

City of Hewitt
509 East Third Ave
Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes
Special Public Meeting

July 16th, 2014
Hewitt Community Center, 6 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER The Hewitt City Council held a special public meeting to discuss the Hewitt flood cleanup relief efforts. Mayor Juanita Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

ROLL CALL Council present: Juanita Mitchell, Mayor
Jim Opelia, Council Member
Donald Fitzgerald, Council Member
Alice Melzer, Council Member
Alex Weego, Council Member

Staff present: Luke Mitchell, Lead Maintenance
Aaron Fore, Water Operator
Michael Dagen, Clerk/Treasurer

Guests: Karen Raskie, Gerald Chromey, Lori Ostrowski, Bonnie & Wayne Uberto, Jeannette & Tom Meszaros, Karen & Duane Ziemkowski, Gloriann Bartels, Rick Sullivan, Jeremy Clasemann, Gary Kneisl, Dale Lovelace, Conrad Vanbatavia, Trinity Grunberg, Mike Wisniewski, Sue Boehland

**SPECIAL
MEETING TO
DISCUSS
HEWITT
FLOOD
RELIEF
EFFORTS**

County Commissioner Gary Kniesl introduced Todd County emergency manager Mike Wisniewski and Jeremy Clasemann from the County Transfer Station in Browerville. Mike Wisniewski shared that he has been working with the State of Minnesota to help coordinate volunteers for the flood cleanup. Jeremy Clasemann said that the County Transfer Station has roll off dumpsters available for the cleanup effort. Mike Wisniewski said that only flood related items can be thrown into the dumpsters. Mike said that there is an upcoming meeting with FEMA on July 31st in Long Prairie for local governments to share data on their public infrastructure affected by the flood. Dan Frank from the Initiative Foundation (IF) said that IF could set up an online giving portal for people to donate to citizens affected by the flood. Dan said that IF would work with the Tri-County Action group to administer flood donations. Mr. Frank explained that the City of Hewitt would need to ask the Initiative Foundation for help to setup the giving portal. Councilmember Donald Fitzgerald stated that the City of Hewitt would like the Initiative Foundation's help. Stowe Prairie Township chairman Dale Lovelace shared that there were many township roads damaged by the flooding. Mike Wisniewski said that the township should bring before and after photos of the damage and cost estimates to the FEMA meeting on July 31st. Sue Boehland from the township asked if she could bring her flood damaged items to the dumpsters in Hewitt. Mayor Juanita Mitchell asked if there are others from the township with flood damage. Dale Lovelace said that Beth and Dan Colby also have flood damage. Dan Frank asked if Stowe Prairie Township would like to be included in the giving portal. Township Chairman Dale Lovelace said that yes Stowe Prairie would like to be included in the fund raising efforts. There was a discussion about what might be covered under the IF fund raising effort. Juanita Mitchell shared that there is a grant program available for veterans affected by the flooding.

**SPECIAL
MEETING
CONTI...**

Tom Meszaros asked about the drain tile running under the City of Hewitt. Tom and Jeanette Meszaros said that there is a large pool of water on the east side of town and they are concerned that the tile is not draining water properly. There was a discussion about the high water table and the large amount of water that has collected as a result of all the rain. Mike Wisniewski said it is important to create a list of the people affected by the flood and what help is needed. There was a discussion of how many dumpsters should be brought in for the flood clean up, when to bring them in and where to place them. Councilmember Donald Fitzgerald said that the city will do the best they can to help the citizens affected by the flood. Mayor Juanita Mitchell said that there are Salvation Army clean up kits here for the people on the flood list.

Mayor _____ Clerk _____