

City of Hewitt
509 East Third Ave
Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting

April 12, 2016
City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

The Hewitt City Council met in regular session. Acting mayor Jim Opelia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

The City Council and all present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Council present: Jim Opelia, Acting Mayor
Donald Fitzgerald, Councilmember
Alice Melzer, Councilmember
Alex Weego, Councilmember

Staff present: Luke Mitchell, Maintenance
Tara Greer, Clerk/Treasurer

Guests: Trinity Gruenberg, Andrew Freyholtz, Officer
Bobby Berndt, Steve Peterson, Wally Wiese

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve the minutes as written**, Alice Melzer second, all in favor, motion carried.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

Alex Weego made the motion to **approve checks 14710 - 14744**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Maintenance
Report**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve the purchase of various equipment (generator, chainsaw, and power tools) which could be utilized during an emergency for \$1,800**, Alice Melzer second, all in favor, motion carried.

Luke Mitchell shared that getting a 95 gallon tote for the ball fields that would be emptied bi-weekly could help fight against all the garbage that tends to accumulate there. The Council suggested looking into getting a recycling can as well. Mitchell will look into prices.

Clerk's Report

Alice Melzer stated that she would like to go to the League of Minnesota Cities Conference in St Paul this June 14-17 for the cost of \$250. The Council had no objections.

Donald Fitzgerald made the suggestion of looking into an alarm/panic system for the City Office so that when only when person is in the office they can notify someone that they are in distress. Tara Greer will do the research for the next meeting.

**FIRE DEPT
REPORT**

Andrew Freyholtz, Assistant Fire Chief, shared the Fire Department's concern for grant money being available that will cover the house burn at 303 E 3rd Ave so they do not have a date set. Officer Bobby Berndt was told that all the permits are pulled and he was told it would either be the second or third Saturday in May. Officer Berndt also shared his concern that the permits could expire before the new grant period begins.

**Personnel
Committee**

Alex Weego made the motion to **accept the Personnel Committee Minutes as presented**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**** OLD BUSINESS ****

**Ordinance
#200-009**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve Ordinance #200-009 Establishing Compensation for the City Council**, Alice Melzer second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Hewitt
Community
Center**

Wally Wiese and Steve Peterson of the Hewitt Lions Club informed the Council that Minnesota State Technical College was no longer able to install the natural gas furnace in the Community Center like it was discussed over the summer. They wanted to use Bryan Wegscheid Plumbing and Heating for the installation and were given the estimate of \$13,350, which is \$3,350 more than the Tech College's estimate. With \$5,000 in donations and the \$2,500 coming from the Lions themselves, this puts the City's responsibility at \$5,850. It was agreed that the City would pay up to \$7,500 at the July 14, 2015 meeting so they were still well within that range. Installation will begin as soon as possible.

**** NEW BUSINESS ****

**City Clean-Up
Day**

Alex Weego made the motion to **hold a City Clean-Up day at a date in 2016 to be determined in the future**, Alice Melzer second, all but Fitzgerald in favor, motion carried.

**** Requests & Complaints ****

**Pomeranke
Utility Credit**

The Pomeranke utility credit request was determined to be unfounded by the Council.

**Chromey
Trailer Request**

It was determined that Gerald Chromey needs to follow procedures and fill out a permit application to bring forth to the City Council instead of relying on council members to relay the information. No motion was made.

**Unsightly
Properties
Complaint**

Officer Bobby Berndt shared that Eagle Bend and Bertha both have an abatement process for unsightly properties and suggested that it is very effective, especially for those repeat offenders. Donald Fitzgerald made the motion for the **Clerk & Mayor to contact the City Attorney about setting up an abatement process for the City of Hewitt and to get a letter legally formatted to send to those property owners with unsightly, nuisance properties,** Alex Weego second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Meeting
Adjournment
9:01 pm**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **adjourn the meeting,** Alice Melzer second, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor _____

Clerk _____