

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2010 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call

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

Minutes Approval

- One edit on April minutes - Under Mayors Report it says that there will be a Sheriff's sale for 504 W. Washington. Revise to say 501 W. Washington.
- **Jeff motioned, Pat 2nd to approve the April minutes.** Motion Carried.

Waste Management Contract

- Waste Management representatives presented two options to last month's proposed rate increases allowing for a rate increase and a new contract for five years with guaranteed cost of living increases of 3% per year plus built in fuel surcharges if fuel exceeds \$3 per gallon.
- The proposed rate increases are outlined below:

	Current	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Garbage:	\$10.75	11.07	11.40	11.75	12.10	12.46
Recycling:	\$1.80	1.85	1.91	1.97	2.03	2.09

(The City currently charges \$11.50 for garbage and \$2.25 for recycling to cover billing costs)

- WM stated that we could save a little money by using smaller garbage carts:

Proposed:	96 Gallons	64 Gallons	32 Gallons
	\$11.07	\$10.57	\$10.07

- The Council agreed that the 96 Gallon cart is worth the .50 difference.
- Fuel Surcharges would be as follows:

< \$3.00	0%	> \$3.25	4%	> \$3.75	6%	> \$4.25	8%
> \$3.00	2%	> \$3.50	5%	> \$4.00	7%	> \$4.50	9%
- Eddie proposed that the fuel surcharge be based on a percentage scale keyed off fuel prices at the beginning of each fiscal year, rather than a static dollar amount based off current prices. This will cause the fuel surcharge 3-5 years from now to be calculated from inflated prices, rather than current prices, since the 3% annual increase will already cover inflation.
- WM said they will consider this change and will present an updated contract prior to June's Council.
- WM also stated that they will include 2 roll-off bins for spring cleaning as part of the new contracted rate (at no additional cost to the City).
- **The City will hold a public hearing at the next Council Meeting on June 15th to revise the utility billing ordinance to cover these increases.**

Larsen Plumbing & Heating – Water Drainage Issues

- There have been complaints on extensive standing water on the North West corner of Larsen's property.
- The Council closed the meeting and toured the area. Since the ground was dry, they could not suggest a course of action.
- The Council will visit the site after the next rain to determine the severity of the issue. No course of action will be taken until then.

Mayor's Report

- On Earth Day, the City planted six trees along the south side of the ball fields and playground as part of a Trees Forever grant. Buck Russell and Kenny Strohmman have volunteered to water the new trees.
- Buck and Joyce Russell have also planted a tree near the ball fields in remembrance of their Grandson Tanner.
- Rich Mengas of Alliant Energy presented a map of the City's electrical system. Each lighting fixture is uniquely numbered to allow for easier communication for updates and maintenance.
- Buck and Joyce Russell, Kenny Strohmman, and Lloyd Knudson installed protective coverings over the ball field fences as requested by our insurance.
- The Little League has paid for upgrades to the dugouts including new fencing and cement foundations.
- Thank you for keeping your property looking nice this summer. Vacant property can be mowed by the City, at a considerable cost to the owner.
- On May 20th, Mayor Russell will present eight \$5,434.30 scholarships to Forest City Seniors, who live in Worth County, from the Worth County Development Authority (charitable arm of the Diamond Joe Casino). WCDA has also awarded \$80,063.72 to Forest City Schools for Fertile Students for the next school year.

City Clerk's Report

- Eddie presented the April financials along with numbers up-to-date.
- The following statistics report the % of budgeted revenue received year-to-date as well

as the % of budgeted expenses spent year-to-date 83% of year).

	General	Roads	Landfill	Sewer	Water
Income	87%	87%	81%	82%	84%
Expense	80%	108%	86%	77%	91%

(The Roads Fund is currently over budget due to the City's portion of the new road surfacing done in July, 2009.)

- The City currently has a \$37,728 Net Loss for the fiscal year. *This deficit is the result of the road surfacing done in July, 2009, the \$30,000 purchase of Hall's Apartments and \$3,500 cost to remove asbestos, as part of the Community Center Project, the City's portion of the CDBG housing project, and un-budgeted Garden Club expenses budgeted for next year. \$33,500 will be reimbursed to the City from the WCDA grant awarded last fall before the end of the fiscal year. The remaining deficit will be covered by un-spent budgeted line items and/or taken out of savings.*
- **Cindy motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the April Expenses.** Motion Carried.

Maintenance Report

- Iowa Jetting was called in to blow out several turtles that had plugged up the lagoon drains.
- Craig has taken a few courses towards his water/sewer license. (Warren is still the water/sewer superintendent) He is learning several new techniques for maintaining and analyzing the systems.
- Craig will be flushing the water mains soon. Watch the Forest City and Northwood papers for dates and times.
- If your water bill is drastically different from one month to the next, please notify Craig. You may have a water leak either in, or outside your home.
- Craig has been, and will continue to spray for weeds in the parks and ball fields. If Craig has to spray weeds in the City right of way, or on private property, the owners will be billed for this service.

Committee Reports

- **Fertile Days:** The Fertile Days Committee has been working hard to organize several activities for our celebration. A tentative schedule will be posted on the City's website at www.fertileiowa.us by the end of the month.
- **Garden Club:** The Garden Club has started to spruce up Main Street!

Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile City Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00PM, Tuesday, June 15th, 2010, to propose an amendment to the utility billing ordinances to allow the City to cover the cost of service and administration. (2nd and 3rd hearings can be waived if there are no objections presented at the 1st hearing – come and let your voice be heard)
- The Fertile City Council will meet at 7:15PM in regular session, Tuesday, June 15th, 2010, at Fertile City Hall.

Adjourn - Pat Motioned, Jeff 2nd to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Expenditures and Revenues

As of April 30, 2010

Type	Name	Memo	Paid
General Fund Checking			
Bill Pmt -Check	Black Hills Energy	Utilities	-292.69
		Trees Forever Grant (for Ballfields)	
Bill Pmt -Check	Natural Plus	6th Monthly Installment - Housing Grant	-2,040.00
Bill Pmt -Check	NIACOG	Gas	-300.00
Bill Pmt -Check	Pronto	Water/Sewer Testing	-9.39
Bill Pmt -Check	UPS	Craig's Phone	-27.88
Bill Pmt -Check	Verizon Wireless	Garbage/Recycling	-42.85
Bill Pmt -Check	Waste Management	Phone/Internet	-1,792.90
Bill Pmt -Check	WCTA	Quarterly Allocation	-128.96
Check	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-2,750.00
Check	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,620.25
Check	First State Bank	Fire Dept Loan	-2,455.15
Deposit	Property Taxes & Liens	Deposit	20,966.53
Deposit	Utility Payments	Deposit	9,410.27
Deposit	Utility Payments	Deposit	472.36
Deposit	Utility Payments	Deposit	4,355.93
Deposit	Diamond Joe Casino	Deposit	3,357.69
Deposit	Local option Sales Tax	Deposit	1,323.11
Deposit	Streets	Deposit	1,476.25
Deposit		Interest	13.76
Liability Check	IRS	FICA Withholding	-619.52
Liability Check	IPERS	IPERS Withholding	-347.48
Liability Check	Treasurer - State of Iowa	State Withholding	-397.00
Paycheck	Bruns, Warren		-308.17
Paycheck	Koch, Craig A.		-619.12
Paycheck	May III, Edgar F.		-578.90
Paycheck	Russell, Joyce		-643.37
Paycheck	Koch, Craig A.		-644.47
Paycheck	Koch, Craig A.		-724.62
Sales Tax Paym	Iowa Department of Revenue	an Sales Tax Payment	-948.00
Total General Fund Checking			21,085.18
Roads Revenue Fund Savings			
Deposit		Interest	9.57
Total Roads Revenue Fund Savings			9.57
Water Revenue Fund Checking			
Deposit		Interest	1.57
Sewage Revenue Fund Checking			
Deposit		Interest	3.50
TOTAL			21,099.82