

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2013 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call

Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Julie Jessen, Penny Miller and Pat Renchin; City Clerk, Cindy Peters & Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts. Absent was Council Member Tad Miller.

- **Pat motioned, Jeff 2nd to approve the Feb. minutes.** Unanimous
- **Julie motioned, Penny 2nd to accept 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 Update

- Representatives from CRW Architecture and Design Group (Jose 'and Cole) met with the mayor, city clerk, council person Penny Miller, Librarian Nancy Suby and Steve (fertile mtnc) at the library on Friday, April 12, to determine the feasibility of building an addition on the north end of the current library building on Main Street. Jose' and Cole did a thorough examination of the structure and determined that it would be possible to construct an addition. A new roof, front facade and siding to coordinate the old structure with the new addition are planned. The city of Fertile would apply for a grant from WCDA for the spring awards. The new addition and improvements would cost \$200,000 and CRW would receive an additional \$35,000 to serve as the general contractor and designer. The Mayor asked the members of the library board who were present at tonight's meeting for their approval of the project as outlined. The board asked what the square footage of the new addition would be and the Mayor stated that CRW had not given her that information. After more discussion, it was decided that the mayor would ask CRW for the planned total square footage and perhaps have a very preliminary sketch drawn up for the library to look over. The mayor stated she would call CRW and get more information to present at the next council meeting in May. The council discussed setting up a library project planning committee, which would comprise of 2 library board members, 2 council members and 2 interested citizens of Fertile. The library project was tabled until the next council meeting in May.

City Maintenance Report

- Steve reported that he ordered two loads of black dirt to fill in ruts around the town that were made while plowing snow. Steve also re-seeded the lagoon and other parts of town that required it. Steve also reported that he will be drawing the lagoon down soon. He was electronically called at 3 am one morning to check on the level of water in the drains during the last event of heavy rains. He said the volume of water going through was unbelievable. Steve also purchased a new battery for the pickup. Two more dumpsters have been ordered so that the dumpsters can be placed into the parks for the summer. Another load of rock has been applied at the lagoon. The fire department will burn the weeds at the lagoon and then will broadcast weed control. New extinguishers and bathroom signs have been installed in the city hall, community center and the library.
- **Penny motioned, Pat 2nd to approve report.** Unanimous.

Mayor's Report

- The Downtown Café has donated the city pictures that had been hanging in the restaurant to be located in the community center. The

city is very appreciative of this generous gift and thinks they are a beautiful asset to the community center.

- The City of Fertile is happy to announce that the loan for the community center is paid in full!
- The mayor is asking the community to be on alert for vandalism. If you see something that looks suspicious, please don't hesitate to call the Worth County Sheriff department.
- The mayor reported that she had emailed all of our State and Federal representatives, to ask for their support on HF359 that has now passed the House and is headed for the Senate. This bill would override the state and return authority back to towns regarding ordinances and regulations that would allow juice bars the right to establish a business in small towns. These "juice" bars are actually nude dancing businesses. Most of the representatives did respond and stated that they agreed with the bill and would vote for its passage.
- The City of Fertile received the 2013 Certificate of membership in the Iowa Rural Water Association and is displayed in the city hall.
- The mayor updated the information required for Worth County Central Disposal Systems in Lake Mills.
- The I-Cap (Insurance) inspection list has been completed, which included installation of no-trespassing signs at the lagoon. The Fire Department has completed documentation of the training records for the volunteer firefighters that was required by I-Cap.
- The mayor donated her personal color printer for use in the office at city hall, and the council thanked her for her gift.
- Rentals for the Community Center have increased dramatically and many people have commented on what a great facility Fertile has to offer.
- The city-wide spring clean-up has been scheduled for Saturday, June 8th from 8 am – 12:30 pm or until the containers are full. CAD will also be here to pick up any old appliances that are left on the curb in front of your house, free of charge. They will charge between \$15-\$25 to pick up computer monitors or TVs depending upon the size. You must be home and must pay prior to their pickup.
- Green Canopy will be bringing back the porta-potties and installing them in the parks. They will charge the same rates as we paid last year.
- The City received a grant from WCDA-Diamond Jo Casino in the amount of \$79,670 to help pay for interior and exterior painting of our water tower. The vent and couplers in the legs which will cost \$3,550.00 will be paid for by the city. It would have taken many, many years for the city to save enough money to pay for the painting work and we thank the board members at WCDA very much for this award.
- Worth County Sheriff was called to check on a dog that had been reported running loose in Fertile, and the owner was fined \$65.00.
- The Mayor asked the council to consider using the funds that are received by the city monthly from WCDA and Diamond Jo Casino that had been used to pay off our loan for the community center to save for the purchase of a used snow plow and used city truck. The current plow and truck are in very rough shape. We have a potential buyer for the old snow plow, city truck and blade and those funds could be put towards the purchase of another snow plow and truck as well.
- **Pat moved, Penny 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous

