

City of Hewitt
509 East Third Ave
Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting

December 9th, 2014
City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER The Hewitt City Council met in regular session. Mayor Juanita Mitchell 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: Juanita Mitchell, Mayor
 Jim Opelia, Councilmember
 Donald Fitzgerald, Councilmember
 Alice Melzer, Councilmember
 Alex Weego, Councilmember

Staff present: Luke Mitchell, Maintenance
 Michael Dagen, Clerk/Treasurer

Guests: Deidre Perlinger, Corant Perlinger
 Carolynne Bisel,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Alex Weego requested adding his land use permit to the meeting agenda. Mayor Juanita Mitchell added Deidre Perlinger’s liquor license application to the new business portion of the agenda. There was a discussion about the semi-truck parking issue from the November council meeting. Lead Maintenance Luke Mitchell stated that two no parking signs would cost the city \$360.

**APPROVAL
OF MINUTES
CONT...**

Alex Weego suggested that a no tractor trailer parking sign be purchased.

Alex Weego made a motion **to accept the minutes as presented**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor except Donald Fitzgerald, motion carried.

FINANCIALS

Jim Opelia asked about the city's electric accounts. Alice Melzer asked how much money has been saved in electric bills at the water plant. Clerk Michael Dagen said that \$600 has been saved in electric heating bills at the water plant. Luke Mitchell shared that in one month the savings for heating the water plant has already paid for the new furnace.

Alex Weego made a motion **to approve check #'s 14125-14141 & 14153 & 14154**, Alice Melzer 2nd, all in favor except Donald Fitzgerald, motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE
REPORT**

Luke Mitchell explained that the new furnace and insulation in the water plant will pay for itself within two years. Luke said that it cost \$18 to heat the water plant with natural gas this last month.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve the purchase of 3 no parking signs not to exceed \$450**, Alex Weego 2nd, all in favor except Donald Fitzgerald, motion carried.

**CLERKS
REPORT**

Clerk Michael Dagen referenced his notes and shared that he submitted a grant to FEMA's Assistance to Fire Fighter (AFG) program for \$94,122 last week for new SCBA and PPE gear for the Hewitt Fire Department.

Dagen requested permission to once again submit the city's solar array project to the Made in Minnesota Solar program. Michael asked to submit the project to Minnesota Power's Solar Sense program as well.

**CLERKS
NOTES
CONT...**

Alex Weego made a motion **to submit the city's solar panel project to the Made in Minnesota Solar Program and Minnesota Energy's Solar Sense program, along with permitting the clerk to receive a quote for an electrical upgrade for the city office from M-State**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Dagen updated the council on the Jacob Brower Regional Trail meeting that was in held in Hewitt on December 3rd. Michael shared that the engineer firm Bolton & Menk will be performing a feasibility study on a trail that would run from the City of Sauk Centre to the City of Wadena.

Clerk Michael Dagen shared that he will be meeting with Brian Koehn for a pre audit meeting on December 23rd. Dagen shared that he spoke with Brian about the City's ordinance governing council pay. Michael said that auditor Brian Koehn thought that it might be a good idea for the council to clarify which meetings council members should be paid for. Alex Weego suggested that all meetings that council members attend should be approved before or after the fact to protect both the city and the individual and Jim Opelia said that he agreed. Alex asked if the ordinance could be changed to require pre or post approval of meetings for council members to be compensated.

Alex Weego requested permission to attend an NJPA leadership training on Friday December 12th in Staples. Mayor Juanita Mitchell asked Alex if he is looking to get paid for attending the meeting and Alex said yes.

*****OLD BUSINESS*****

**MILL
REMOVAL**

Donald Fitzgerald stated that the mill is still there.

**HANSEN
FENCE
PERMIT**

Donald Fitzgerald **made a motion to approve Therese Hansen’s fence permit**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**MOVE MN
REQUEST**

Clerk Michael Dagen stated that Move MN is requesting support with asking the State for more transportation funding. Alex Weego suggested that the clerk sign Move Minnesota’s petition of support for more transportation funding and the council agreed.

**RESOLUTION
#14-018
ACCEPTING A
DONATION
TO THE
VETERANS
MEMORIAL**

*****New Business*****

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve Resolution #14-018 accepting a Donation to the Veterans Memorial from the Ladies of the Hewitt Methodist Church**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
#14-019
GRANTING
AN
EXEMPTION
TO CITY
ORDINANCE
#500-11**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell stated that she spoke to the Camacho’s, neighbors to Therese Hansen and they are against horses being housed at the Hansen property due to the smell the last time horses were housed at the property. Donald Fitzgerald said that he spoke to the Camacho’s as well and they were unfavorable to horses being housed at the property, but the Uberto’s whose property is also next to the Hansens are all for horses being housed at the property. Alex Weego asked if the ordinance stated that all neighbors need to be in favor of an exemption. Clerk Michael Dagen shared that the city’s ordinance governing animals in the city doesn’t require approval of the neighbors for the council to grant an exemption. Alex Weego proposed that this item be tabled so that all of the city’s options and ramifications for turning it down can be explored.

**REQUEST
FOR
EXEMPTION
CONT...**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to deny Therese Hansen's request for an exemption to Hewitt City Ordinance #500-11 for housing 4 horses at her property due to the lack of support from all of the neighbors to the property**, Juanita Mitchell 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to send Therese Hansen a letter giving 10 days to remove the horses from her property or face the fines laid out in the city's ordinances**, Jim Opelia 2nd, Don, Jim, Juanita, Alice in favor, Alex no, motion carried.

Alex Weego stated that he is not against the action of the motion, but he (Alex) is against the procedure.

**MN RURAL
WATER
REQUEST**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell suggested that when the council gets home they send an email of support to the Minnesota Rural Water Association.

**DEE'S
SALOON INC
LIQUOR
LICENSE
REQUEST**

Alex Weego asked if Deidre Perlinger would be taking over Jimmy's Saloon on the first of the year and Deidre said that the bar will be closed on the 1st of the year to change over inventory and she will be taking over on the 2nd of January.

**BERTHA-
HEWITT
POST PROM
REQUEST
FOR
DONATION**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve the transfer of Jimmy's Saloon & Grill's Liquor License to Dee's Saloon INC**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Deidre shared that the bar will continue to be called Jimmy's.

Jim Opelia made a motion to **donate \$200 to the Bertha-Hewitt Post Prom out of the charitable gambling fund**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**LEAGUE OF
MN CITIES
COVERAGE,
CHANGES &
DIVIDENDS**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell stated that the League of MN Cities coverage, changes & dividends info was included in the packet for information purposes only.

**PROPOSED
TAX
STATEMENT
FOR 2015**

Alex Weego stated that the City has received complaints about the proposed tax statement that was sent out by the county and he (Alex) wanted to clarify that the City of Hewitt's portion of the 2015 property taxes will stay the same as in 2014. Juanita Mitchell suggested that the city raise the taxes at least a little each year to prevent a similar situation to what the county is facing this year.

**KAREN &
ALEX WEEGO
LAND USE
PERMIT**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve Karen & Alex Weego's land use permit for building a cabin**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, Alex abstained, motion carried.

**LEE KLIMEK
WATER/SEWER
COMPLAINT**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell read Lee Klimek's water/sewer complaint that states that their water bill was charged for a month of service when they only lived in the house for 4 days.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to prorate Lee Klimek's water/sewer account**, Alex Weego 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

Lead Maintenance Luke Mitchell requested to close the meeting.

Juanita Mitchell made a motion **to close the meeting per State Stature 13D.05 Subd 3.A for an employee discussion**, Alice Melzer 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego made a motion **to open the meeting**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego stated that an attire issue for employee safety purposes was resolved.

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**

Alex Weego made a motion **to adjourn the meeting**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor _____

Clerk _____