

City of Hewitt
509 East Third Ave
Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting

June 10th, 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: Holly & Al Knutson, Dave Templin,
 Carolynne Bisel, Gloriann Bartels, Karen Raskie, Karen & Duane Ziemkowski, Amber Fletschock, Ray Stach

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Alex Weego said that on page 6 of the May 13th meeting minutes, he would like to add that the state's new fire department trial incentive is for "6 counties including Todd". Alex also requested to add a summary statement after the closed session held in May, saying "the council discussed and resolved the issue presented by Lead Maintenance Luke Mitchell".

**APPROVAL
OF MINUTES
CONT...**

Alex Weego made a motion **to approve the minutes with the changes made**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**FINANCIAL
REPORTS**

Alex Weego asked about the Alex Air Apparatus bill and Gloriann Bartels stated that it was for the Fire Department. Alex Weego made a motion **to pay checks #13877- 13899**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE
REPORT**

Lead Maintenance Luke Mitchell stated that the mower belt broke on the John Deere tractor and he purchased a new belt from Midwest Machinery in Wadena for \$126.11.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion to **raise the maintenance purchase limit to \$50 from \$25**, Alice Melzer 2nd all in favor, motion carried.

Luke Mitchell shared that he will be implementing the new signreflectivity policy. Luke said that there are a few properties around town that need to be mowed. Mr. Mitchell said that the broken fire hydrant has been repaired. Alex Weego suggested the council make a decision on the water plant heating options at the July meeting.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to send Aaron Fore to his requested training June 25-26 in Wahkon**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**CLERKS
REPORT**

Alex Weego made a motion **to allow Clerk Dagen to set up NJPA purchasing contracts**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor motion carried.

Alex Weego made a motion **to provide a veggie, fruit and meat and cheese tray for the election judges**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**CLERKS
NOTES
CONT..**

Jim Opelia made a motion **to reimburse the clerk for renewing the city's antivirus software**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd all in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego made a motion **to renew the city's cd for two years at Star Bank**, Jim Opelia, all in favor, motion carried.

Juanita Mitchell made a motion **to assess Bill & Eleanore Berthiaume's delinquent fire call balance of \$475, plus a \$47.50 administration fee to their taxes**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Dagen requested to take a vacation day on June 12th.

Juanita asked why the city needs to reimburse Rodney Bibeau for the \$70.40 credit on his water bill. Clerk Dagen said that Mr. Bibeau's state assistance over pays his water/sewer usage each month which causes a credit to build up. Michael shared that it has been city policy to reimburse Rodney for this water bill credit.

**MAYORS
REPORT**

Juanita Mitchell said that Gloria Nokes has requested to set up a temporary horse shoe pit during a family reunion this month at the community center. Donald Fitzgerald suggested that the maintenance department decide where to place the temporary horse shoe pit.

**MILL
REMOVAL**

Donald Fitzgerald shared that there are no new developments with the mill removal.

**BARTER FEST
REQUEST
FOR
DONATION**

Amber Fletschock gave a presentation on behalf of the Barter Festival scheduled for September 20th, 2014 in Hewitt. Amber shared that once again there will be an open mic stage for citizens to perform at the event. Alex Weego said that the Hewitt Lions Club will once again sponsor the Barter Festival.

**BARTER FEST
CONT...**

Alex Weego made a motion **to donate \$1000 to the Barter Festival**, Jim Opelia, 2nd, Alex, Jim, Juanita, Alice is favor, Fitz No, motion carried.

**KRUISIN FOR
KIDS REQUEST
FOR A
DONATION**

Ray Stach gave a presentation on behalf of the Kruzin for Kids program. Alex Weego asked if the ride will be going through Hewitt this year and Ray said no they will be heading in a different direction this year.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to donate \$500 from the charitable gambling fund to the Kruzin for Kids event**, Alice Melzer 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**HEWITT
LIONESSE**

Karen Ziemkowski and Gloriann Bartels shared that the Hewitt Lioness would like to hold a fundraiser on September 6th for Juanita & Rick Mitchell. Alice and Alex stated that they would sit on the planning committee for the fundraiser. Jim Opelia said that he could help with any music needs. There was a discussion about the planning for the fundraiser.

**SENIOR
CITIZEN
CENTER**

Dave Templin shared that the Hewitt Senior Citizens are considering disbanding due to low member involvement. Dave said that the seniors are considering donating the contents of the building to the Historical Society or having a rummage sale. Alice Melzer said that a clock in the center was donated by her family member. Mr. Templin said that if the city has any offers to sell the building they should go for it.

**RASKIE
WATER LEAK**

There was a discussion about the large water leak at the Raskie property. There was a concern with setting a precedent by crediting both the water and sewer portions of the bill.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to credit Karen & Brian Raskie's water and sewer account \$431.70**, Jim Opelia 2nd, none in favor, motion failed.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to credit Karen & Brian Raskie the sewer portion from their water bill of \$215.85**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**MN
ASSOCIATION
OF SMALL
CITIES
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**

Juanita Mitchell made a motion **to renew the city's membership to the Minnesota Association of Small Cities**, Alice Melzer 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**CENTRAL MN
HOUSING
REHAB
DEFERRED
LOAN
PROGRAM**

There was a discussion about the new Central MN Housing Rehab Deferred Loan Program for rental property.

**RESOLUTION
#14-008
ACCEPTING
WIFI ROUTER
DONATIONS**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to accept Resolution #14-008 accepting Wi-Fi Router donations**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
#14-009
ADOPTING A
SIGN
RETROREFLECTIVITY
POLICY**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve Resolution #14-009 adopting a sign retroreflectivity policy**, Alice Melzer 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**GUARANTEED
ENERGY
SAVINGS
PROGRAM**

Mayor Mitchell shared that the Region Five Development Commission is hosting an energy efficiency financing forum.

**GREATER MN
PARKS AND
TRAILS
COMMISSION
MEETING**

Juanita asked if clerk Dagen would like to attend the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission Meeting. Clerk Michael Dagen said that yes he would like to attend the meeting. Donald Fitzgerald asked if Michael would be taking the city truck to the meeting and Dagen said no, he would drive his own vehicle.

**INTERNET
PROTOCOL**

Alex Weego suggested that the council not send blanket reply emails to other council members. Mr. Weego shared that he is concerned about breaking the open meeting law.

**COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN**

Alex Weego shared that the Region Five Development Commission has offered to provide a comprehensive plan for the City of Hewitt for \$3000. Weego shared that the city previously received a quote for \$5000 for a comprehensive plan. Juanita asked if the city could do a plan on our own. Alex said that yes the city could do their own comprehensive plan, but he (Alex) suggested applying for an Initiative Foundation grant to help cover a portion of the comprehensive plan cost.

**COMPLAINT
WATER &
SEWER
ACCOUNT
#1051**

Clerk Dagen explained that account #1051 was overcharged for their water and sewer account due to a broken sensor over the winter months. Dagen said that for 3 months of estimation overcharged the customer \$32.84

Jim Opelia made a motion **to credit account #1051 \$32.84**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**WATER
METER
COMPLAINT
ACCOUNT
#34**

There was a discussion about account #34's water meter complaint. Luke Mitchell shared that the homeowners have requested to have the water meter sent in and checked to see if it's working properly.

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to send in the water meter for account #34 to be tested with a non refundable \$50 service fee**, Alice Melzer 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**GARBAGE
COMPLAINT
AGAINST 224
FRONT STREET**

Donald Fitzgerald shared that the Todd County Sheriff department has agreed to serve notices for the City of Hewitt for no charge. Clerk Dagen recommended that the city notice to the property owner be delivered by the Todd County Sheriff, since the last certified letter to the property was never signed for. There was a discussion about requesting an inspection of the water meter at 224 Front Street when the notice is delivered.

**OPEN
FORUM**

Alice Melzer brought up that Gerald Ganske has started to work on the tractor pull track. Alice said that Gerald would like the cement slab left in place next to the track. Councilmember Melzer shared that Ganske has found 40-50 8 ft posts for \$200. Mayor Juanita Mitchell said that Gerald and Terry will need to turn in receipts so that they can be reimbursed for their fuel and supplies. There was a discussion about the need to have electricity at the tractor pull track.

**CLOSED
SESSIONS**

Alex Weego made a motion **to close the meeting per state statute 13D.05 Subd 3.A for employee evaluations**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

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

Alex Weego made a motion **to accept Luke Mitchell's letter rescinding his intention to terminate employment**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego made a motion **to close the meeting per state statute 13D.05 Subd 3.1 to discuss city property at 320 Front Street**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

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

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to accept Dale and Judy Denny's offer of \$5000 for the Hewitt Senior Center, if they are willing to pay for attorney fees and closing costs**, Alice Melzer 2nd, Fitz, Jim, Alice, Juanita if favor, Alex no, motion carried.

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**

Alex Weego made a motion **to adjourn the meeting**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, Alex, Fitz, Alice in favor, Jim & Juanita no, motion carried.

Mayor _____ Clerk _____