

City Council Minutes July 11, 2011

The Fertile City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, July 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Brian Nephew and Council members Todd Wise, Trish Thorson, Dennis Hasler and Dan Gisvold. Also present were Polk County Sheriff Barb Erdman and Polk County Commissioner Craig Bunes.

Fair Meadow Nursing Home Administrator Barry Robertson began the meeting with his report. Fair Meadow began the month of June with 49 residents and ended with the same number. There were also 314 home delivered meals and 16 days of adult day care. On Assisted Living Robertson reported that, to date, two architects had responded to a request for proposals to review costs for sites and buildings. There was also discussion on potential revenue problems with both Congress and the Legislature.

Mayor Nephew then introduced Sheriff Erdman and Commissioner Bunes and stated they were here to discuss financial and operations concerns. Sheriff Erdman addressed the Council on several issues including current activities involving the Sheriff's Department and some criminal activity that had recently taken place in and around Fertile. Sheriff Erdman discussed how the County, like the City, was facing more uncertainty than in the past.

Sheriff Erdman and Commissioner Bunes then brought up how the Sheriff's Department had updated their computer systems so paperwork can be done more efficiently. Also, Sheriff's vehicles were being updated so that the vehicles are better at responding in bad weather.

Another key point is the deputies take their cars home so they can respond more quickly and it was noted that at least four deputies live in the Fertile area. There are now twenty deputies working and two more were going to be added. Commissioner Bunes pointed out that the economic condition has forced counties and cities to sit down and prioritize their activities and that the public has to help. Both Bunes and Erdman, when different methods of service were discussed, said that the City had to define its priorities, and that the County could not determine those for them.

Council member Hasler commented about the traffic problems and young people were creating problems with noisy vehicles traveling at high rates of speed. Sheriff Erdman stated that it would be best to call the Sheriff's Department and they will look into the situation and determine the proper way to deal with it.

The Sheriff's Department was complimented by those in attendance on their handling of incidents over the past weeks. There was commentary about the speedy response to the crimes that had taken place.

There was also some discussion on how expensive law enforcement had become and how the methods of crime prevention had changed over the past decades.

Kevin Nephew then reported on Public Works activities. He reported that there would be another mosquito spraying in the coming days, with the specific date depending on the weather.

Libby Eid then reported that her volunteer group had put in 56 hours during the month of June. Some twenty volunteers had participated.

At this point the Council reviewed the requests for liquor and bingo permits for a fundraising event for St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Council member Gisvold, seconded by Council member Hasler, moved that they be approved. The motion carried.

After a review of the minutes, Council member Gisvold, seconded by Council member Wise, moved that they be approved. The motion carried.

As to the Treasurer's Report and current bills, Council member Gisvold, seconded by Council member Thorson, moved that they be approved. The motion carried.

Upon review, Council member Wise, seconded by Council member Gisvold, moved to approve Resolution 7-01-11 dedicating a southerly 315-39 foot extension of Blaine Street. The motion carried.

Dan Wilkens then appeared before the Council to discuss mowing the airport property. After a discussion of past practices and the need to control weed growth, Council member Gisvold, seconded by Council member Wise, moved to approve a mowing agreement for 10 years with annual renewal options, with Mr. Wilkens for \$100 per year. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Nephew, Mayor

John J. Frohrip, City Administrator