

City of Hewitt  
509 East Third Ave  
Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes  
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting

February 10th, 2015  
City Hall, 6:30 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER**      The Hewitt City Council met in regular session. Mayor Juanita Mitchell called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 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:                Adam Templin, Bonnie Uberto, Wayne Uberto, Gerald & Diana Chromey, Rosemary McLaughlin, Marietta Mathews, Jeff Motschke, Terry Hansen, Deputy Mike Allen, Carolynne Bisel, Gloria Nokes Bartell, Steve Aeling, Lanette Aeling, Andrew Freyholtz, Holly Johnson, Michael Bruder, Ginny Bruder, Ron Dupuis

**PUBLIC  
HEARING TO  
DISCUSS  
THERESE  
HANSEN'S  
REQUEST  
FOR AN  
EXEMPTION  
TO SECTION  
3 OF THE  
CITY'S  
ANIMAL  
ORDINANCE**

Jeff Motschke addressed the council and explained that he (Jeff) and Therese Hansen leased 8 acres from their neighbors Bonnie and Wayne Uberto. Jeff provided a copy of the lease to the council. Mr. Motschke stated that they would no longer need an exemption to the city's ordinance for housing horses at their property. Donald Fitzgerald said that his main concern was that the Hansens have 10 acres of land to house horses at their property. Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to adjourn the public hearing**, Jim Opelia 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**COMPLAINTS  
AGAINST 521  
N PICKLE ST**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell called the regular council meeting to order.

Donald Fitzgerald verified the complaints by stating that two cows were seen at 521 N Pickle St today.

Alex Weego made a motion **to send 521 N Pickle St a letter with a copy of the City's Animal Ordinance, stating that 10 acres are required to house domesticated farm animals, with a 10 day deadline to remove the cows**, Donald Fitzgerald 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**JANUARY  
13<sup>TH</sup>  
COUNCIL  
MEETING  
MINUTES**

Donald Fitzgerald suggested that the minutes on page 3 be clarified to state the reason why his motion wasn't seconded, with the reason being that the motion was interrupted by a discussion.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve the minutes from the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting**, Jim Opelia 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**CLAIMS LIST  
FOR  
APPROVAL**

Alex Weego made a motion **to pay checks #14220-14229 & 14212-14219**, Donald Fitzgerald 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE  
REPORT**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve \$300 for the can recycling trailer**, Jim Opelia 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**CLERKS REPORT**

Donald Fitzgerald suggested that the clerk send David Moats a letter giving 30 days to pay his (David's) \$219.18 in utility bills for the senior center.

Juanita Mitchell made a motion **to assess Starla Mouseau's delinquent fire call balance of \$400 with a \$40 administration fee to the property's taxes, if the balance is not paid within 10 days**, Donald Fitzgerald 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor motion carried.

Clerk Michael Dagen asked the council if anyone would like to attend the Todd Count Development Corporation's annual dinner event in Browerville on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Alex Weego and Donald Fitzgerald stated that they would like to attend the meeting.

**FIRE  
DEPARTMENT  
MINUTES**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve \$500 towards a new air compressor, hoses and fittings for the Fire Department**, Jim Opelia 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion to **send a letter to the property owners who verbally requested that a member of the Hewitt Fire Department not respond to emergency calls at their property, with instructions for both the husband and wife to sign a release stating their request in front of a notary**, Jim Opelia, all in favor, motion carried.

Fire Chief Adam Templin presented a draft of an employee review sheet for members of the Fire Department.

**\*\*Unfinished Business\*\***

**CITY  
GARBAGE  
CONTRACT**

Michael Bruder from Prairie Sanitary Service pointed out a miss print in section 2 of the garbage contract that says recycling would be picked up every week when it should say once a month. Gini Bruder stated that Prairie Sanitary can guarantee the garbage rates until the transfer station raises their rates. Mrs. Bruder asked to change the contract period to match the previous contract which went to 2020. Juanita Mitchell instructed the clerk to remove the portion of the contract that would allow the city to bid out the contract before the end date if Prairie Sanitary would request to raise the rates.

Alex Weego made a motion **to repeal ordinance #300-007**, Jim Opelia 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego made a motion **to approve the updated ordinance #300-007**, Donald Fitzgerald 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve the Prairie Sanitary Service garbage contract with the changes and a unit count not to exceed 125**, Jim Opelia 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alex, Jim, Fitz, Juanita if favor, Alice no, motion carried.

**THERESE  
HANSEN'S  
REQUEST  
FOR AN  
EXEMPTION  
TO CITY  
ORDINANCE**

Donald Fitzgerald stated that since the Hansens are renting 8 acres from their neighbors, he (Don) considers this issue resolved.

**\*\*New Business\*\***

**TOWNSHIP  
FIRE SERVICE  
BILLING**

Gloria Nokes from Bartlett Township stated that she has nothing to complain about. Gloria asked about the new contract and Clerk Michael Dagen said that the Townships' Fire Service contracts are good for another year and that the standby fee billing is what was sent out.

**RON DUPUIS  
PLOW TRUCK  
& LIFT  
STATION  
CONCERNS**

Ron Dupuis addressed the council about his concerns with the city's lift station not being locked and the snow plow being parked close to the City office building. Jim Opelia thanked Ron for bringing his concerns to the council's attention.

**CITY CREDIT  
CARD POLICY**

Jim Opelia made a motion **to approve the City's credit card policy**, Donald Fitzgerald 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**COLLEN  
PETERSON  
AFFORDABLE  
CARE ACT  
LETTER**

Donald Fitzgerald and Alex Weego suggested that the city send Colleen Peterson's draft letter to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue asking that the IRS reexamine Notice 2013-54.

**RESOLUTION  
15-003  
SUPPORTING  
MN HOUSE  
BILL HF 272**

Jim Opelia made a motion **to accept Resolution #15-003 Supporting MN State Legislature Bill HF 272 that would allow cities to opt out of adding Fluoride to their water supplies**, Donald Fitzgerald 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**REGION FIVE  
CLEAN  
ENERGY  
MEETING**

Alex Weego requested permission to attend the Region Five Clean Energy meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**MN PUBLIC  
FACILITIES  
AUTHORITY  
LETTER**

Clerk Michael Dagen shared that this letter from the MN Public Facilities Authority explains that the city's sewer system bond has been closed out.

**TODD  
COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT  
2014 HEWITT  
INCIDENT LIST**

The 2014 Todd County Sheriff's Department Incident List was reviewed.

**CLERK  
MICHAEL  
DAGEN  
RESIGNATION**

Clerk Michael Dagen presented his resignation letter to the City Council. Michael said that he appreciates having had the opportunity to serve the city. Dagen stated that he forgot to mention in his clerk notes that he has doctor appointments on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to reluctantly accept the resignation of the Hewitt City Clerk effective March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, Jim Opelia 2<sup>nd</sup>, Don, Jim, Alice in favor, Alex & Juanita no, motion carried.

**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to adjourn the meeting**, Alice Melzer 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_