

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2012 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

### Call to Order & Roll Call

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Julie Jessen, Penny Miller, & Tad Miller; Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts & City Clerk Eddie May. Absent was: Council Member Pat Renchin.
- Last month's minutes omitted the following motion: *Jeff motioned, Pat 2<sup>nd</sup> to enforce the ordinance regarding the removal of all road side obstacles which may hamper snow removal or traffic flow.* Carried
- *Tad motioned, Julie 2nd to approve the Jan. Minutes with correction stated above.* Carried.

### Public Hearing: Fertile Housing Rehabilitation Program

- Mayor Russell announced that this was the time and place for a Public Hearing on the status of funded activities for the City of Fertile CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program, which was financed by a Housing Fund grant awarded in 2009.
- The hearing was opened by Mayor Russell at 7:05 p.m.
- Steve Wendt of the North Iowa Area Council of Governments, which is providing general administrative assistance for the program, gave several comments on the program including:
  - A general description of the accomplishments to date.
  - A summary of grant and local match expenditures to date: \$191,196 of the \$222,540 in available grant funds has been drawn down to date, and the City has expended \$10,900 of its \$12,000 total local match obligation.
  - A general description of the work completed work remaining (6 projects have been completed & 1 is in progress)
  - Performance target increase from 6 to 7 homes rehabilitated
  - Activity schedules
  - And changes to the original project budget, as shown by a breakdown of the final costs expended on each of the 6 projects completed to date, and the funds obligated to date on the one final project in progress.
- Wendt then answered questions from the City Council.
  - The Council intends on applying for the Housing Rehabilitation Funding again in the fall of 2013. If awarded, additional projects could begin again in 2014.
  - The Council wants to give NIACOG and CDBG a big thank you for their hard work in making this program a success!
- Having no further discussion or comments, Mayor Russell closed the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.

### Public Hearing - Budget

- Mayor Russell opened the hearing at 7:28 p.m.
- Eddie presented the budget numbers in the format of the public notice for everyone in attendance to see.
- No comments were presented at this time.

- *Penny motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the 2012-2013 Budget.* Roll Call Vote was unanimous. Carried.
- Mayor Russell closed the hearing at 7:35 p.m.

### DNR Sewer Inspections Report

- Terry McCarthy, of Yaggy Colby, explained 3 infractions the City was cited for by the DNR during the last inspection: illegal discharge, illegal bypassing, and capacity overflow.
- The first 2 were minor issues and have been, or are being addressed as soon as weather permits. The 3rd infraction requires considerable action on the part of the City.
- The City has a permit, based on our system's capacity, to pump 56,000 gallons into the sewer lagoons each day. During 20 of the last 25 months, we have exceeded this permitted level.
- This City must take steps to lower the amount of inflow into the lagoons, or we will be required to build an additional lagoon at an estimated cost of \$500,000+.
- Over the next few months, the City will be cameraing the sewer lines, looking for ground water infiltration. This will give us the information we need to begin to fix the issues.
- More discussion will be held on this during the next several Council meetings.

### City Maintenance Report

- Warren, Steve and Buck tried to "MacGyver" a fix to one of the DNR's citations but the fix didn't work. In the spring they will make a permanent fix.
- Steve took the City truck in to get new tires and brakes.
- Since snow plowing has been minimal, Steve has been working at the proposed Business Incubator. He has been painting, filling in holes in the floors and removing debris.
- Steve has been filling in holes in the Main Street with gravel. It has been too cold to patch it, but as soon as it warms up enough, long enough, he will patch all the holes.

### Business Incubator Proposal

- Eddie presented information relating to: program goals, priorities, target business industries and services provided. This information will be available on the City's website within the next few days. ([www.fertileiowa.us](http://www.fertileiowa.us))
- Eddie suggested the creation of an Economic Development Committee made up of Council members and local business owners and managers.
- The business incubator at the Papajohn Center at NIACC is open to assisting our incubator and helping us get connected to the services already provided by the SBC.
- Eddie presented a budget for finishing the upstairs of the Community Center to house the incubator: (\$16,000 - \$20,000 for heating/cooling, electrical, repairs and flooring).
- Eddie presented a 5-year lease structure that would bring in \$16,000+ to cover the bulk of the initial construction cost.
- Jeff suggested using the monthly casino money surplus to cover the remaining costs.
- *Tad motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the creation of the Fertile Economic Development Committee, creation of the Business*

**Incubator Program, final construction of the incubator space, and public notice of request for applicants.** Vote was unanimous - Motion Carried.

- Applications for businesses interested in the Business Incubator Program will be available on the website [www.fertileiowa.us](http://www.fertileiowa.us) within the next few days.
- Applications will be presented to the Council at next month's Council meeting.

## Mayor's Report

- Had snow and ice storms on January 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Mayor Russell met with DNR and has corresponded with the Corps of Engineers and our insurance company in regards to the inspection of the Dam. Dam was last inspected in 1970s.
- The Fertile Days fundraiser went well bringing in \$231 (after expenses) to cover the short-fall from last year's event. POET also gave an additional \$500 for next year's celebration.
- The Fire Department received a WCTA grant for a new laptop computer and software.
- As part of next year's budget, the City will be putting in a new water meter at the Fire Department. **Penny motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the purchase and installation of the meter.** Motion Carried.
- Mayor Russell and Eddie will be working on amending the City's Flood Plain Ordinance. FEMA has updated the flood plain maps – taking many of the Fertile residences formally in the flood plain, out of the flood plain. A proposed map is on display at City Hall. The amendments to the ordinance will be made during a Public Hearing at next month's Council Meeting.

## City Clerk's Report

- Eddie presented the January Financials (58% through the year)
- |            | General         | Roads          | Water        | Sewer           | Landfill       | Total (incl. non-budget items) |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Income     | 48%             | 59%            | 66%          | 68%             | 69%            |                                |
| Expense    | 46%             | 27%            | 68%          | 94%             | 457%           |                                |
| Net Income | <b>-\$8,217</b> | <b>\$9,634</b> | <b>\$871</b> | <b>-\$5,413</b> | <b>\$3,855</b> | <b>-\$30,072</b>               |
- Deficit is caused primarily by Housing Grant and Community Center Grant money that has been spent, but has not been reimbursed by the CDBG or the WCDA yet.
  - **Jeff motioned, Julie 2nd to approve Jan. bills.** Motion Carried.

## Committee Reports

- Community Center – The sheet rocking has been finished. Painting begins tomorrow and will finish on Friday. The ceiling grid will be put in next week.

## Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile City Council will meet in regular session at 7:00PM, Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Fertile City Hall. There will be a Public Hearing to amend the Flood Plain Ordinance at this meeting.
- **Penny moved and Jeff 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Carried.

City of Fertile  
Bills Paid  
As of January 31, 2012

4:43 PM  
02/22/2012  
Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
<b>General Fund Accounts</b>					
Deposit	01/01/2012			Deposit	2,072.61
Deposit	01/03/2012			Deposit	2,297.76
Deposit	01/04/2012			Deposit	2,102.75
Paycheck	01/04/2012	5876	Bruns, Warren	Payroll	-311.39
Paycheck	01/04/2012	5878	Russell, Joyce	Payroll	-782.87
Paycheck	01/04/2012	5879	Roberts, Stephen J	Payroll	-801.90
Deposit	01/08/2012			Deposit	666.54
Deposit	01/11/2012			Deposit	4,185.75
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5881	AgSource Laboratories	Water & Sewer Testing	-69.75
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5882	CarQuest	Hydfluid for snowPlow	-53.58
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5880	Fertile Reminder	Advertisement Costs	-220.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5884	Hawkins, Inc.	Postage/supplies	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5885	Kramer Ace Hardware	Ice Melt/paint/lightbulbs	-101.43
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5886	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	parts and labor for new meters	-1,718.79
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5887	Menards	Garage repairs, and tile work in City Hall	-417.30
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5888	Pronto	Gas for city truck	-188.29
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5889	Waste Management	Landfill/Garbage	-1,918.58
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5890	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-138.32
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5891	Woodharbor	Hardware freight	-8.86
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5892	Hare Electric	Electrical repairs at: lagoon, street lights, and footbridge	-2,782.47
Liability Check	01/12/2012	etps	United States Treasury	Payroll Taxes	-1,278.09
Liability Check	01/12/2012	iQue	IPERS	Payroll Benefits	-771.05
Deposit	01/13/2012			Deposit	2,160.51
Check	01/16/2012		Iowa Rural Water Association	Training	-230.00
Check	01/18/2012	5895	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-3,500.00
Check	01/18/2012	5896	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	-4,750.00
Deposit	01/18/2012			Deposit	1,458.73
Check	01/18/2012	5897	Fertile Public Library V	Inter-Library Loan Reimb, Open Access	-615.49
Check	01/18/2012		First Security Bank & Trust	Comm Ctr Loan Pmt	-2,500.00
Paycheck	01/18/2012	5893	Roberts, Stephen J	Payroll	-832.60
Paycheck	01/18/2012	5894	May III, Edgar F.	Payroll	-673.97
Deposit	01/25/2012			Deposit	7,786.63
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5898	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-596.72
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5899	Forest City Ford	Battery, Starter, Connections replaced	-468.18
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5900	Frank's Repair	City pick up Repair	-55.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5901	Iowa One Call	Utility location	-0.90
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5902	UPS	Water testing	-10.81
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5903	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-43.46
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5904	Bates Bros. Construction	Housing Grant	-7,539.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5905	Meyerhofer Construction	Housing Grant	-12,797.00
Deposit	01/26/2012			Deposit	17,597.00
Check	01/27/2012		Sam's Club	Community Center Equipment (WCDA Grant)	-11,877.53
Check	01/30/2012		Sam's Club	Community Center Equipment (WCDA Grant)	-271.88
Deposit	01/31/2012			Interest	31.39
Total General Fund Accounts					-17,975.54
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	01/31/2012			Interest	11.98
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					11.98
<b>Water Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	01/31/2012			Interest	6.68
Total Water Revenue Accounts					6.68
<b>Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	01/31/2012			Interest	8.09
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts					8.09
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>-17,948.79</b>