

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2013 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

### Call to Order & Roll Call

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Julie Jessen, Penny Miller, Pat Renchin; City Clerk Eddie May & Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts. Absent was Council Member Tad Miller.
- **Pat motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the Dec. minutes.** Unanimous.
- **Penny motioned, Julie 2nd to add Vicious Dog Ordinance as a discussion option and approve agenda.** Unanimous.
- Agendas are posted at City Hall, at the Library, and at the Post Office, 24 hours in advance of each Council Meeting. If you wish to be on the Agenda, please contact City Hall two days before the meeting.

### Library Project

- The Library Board presented updated floor plans for 2 project options as well as estimated construction and operating costs comparisons after shrinking option 2 by 18% from the last plan submitted. They also presented a letter to the residents including reasons for a new library, talking points regarding pros and cons of both options and cost comparisons. **Pat motioned, Jeff 2nd to approve the tentative floor plans for option 1 and the letter to the residents.** Roll Call Vote: Unanimous.
- The 2 options will now be presented to the Architect for final review and confirmation of cost comparisons. As long as the architect confirms the floor plans and cost comparisons, the letter and floor plans will be mailed to every resident of Fertile and Fertile Township. Representatives of the City Council and Library Board will go door-to-door to solicit public opinion regarding both options. Once opinions have been collected and organized, a public hearing will be scheduled to announce the results and fully explain the option chosen by the public.

### Budget

- Eddie presented budget worksheets to help the Council prepare the budget for July 2013 - June 2014. The Library Board, Fertile Days Committee, and Garden Club presented financial statements and budgets to the Council for approval. The City estimated budget amounts for the Fire Department and Little League as budgets had not been submitted. The Fire Department is working on their budget and the Little League is currently looking for new directors.
- Each department submitting a budget was approved for their full request with anticipated grant assistance from the City Clerk.
- Tax rates were not increased for next year. (This Fiscal Year, **the City's portion** of property taxes is lower than 4 of the 7 cities in Worth County, only 2 cities are lower than ours. – **The school portion** of our property taxes raises our rate so that only 1 other city is higher than our overall tax rate. This last fall, the residents of Fertile had an opportunity to vote on removing a school tax from our property tax rates. The vote was overwhelming in favor of keeping the tax to support our children's education.)
- Next year's budget includes a 2% increase in garbage and recycling fees to cover a 3% increase in cost scheduled in our contract with Waste Management. Garbage would increase from \$11.95 to \$12.19 and recycling would increase from \$2.34 to \$2.39.
- A public hearing is scheduled for the next Council meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> (7:00 pm at City Hall). The proposed budget will be published in the Northwood Anchor and posted at the Library, Post Office and City Hall. The public is encouraged to come to the meeting to voice their opinion.

### City Maintenance Report

- Steve cleaned out the second unit in the business incubator so it is ready for development. Businesses looking to start-up or expand are encouraged to apply for the program. Rent is on a sliding scale (1<sup>st</sup> year is 25% of fair market rent value, 2<sup>nd</sup> is 50%, 3<sup>rd</sup> is 75%, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> is 100% of fair market rent value.)
- Steve took down the Christmas lights off the footbridge.
- Steve fixed the leaky coffee pots at the Community Center.
- Steve found a water leak caused by frozen pipes. Leak has been fixed.
- The transfer switch at the sewer plant has been fixed.
- Remaining doors from the Community Center renovations have been sold and removed from storage.
- Steve called about a surcharge proposed by Waste Management and our representative arranged to remove the surcharge keeping in line with our contract.
- **Pat motioned, Julie 2nd to approve report.** Unanimous.

### Mayor's Report

- Joyce and Eddie obtained quotes from Simmering-Cory and NIACOG for revising the City's Code of Ordinances. Iowa law requires Cities to revise their ordinances every 5 years. **Julie motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the low bid presented by NIACOG.** Unanimous.
- Joyce attended a retirement party for Worth County Auditor Kay Clark. The City wishes all the best for Kay and welcomes Jackie Backhaus as the new Auditor.
- Joyce and Warren filled out 2 DNR reports (Sewer, Tier 2) and (Water, Disinfection Monitoring Plain).
- Alliant will start converting our current street lamps to the new LED lamps starting in January. The new lights will save money and energy and will be brighter.
- The City received \$1,325 in rebates from Alliant for putting LED lights in the new Community Center.
- The City will be writing a grant to get new flashing stop light signs for the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> and Main.
- The City Council approved the mill and dam design for a bronze statue to be placed at the Worth County Fairgrounds. If fundraising is high enough, a second copy of the statue will be placed in Fertile.
- Interest in joining the Library Board was voiced to Joyce. Interested parties should contact the Librarian and/or Library Board who recommend membership to the Mayor who officially appoints the members and are approved by the Council. The Library Board consists of 5 members (2 from out of town and 3 from in town). There is currently 1 open seat on the Library Board. New members are welcomed.
- **Pat motioned, Jeff 2nd to approve report.** Unanimous.

### City Clerk's Report

- Eddie presented the Dec. Financials. A complete set of financials are available at City Hall upon request. The following is only a summary of the year-to-date income, expenses and fund balances.

7/1 - 12/31	General	Roads	Water/Sewer	Total
Income	88,221.34	17,957.52	83,894.03	190,072.89
Expense	76,735.53	12,774.53	77,963.79	167,473.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,485.81</b>	<b>5,182.99</b>	<b>5,930.24</b>	<b>167,473.85</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>47,851.03</b>	<b>48,358.95</b>	<b>97,833.25</b>	<b>194,043.23</b>

- **Julie motioned, Penny 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- **Pat motioned, Penny 2nd to approve December Bills.** Unanimous
- **No liens were presented**

- Eddie presented a \$79,670.00 WCDA grant request for painting the water tower. Eddie postponed the roads grant request. The second bid on the roads project raised questions that have to be addressed by the Council before approval of the grant request.
- Nicole accepted a full time position with benefits at Mercy and therefore had to resign from the Deputy Clerk position. Cindy Peters had also interviewed with the Council and accepted the position to start immediately.
- Eddie gave a 2 month notice. Eddie is torn about the resignation as he has greatly appreciated and has enjoyed working with the City over the last 8 years. Eddie's decision comes as his business responsibilities have increased drastically. Eddie also believes it will be the best for the City as Cindy will be able to give more time to the position for additional grant writing.

### Vicious Dog Ordinance

- The vicious dog ordinance was reviewed. No vicious animals including Pit Bulls or any derivative of Pit Bulls may be permitted in City Limits. Owners of such animals must remove them immediately.
- All dogs in City Limits must also be on a leash, or enclosed in a fenced in area, at all times while outside. Any dog found wandering may be reported to the Sheriff's Department and/or collected and taken to an animal shelter. If threatened, residents have the right to wound or kill an animal on their property or in the public right-of-ways to protect themselves or their family.

### Committee Reports

- No reports were presented

### Upcoming Meetings

- A public hearing for the budget will be held at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at Fertile City Hall.
- The Fertile City Council will meet in regular session at 7:00PM, Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at Fertile City Hall.

### Next Meeting's Topics – beyond Department Reports

- Budget Hearing
- **Pat moved and Jeff 2nd to approve next meeting's topics.** Unanimous. More items may be added before agenda is posted.
- **Pat moved and Jeff 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous.

## Summer Activity Opportunity

The City of Fertile is looking for someone to carry on a great community tradition as Fertile Little League Directors!



Directors recruit and supervise Players, Coaches and Umpires. Directors manage game schedules and concession stand operations.

Assistance will be provided by the City Clerk and City Council Members, with advice from the former Directors.

Please contact Eddie at: [cityclerk@fertileiowa.us](mailto:cityclerk@fertileiowa.us) or 641-425-9878 for more details

City of Fertile						9:03 PM
Bills Paid						01/16/2013
As of December 31, 2012						Accrual Basis
Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	
<b>Checking</b>						
Check	12/01/2012		Pronto	Gas for Steves truck to go to IRWC class	0.00	
Deposit	12/03/2012			Casino Funds Deposit	2,816.90	
Deposit	12/05/2012			Utility Bill Deposit	1,289.70	
Paycheck	12/05/2012	6285	Bruns, Warren		-308.99	
Paycheck	12/05/2012	6286	Roberts, Stephen J		-876.77	
Paycheck	12/05/2012	6287	Russell, Joyce		-937.49	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/05/2012	6288	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-10.00	
Deposit	12/05/2012			Local Option Sales Tax	2,284.89	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6289	AgSource Laboratories	Water/ Sewer Testing	-136.75	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6290	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine	-10.00	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6291	K&H Cooperative Oil Co.	New LP Tanks	-387.00	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6292	Kramer Ace Hardware	Pop Can Bags	-6.49	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6293	Menards	Heat tape for Library Roof	-30.95	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6294	Miller's Diesel and Automotive	Radiator and supplies for snow plow	-3,214.43	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6295	Pronto	Gas for Truck/ Steves truck to go to IRWC class	-221.65	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6296	UPS	Sewer Testing	-11.56	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6297	Waste Management	Landfill/Carbage	-1,918.58	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/06/2012	6298	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-149.68	
Check	12/06/2012	6299	Russell, Joyce	City of Fertile Christmas Bridge Lights	-37.36	
Deposit	12/11/2012			Utility Bill Deposit	328.94	
Liability Check	12/11/2012	iQue	IPERS		-814.92	
Paycheck	12/11/2012	6301	May III, Edgar F.		-946.92	
Deposit	12/12/2012			Utility Bill Deposit	3,918.17	
Liability Check	12/14/2012	eftps	United States Treasury		-1,148.07	
Deposit	12/14/2012			Property Taxes	1,150.92	
Deposit	12/14/2012			Liens Collected	1,526.96	
Deposit	12/15/2012			Road Use Tax	1,526.26	
Check	12/18/2012		First Security Bank & Trust	Community Center Loan Payment	-2,500.00	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/19/2012	6302	Bauer Built Tire	Plow Truck Repairs	-1,666.86	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/19/2012	6303	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-346.90	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/19/2012	6304	Fertile Reminder	Advertisement Costs	-220.00	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/19/2012	6305	Menards	Edger block for city hall	-50.85	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/19/2012	6306	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-48.44	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/19/2012	6307	Menards	Lights for Manger	-11.98	
Deposit	12/19/2012			Utility Bill Deposit	2,671.41	
Paycheck	12/19/2012	6308	Roberts, Stephen J		-876.76	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/26/2012	6309	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-1,658.37	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/26/2012	6310	Hare Electric		-1,865.99	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/26/2012	6311	Staples	Office Supplies	-121.20	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/26/2012	6312	UPS	Water Testing and Nitrate Sample	-21.72	
Deposit	12/26/2012			Utility Bill Deposit	2,453.06	
Deposit	12/26/2012			Utility Bill & RUTF Deposit	4,107.14	
Deposit	12/26/2012			Utility Bill Deposit	500.00	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6314	Berg, Jeffrey		-452.88	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6317	Renchin, Pat		-415.14	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6315	Jessen, Julie		-406.34	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6316	Miller, Penny		-452.88	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6323	Russell, Joyce		-943.50	
Bill Pmt-Check	12/31/2012	6322	Miller, Josh v	Snow Removal	-90.00	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6339	Bruns, Warren	SS Adjustment	-28.00	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6335	May III, Edgar F.	SS Adjustment	-75.54	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6338	Roberts, Stephen J	SS Adjustment	-211.67	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6336	Russell, Grant	SS Adjustment	-11.72	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6337	Russell, Joyce	SS Adjustment	-94.61	
Paycheck	12/31/2012	6334	Jessen, Julie	SS Adjustment	-8.80	
Deposit	12/31/2012	eFile	Iowa Workforce Development	Payroll Taxes	35.00	
Deposit	12/31/2012			Interest	5.51	
Total Checking					867.10	
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>						
Deposit	12/31/2012			Interest	10.98	
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					10.98	
<b>Water Revenue Accounts</b>						
Total Savings					4.27	
Total Water Revenue Accounts					4.27	
<b>Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>						
Deposit	12/31/2012			Interest	3.73	
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts					3.73	
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>886.08</b>	

