

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2009, 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call

Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell, Council Members: Jeff Berg, Cindy Peters, Pat Renchin, and City Clerk Eddie May. Absent were City Council Member Tad Miller and Maintenance Manager Craig Koch.

Minutes Approval

- **Jeff motioned, Pat 2nd to approve the March minutes.** Motion Carried.

Filling Vacant Council Seat

- The Council chose to fill the vacant Council seat caused by the resignation of Gail Shropshire. Gail's term, as well as Tad's and Pat's, ends the end of this year, so the position will be voted on this fall. Two candidates submitted letters of intent to the Council: Penny Miller and Chris Anderson.
- Sealed votes choose Penny Miller to fill the seat.
- **Jeff motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve Penny Miller to fill the seat of Council Member.** Motion Carried.
- Penny was sworn in by Mayor Joyce Russell.

Pat Hyde – Property Improvements

- Pat, the owner of 308 West Main, was served papers regarding nuisance abatement at his property. Pat requested a hearing with the council to notify the Council of his decision to demolish all buildings at that location. The Council stated it would forward this info to the City Attorney.

Evelyn Elthon – West Washington Ditches

- Evelyn requested landscaping to be completed along the City right-of-way in order to assist residents in the mowing of the ditch after it had been re-dug to handle more storm water.
- The council stated that they would secure estimates for the landscaping.
- Discussion was also made regarding the possibility of homeowners filling in the ditch with a culvert. The Council stated that a building permit must be applied for and that the water flow must be considered before a permit will be granted. The ditch is part of the city-right-of-way and cannot be obstructed. Homeowners who do not receive a building permit prior to construction may be required to remove the culvert at their own expense.

Mayor's Report

- The City is now vested with our insurance company and therefore received a redemption discount on this year's insurance. The total annual insurance bill came to \$11,247.07.
- On March 18, the Sheriff was called in to escort minors out of Rhodes Island Park after curfew. The park closes at 10:00 and the curfew for those 17 and under is from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Minors should be escorted by an adult after 10:00.
- An anonymous letter was left at City Hall regarding Celebration Community Church's

occupancy of City Hall on Sundays. The letter raised the issue of separation of Church and State. City Attorney John Greve has informed the City that we cannot discriminate against the church and are required to rent the facility to them. If the City rents the hall to any non-religious organization, they must also open the hall to be rented by any religious organization.

- On March 25th, the City received a demonstration on the new FEMA approved warning sirens. The test siren was placed near the water tower and signal was heard past the East border of Fertile. The City will be submitting a grant to purchase and install the new siren in the near future. For now, if the current siren sounds for more than 1 minute or at any point besides noon, you can expect severe weather and should take cover.
- The old fire department is no longer for sale. The City will be using the building for additional storage of maintenance equipment and vehicles.
- Hare Electric and the Downtown café were recently broken into by two men from Wells, MN. The Sheriff's department has captured them and is in the process of pressing charges.
- The City has been conditionally awarded \$222,540 from the Housing Rehab grant we applied for last fall. The funds will go towards the rehabilitation of six units within the targeted area. More details will be coming soon.
- The City was also awarded a \$63,280 grant from the Worth County Development Authority. The funds will replace two manholes identified as damaged during the last flood, two water pumps and a natural gas generator for the water plant.
- The City will be blacktopping all of Washington Street and Third Street this summer. The County will be blacktopping all of First Street this summer as well. Other road projects will be scheduled as funding is available.
- The City has been receiving bids for the construction of a shelter house at the ball fields. More bids are expected to be received before a contract is assigned.

City Clerk's Report

- Eddie presented the March financials.
- The following statistics report the % of budgeted revenue received year-to-date as well as the % of budgeted expenses spent year-to-date: (we are 75% of the way through the year)

	General Roads	Landfill	Sewer	Water	
Income	66%	64%	76%	72%	71%
Expense	104%	38%	64%	22%	60%

- **Pat motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the March Expenses.** Motion Carried.

- Eddie presented four liens for Council approval as following: \$243.88 against 306 West Main Street, \$242.24 against 210 West Main Street, \$151.83 against 605 West Washington, and \$307.39 against 403 First Street North.

- **Pat motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the Liens.** Motion Carried.

- Eddie is in the process of reviewing water, sewer and landfill rates of surrounding communities in order to present suggestions on revising the rate

structures. He hopes to present this information at the next meeting.

- Winn-Worth-Betco has \$98,000 available as part of a Federal Business Grant to help businesses expand. The funds are available as part of a revolving loan fund with the stipulation that 1 full-time position must be created for every \$10,000 received. Call Teresa Nickelson at 641-592-0800 if your business is interested in applying.
- The Community Center/Storm Shelter/ Library architectural renderings have been posted on the website. The committee will be sending a copy of the renderings, along with a project update and survey to every resident within the next month. Grants have already been started for the project, though none have been submitted.

Other Business

- Jeff requested information regarding the City fixing Cindy Kilby's lawn after moving snow on it during the winter. Mayor Russell mentioned that it was on Craig's to do list.
- Jeff mentioned that the retaining wall on the south side of the dam needed to be looked at by the Core of Engineers for possible repairs.

Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile City Council will meet at 7:00PM in regular session, May 19, 2009, at Fertile City Hall.

Adjourn - Jeff moved, Penny 2nd to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned.

City of Fertile Expenditures and Revenues As of March 31, 2009

Type	Name	Paid Amount
General Fund Checking		
Bill Pmt - Advantage Business Solutions		-80.00
Bill Pmt - Alliant Energy		-1,109.89
Bill Pmt - Black Hills Energy		-887.32
Bill Pmt - BMC Aggregates L.C.		-3.98
Bill Pmt - Brian Nettleton Excavating, Inc.		-787.50
Bill Pmt - Burtness-Lundgren Plumbing		-114.86
Bill Pmt - Eliot, Inc.		-211.25
Bill Pmt - Iowa Assn. of Municipal Utilities		-359.34
Bill Pmt - Kramer Ace Hardware		-78.25
Bill Pmt - LGI		-11.00
Bill Pmt - Staples		-32.51
Bill Pmt - UPS		-11.64
Bill Pmt - WCTA		-133.19
Bill Pmt - Bruns, Warren V		-57.00
Bill Pmt - Alltel		-59.12
Bill Pmt - Black Hills Energy		-619.94
Bill Pmt - Hare Electric		-90.00
Bill Pmt - Hawkins, Inc.		-119.03
Bill Pmt - LGI		-11.00
Bill Pmt - Municipal Supply, Inc.		-507.00
Bill Pmt - Northwood Anchor, Inc.		-36.00
Bill Pmt - Pronto		-56.54
Bill Pmt - UPS		-11.58
Bill Pmt - Waste Management		-1,834.30
Check - First State Bank		-2,455.15
Check - First State Bank		-1.34
Check - ICAP		-11,247.07
Deposit		4,614.70
Deposit		133.87
Deposit		15,507.29
Deposit		3,378.60
Deposit		2,322.11
Deposit		883.60
Deposit		20.68
Paycheck Bruns, Warren		-308.87
Paycheck Koch, Craig A.		-952.07
Paycheck May III, Edgar F.		-760.07
Paycheck Russell, Joyce		-531.32
Total General Fund Checking		<u>3,382.72</u>
Roads Revenue Fund Savings		
Deposit		9.78
Total Roads Revenue Fund Savings		<u>9.78</u>
Water Revenue Fund Checking		
Deposit		1.84
Total Water Revenue Fund Checking		<u>1.84</u>
Sewage Revenue Fund Checking		
Deposit		4.09
Total Sewage Revenue Fund Checking		<u>4.09</u>
TOTAL		<u><u>3,398.43</u></u>