

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

May 17, 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, Cindy 2nd to approve the April Minutes.* Carried.

### Alliant Energy – Tree Issues

- Rich Mengas, from Alliant Energy, has notified the City that they will need to trim off the top 1/3 of 2 of the 3 pine trees to the east of the new building. The lines going through the trees are the main lines coming into town. If an ice storm weighs down the branches, there is a good chance that the power would go out in the entire city.
- Alliant will also be trimming trees, to clear power lines, throughout the city, within the next few weeks.
- Mayor Russell met with Natural Plus Nursery in regards to planting new trees around the new building. She asked them about the health of the pine trees. They suggested that we take those trees completely out and trim the third tree up high enough to mow under.
- Mayor Russell also asked Rich if Alliant could post a flood light on the pole directly east of the new building, to light up the parking area. Rich thought it would cost \$18-\$22 per month.
- *Penny motioned, Cindy 2nd remove the south two pine trees on the east side of the new building's property line and to have Alliant install a flood light for the parking lot.* Motion Carried. Once the building project is complete, the City will look into various landscaping options.

### Fertile Clean-Up Day

- The City will host a clean-up day on May 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be 2 roll-off dumpsters, delivered by Waste Management, in front of the old City Hall building on Main Street. Residents of Fertile have been mailed a ticket, which they must present to drop landfill items in the dumpsters. *This service is only available to Fertile Residential Residents.* The dumpsters will be open from 8 am to 3 pm. Members of the Council will be there to assist in the loading of the dumpsters. *Waste Management will not let us take appliances, electronics, tires or paint.*
- Julie Jessen suggested that we allow people, between 8 and noon, to bring gently used items into the old City Hall building to allow people to pick-up items they may be able to use. Then if they do not get taken, that they then get dumped into the dumpsters.
- The Council suggested, that for this year anyway, that residents place gently used items on their curb on Friday night, before the cleanup day, and allow residents to drive by and choose what they want. If there are items remaining, the owner could then take them down to Main Street on Saturday to throw them away.

### Library Project

- Eddie presented multiple floor-plan drawings for the construction of the new Library at both suggested locations: Eagle Avenue and Main Street. Librarian Nancy Suby, and Library Board Members Elin Miner and Lisa May, presented a summary of the Library's mission statement, current services and obstacles of the current building. They also answered the Council's questions regarding activities and usage of the suggested areas of the new building floor plan.
- *Cindy motioned, Penny 2nd to acquire final architectural/engineering drawings and estimated building costs for building the new Library on Main Street.* Roll Call Vote was unanimous, Motion Carried.

### Mayor's Report

- NIACOG does take care of obtaining certificates of insurance for the contractors involved in the housing grant projects.
- The City received a check from our insurance provider, in the amount of \$1,358.60 for being vested for 6 years.
- Construction has begun on the new community center. Demolition has been completed, framing, electrical and plumbing are underway.
- The Fire Department performed a controlled burn on construction materials demoed from the building. Brian Nettleton will bury what he can, and dump what cannot be buried.
- The City has received 3 applications for the Maintenance position. The Council reviewed all three applications. The job is still available, starting at \$12/hour, IPERS and paid vacation. The job is 30 hours per week on average, and requires a person to live in or near Fertile.
- On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Russell attended a 7 hour continuing education course for Emergency Management & Homeland Security. The course covered school safety & terrorism (shootings & bombings). The course was geared to law enforcement and elected officials.
- On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mayor Russell attended the public meeting in Hanlontown regarding the closing of their post office. Before Sept. 78 post offices will close in the state of Iowa, unemploying more than 7,500 workers. Hanlontown's will close within 30 days. Cluster boxes will serve the residents of Hanlontown and the rural areas.
- Postmaster Danny ??? states that he is concerned with the future of our post office. He is concerned that the only way to possibly keep the post office is to have the City fund the building expense including rent and utilities. He is not sure that even those measures may not be able to keep the Fertile office open.
- FEMA has provided a new flood plain map of Fertile. Several houses previously in the flood plain have been removed. Copies of the new map can be picked up at City Hall upon request.
- Buck, Kenny Strohman, and Mayor Russell, cleaned up the park, potted plants, hung a new flag, racked the flower beds, in preparation for Memorial Day.
- On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Russell attended a Budget Amendment hearing for Emergency Management.
- Mayor Russell planted new flowers in the old Cherry Tree sign landscape. Hare Electric will be removing the sign's spot lights.
- Plucketts sprayed for bugs around the new City Hall.
- On May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Worth County K-9 unit will be using the Community Center for training, and the Worth County Reserve Unit will use City Hall for classes on the same night.
- The lights on the tennis court will be fixed, and a timer will be installed to automatically shut the lights off after use.
- At 9:20, Mayor Russell closed the public meeting to address a couple grievances regarding residents. At 9:25, the meeting was re-opened.

### 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 (83% of year).

	General	Roads	Water	Sewer	Landfill	Total (incl. non-budget items)
Income	97%	92%	83%	85%	88%	
Expense	86%	49%	82%	78%	75%	
Net Income	\$8950	\$13,049	\$724	\$4,980	\$3,457	\$57,941

- *Penny motioned, Pat 2nd to approve April's bills.* Motion Carried.

### Maintenance Report

- The generator at the water plant failed to start yesterday. Buck will be speaking with Hare Electric to troubleshoot.

- The weed waker needs some repair, or may need to be replaced.
- Buck & Warren have been draining the lagoons, and will continue draining over the next few weeks. The Eagle has helped us out by removing a couple a woodchucks who had nested in the lagoon.

## Other Business

- Jeff and Buck will be jacking up some of the culverts in town, helping rain water drain under the roads.
- Fertile Days Committee will meet tomorrow night.
- Pat asked about the progress on the parking lot for the new building. Mayor Russell stated that BMC and Brian Nettleton are coordinating the best plan of action for the City and should be implementing a plan within the next few weeks.
- Eddie suggested that the Council consider using the upstairs of the new building for a new business incubator. The incubator would lease out space for small businesses at a graduated scale for a length of 3 years. This allows new businesses to grow, and encourages them to locate in Fertile. The Council said they would ponder the idea.

## Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile City Council will meet in regular session at 7:00PM, Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, at Fertile City Hall.
- **Pat moved and Penny 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Motion Carried.

City of Fertile 3:42 PM  
 Bills Paid 05/18/2011  
 As of April 30, 2011 Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
<b>General Fund Accounts</b>					
Deposit	04/04/2011			Deposit	1,768.01
Deposit	04/04/2011			Deposit	3,302.69
Deposit	04/06/2011			Deposit	654.85
Paycheck	04/06/2011	5566	Bruns, Warren		-314.47
Paycheck	04/06/2011	5569	May III, Edgar F.		-599.92
Paycheck	04/06/2011	5568	Russell, Grant		-669.66
Paycheck	04/06/2011	5567	Russell, Joyce		-625.93
Liability Check	04/08/2011	I-Que	IPERS	Retirement Fund	-270.41
Liability Check	04/08/2011	EFTP	United States Treasury	Payroll Withholding	-1,255.65
Liability Check	04/08/2011	eFile	Iowa Department of Revenue & Fi	Payroll Withholding	-132.00
Sales Tax Payment	04/08/2011	eFile	Iowa Department of Revenue & Fi	Sales Tax	-917.00
Deposit	04/12/2011			Deposit	197.18
Check	04/13/2011	5581	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-2,750.00
Check	04/13/2011	5582	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,620.25
Deposit	04/13/2011			Deposit	3,533.34
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5570	Barco Municipal Products, Inc.	Yield Sign	-43.53
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5571	Brcka Construction, Inc.	Garage Door in Maint Shed	-1,746.76
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5572	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5573	Menards	Tools / Wet-Dry Vac	-96.41
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5574	North Central Sales & Service	Mower Purchase	-5,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5575	North Iowa Septic Solutions	Clean Out Wash St Catch Basin	-355.75
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5576	Northwood Anchor, Inc.	Subscription	-36.00
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5577	Pronto	Training - Travel	-40.21
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5578	UPS	Water / Sewer Samples	-10.29
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5579	Waste Management	Landfill/ Recycling	-1,845.74
Bill Pmt -Check	04/13/2011	5580	WCTA	Phone / Internet	-147.30
Check	04/13/2011	5583	Fertile Public Library V	Direct Aid Sent direct deposit to us by n	-859.82
Deposit	04/14/2011		Treasurer - Worth County	Deposit	17,978.63
Check	04/18/2011	5552	First Security Bank & Trust	Comm Ctr Loan Pmt	-2,500.00
Deposit	04/19/2011			Deposit	1,273.81
Deposit	04/20/2011			Deposit	4,868.55
Check	04/20/2011	4029	Legler, Mark	NSF	-270.00
Deposit	04/27/2011			Deposit	4,106.45
Bill Pmt -Check	04/27/2011	5584	AgSource Laboratories	Water & Sewer Testing	-96.50
Bill Pmt -Check	04/27/2011	5585	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-309.29
Bill Pmt -Check	04/27/2011	5586	Staples	Paper	-46.99
Bill Pmt -Check	04/27/2011	5587	UPS	Sewer Testing	-10.38
Bill Pmt -Check	04/27/2011	5588	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-42.86
Deposit	04/30/2011			Interest	78.58
Total General Fund Accounts					12,138.97
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	04/30/2011			Interest	9.66
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					9.66
<b>Water Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	04/30/2011			Interest	10.58
Total Water Revenue Accounts					10.58
<b>Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	04/30/2011			Interest	7.88
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts					7.88
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>12,167.09</b>