Check	WCA	-109.98
Bill Print - Check	Wirth County - Engineer	-3,457.62
Bill Print - Check	Advantage Business Solutions	-482.15
Bill Print - Check	Apala	-670.92
Bill Print - Check	Fake Electric	-160.00
Bill Print - Check	Harkins, Jr.	-5.00
Bill Print - Check	DCA	-30.00
Bill Print - Check	Iwa Assn of Municipal Utilities	-342.57
Bill Print - Check	Moards	-65.30
Bill Print - Check	Niles Diesel and Automotive	-594.32
Bill Print - Check	Northwood Ache n, Jr.	-36.00
Bill Print - Check	Duplos	-33.78
Bill Print - Check	Verland Mccormy & Concrete	-75.00
Bill Print - Check	Waste Management	-1,802.10
Check	CDL'st Office	-78.00
Check	Reclut, Ben & Locky	-69.41
Check	Lee, Dan & Kristin	-148.67
Deposit		3,004.62
Deposit		38.24
Deposit		3,854.87
Deposit		10,988.94
Deposit		4,894.70
Deposit	Diamond Jo Casino	2,093.19
Deposit		1,225.95
Deposit		46.76
Paycheck	Davis, Warren	-986.81
Paycheck	Myr, J Edgar F	-766.89
Paycheck	Russell, Grant	-369.49
Paycheck	Russell, Lyce	-532.54
Total General Fund Checking		12,741.22
Roads Revenue Fund Savings		
Deposit		32.53
Total Roads Revenue Fund Savings		32.53
Water Revenue Fund Checking		
Deposit		1.99
Total Water Revenue Fund Checking		1.99
Dwage Revenue Fund Checking		
Deposit		2.94
Total Dwage Revenue Fund Checking		2.94
Total		12,778.68