

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2011 - 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; Maintenance Manager Buck Russell and City Clerk Eddie May.
- Jeff motioned, Pat 2nd to approve the January Minutes.* Motion Carried.

28E Agreement with the Mason City Fire Department

- A letter was sent to the Fertile Fire Department inviting us to join in on a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Mason City Fire Department. The agreement would allow Fertile's Fire Chief to request assistance from the Mason City Fire Department as needed, without a disaster declaration from Emergency Management. The assistance most likely to be requested would be in response to hazmat emergencies, although other services can be requested. The City has a similar agreement with the Fire Departments in Hanlontown and Joice.
- Tad motioned and Cindy 2nd to approve a mutual aid agreement between the Fertile Fire Department and the Mason City Fire Department.* Roll call vote was held, Motion carried unanimously. Full copies of the resolution, and 28E Agreement, are available at City Hall.

Kathryn Olson's Estate

- Don Olson, Dorrie Hesley and Cory Olson requested that the outstanding utility bill balance for Kathryn's property at 110 West Main Street be written off. The property has been informally for sale, but has not been listed with a Realtor. There is a current bid in for the property, but the buyers do not want to pay the outstanding balance. The bid is so low that there will not be any money left to pay the balance after closing costs and attorney fees.
- City Clerk May found that the property had been charged for garbage and recycling, even though the property was vacant. He suggested that balance could be justifiably written off to cover the balance of the account that has not been submitted for liens. The Council agreed. Mayor Russell requested time to seek legal advice regarding the balance currently held on liens at the courthouse.
- City Ordinances state that the minimum charge for water and sewer are to be assessed, even if the property is vacant, for any reason. The minimum charges cover the costs of the water and sewer loans and other fixed costs for the utility system. However, both garbage and recycling are optional.

Community Center / City Hall

- The City submitted a grant to the Worth County Development Authority, the charitable arm of the Diamond Joe Casino, in the amount of \$102,805.00 for the 2nd phase of the Community Center/City Hall project. This portion of the project would cover demolition, framing, windows, doors, electrical and plumbing for the facility. The City would use \$20,000 of the money from the sale of the old fire department to cover the remaining costs of this phase of the project.
- Demolition, framing, windows and doors would be completed by Brcka Construction, Electrical by Hare Electric, and Plumbing by Larsen Plumbing & Heating. According to our city ordinances, any bid less than \$50,000 does not require more than one bid be procured.
- The City will know sometime in April whether or not we will receive the grant. If all goes as requested, the 3rd phase of project would be requested in the Fall. The 3rd phase would cover the costs of heating and cooling, interior doors, drywall and finishes, cabinetry, appliances, tables, chairs and misc equipment. This would complete the Community Center / City Hall portion of the Community Complex Project. It is projected that the City will need to use the remaining \$5,000 from the sale of the old fire station, as well as the balance of a \$30,000 line of credit 2 year loan, to cover all of the costs for this phase. The loan would be paid off with the monthly allocations the City receives from the Casino. As promised, no tax money has been used, or is planned to be used for this project.
- The projected cost of this portion of the project is \$438,000. The original quote for this portion of the project was \$748,800. By purchasing the Cherry Tree Building, the City will be saving \$310,800.
- The Community Center Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 8th, at 7:00 at City Hall, to prepare Capital Campaign materials for this project. Any money raised will first be applied to any project overages, then to the City's line of credit loan, and if a balance still remains will be used for the library
- This summer, as part of the final phase of the Community Complex Project, research will be started regarding the location and construction of the new library. If all goes as planned, the City would be able to start requesting grant funding in the spring of 2012 for the library. More information will be coming then, along with a schedule for town hall meeting regarding this portion of the project.

Mayor's Report

- The paperwork for the sale of the old fire department is at the Worth County Courthouse. We should be able to close soon. Buck, Joyce, Kenny Strohm and Warren Bruns moved everything out of the building into the old city hall building or into the new building.
- Ken & Deena Biretz have received information from Mayor Russell regarding a water trail along the Winnebago River portaging through Fertile. The Biretzs are part of a group based in Lake Mills who will be working on the project.
- The Worth County Sheriff's Department responded to a 911 call regarding a break-in in Fertile. The man was from Mason City. He was intoxicated and disoriented. The man was charged with trespassing and breaking an entry. Worth County responds to all 911 calls for the City of Fertile. In an emergency, you can call them directly.
- Mayor Russell attended the Worth County Sheriff's 911 budget hearing on February 27th.
- The Sheriff's Dept. issued 3 citations for speeding and reckless driving during February in Fertile.
- Mayor Russell met with McGuire Iron regarding the water tower inspection. The interior of the tower will be good for another 3-4 years. The exterior needs to be painted in the next 2 years. It will cost \$50,000 to sandblast, and apply 3 new coats of paint to the tower. So far, the City has \$14,000 saved for the project.
- On Feb 3rd, ICAP presented the new insurance policy. It is the City's 6th year with ICAP. They will present a list of requests for the City to consider to make the City safer.
- On Feb 7th, Mayor Russell attended the Worth County Assessor's budget hearing.

- Governor Branstad has proposed an increase in the Gaming Tax from 22% to 36% to help balance this year's state budget. For information regarding the increase, and how it may affect available grant funding, contact the Worth County Development Authority at 641-324-1618.

City Clerk's Report

- The following statistics report the % of budgeted revenue received year-to-date as well as the % of budgeted expenses spent year-to-date (58% of year).
- | | General | Roads | Water | Sewer | Landfill | Total (incl. non-budget items) |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Income | 68% | 61% | 61% | 62% | 64% | |
| Expense | 60% | 37% | 58% | 57% | 52% | |
| Net Income | \$6,240.37 | \$7541.67 | \$1,322.28 | \$3,372.17 | \$3,185.07 | \$22,975.31 |
- Pat motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve January's bills.* Motion Carried.

Maintenance Report

- So far, three people have requested application materials for the City Maintenance position. Only one has returned their application.
- Buck is working with Fred to troubleshoot issues with the new computerized controls and the generator at the water plant. The generator is throwing a breaker when it kicks on.
- Otherwise everything is going well. As long as the nice weather holds out, Buck will be able to read the meters at the end of the month, rather than estimating as previously planned.
- Warren is currently taking continuing education courses in Coralville for his water & sewer licenses.

Committee Reports

- Fertile Days committee received \$250 donations from both Five Star Cooperative & Land O'Lakes!

Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile City Council will hold a public hearing to approve the budget at 7:00PM, Tuesday, March 1st, 2011, at Fertile City Hall, and at 7:00PM in regular session, Tuesday, March 15th, 2011.
- Pat moved and Penny 2nd to adjourn the meeting.* Motion Carried.

City of Fertile						4:35 PM
Bills Paid						02/16/2011
As of January 31, 2011						Accrual Basis
Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	
001b - General Fund Accounts						
Check	01/01/2011	5455	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-2,750.00	
Check	01/01/2011	5456	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,620.25	
Deposit	01/03/2011			Deposit	1,686.67	
Deposit	01/04/2011			Deposit	1,914.60	
Deposit	01/05/2011			Deposit	929.61	
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5466	Bruns, Warren		-307.47	
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5467	May III, Edgar F.		-934.59	
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5468	Russell, Grant		-733.11	
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5469	Russell, Joyce		-537.67	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/05/2011	5477	Greve Law Office	Legal Services	-1,000.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/05/2011	5478	Kramer Ace Hardware	Snow Shovel	-15.49	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/05/2011	5479	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	install water meters	-136.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/05/2011	5480	North Iowa Media Group	public hearing - building	-56.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/05/2011	5481	WCTA	phone & internet	-142.62	
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5482	Berg, Jeffrey	snow removal	-485.38	
Check	01/05/2011	5902	Appel, Jerry & Paula	NSF	-298.05	
Check	01/06/2011	5483	US Post Office	Postage	-129.60	
Deposit	01/10/2011			Deposit	859.82	
Check	01/11/2011	debit	Iowa Rural Water Association	Training	-175.00	
Deposit	01/12/2011			Deposit	2,788.59	
Paycheck	01/12/2011	5484	Miller, Josh	Snow Removal	-270.96	
Deposit	01/14/2011			Deposit	2,427.74	
Check	01/18/2011		First Security Bank & Trust	Community Center Loan	-2,500.00	
Deposit	01/18/2011			Deposit	1,436.39	
Deposit	01/19/2011			Deposit	3,225.68	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5495	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-946.25	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5496	Hawkins, Inc.	chlorine	-10.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5497	Iowa One Call	One Call Services	-14.40	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5498	Menards	Supplies / Light Fixtures	-407.72	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5499	Municipal Supply, Inc.	Meters	-1,074.41	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5500	Northwood Anchor, Inc.	year end report, maint position	-275.03	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5501	UPS	water testing	-18.01	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5502	Verizon Wireless	cell phone	-42.92	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5503	Waste Management	landfill	-1,845.74	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/19/2011	5504	Worth County Engineer v	diesel fuel	-40.80	
Check	01/19/2011	5505	Fertile Public Library V	Direct State Aid	-1,054.82	
Deposit	01/26/2011			Deposit	4,603.92	
Liability Check	01/26/2011	5506	United States Treasury		-798.33	
Liability Check	01/26/2011	eftps	IPERS		-222.21	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/26/2011	5507	Eliot, Inc.	fix snow plow	-682.00	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/26/2011	5508	LGI	water testing	-33.00	
Check	01/26/2011	5509	Miller, Penny v	garden club reimb.	-123.95	
Sales Tax Payment	01/31/2011	eFile	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-905.00	
Liability Check	01/31/2011	eFile	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-181.00	
Deposit	01/31/2011			Interest	89.35	
Total 001b - General Fund Accounts						-3,805.41
110b - Roads Revenue Accounts						
Deposit	01/31/2011			Interest	9.96	
600b - Water Revenue Accounts						
Deposit	01/31/2011			Interest	15.49	
610b - Sewer Revenue Accounts						
Deposit	01/31/2011			Interest	11.54	
TOTAL						-3,768.42