City of Hewitt

509 East Third Ave

Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes June 11th, 2013

Regular Meeting City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Hewitt City Council met in regular session. Mayor Juanita Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Council present: Juanita Mitchell, Mayor

 Jim Opelia, Council Member

 Donald Fitzgerald, Council Member

 Alice Melzer, Council Member

 Alex Weego, Council Member

Staff present: Aaron Fore, Lead Maintenance

 Luke Mitchell Maintenance

 Michael Dagen, Clerk/Treasurer

Guests: Ken Blaske, Carolynne Bisel

Alice made a motion to **except the May 14th Council meeting minutes**, Fitz 2nd, Jim, Fitz, Alice, All in favor, motion carried.

Alex made a motion to **refer to audit and pay checks number 13428 to 13453**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:**

**CLERK’S REPORT:**

Aaron Fore added a couple of additions to his report. Mr. Fore stated that the City Truck was brought in for an oil change on Friday. Aaron informed that Maguire Iron Works cleaned out the water tower today (June 11th).

 There was a discussion about replacing the recycling pump located under the pit in the water plant. Alex made a motion to **purchase a new recycling pump for the water plant with a cap of $7000, Fitz 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.**

 There was a discussion about the maintenance department purchasing a 2500-2700 psi pressure washer.

Jim made a motion **for the maintenance department to purchase a pressure washer with a $300 cap**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

 Aaron Fore asked when the Council would like the streets cleaned. Juanita stated that it would be nice to have the streets cleaned before the Pickle Days parade. It was suggested that Adam Templin be contacted about cleaning the Hewitt streets with a similar arrangement as last year with the City of Bertha; where Adam’s hours would be covered by Hewitt, plus $100 for the use of the street sweeper.

 Alex brought up that there are holes on 5th Ave between Pickle and Front Street that need to be repaired. Mr. Fore stated that he has contacted Braaten Aggregate in regards to repairing this road.

Clerk Michael Dagen mentioned that the new 4’X 6’ City sign is nearly complete and Juanita stated that the plan is to hang the sign on the building.

 Mr. Dagen referenced his notes and stated that he (Michael) has experience and trusts working with Tim Nieminen the “computer guy”.

Fitz made a motion **to have the clerks computer cleaned by Tim Nieminen, Jim 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.**

 Fitz made a motion **for the clerk to purchase a chair for the office, Jim 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.**

**STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURES PROGRAM**

**MILL REMOVAL**

**KEN BLASKE DONATION REQUEST FOR HEWITT CEMETERY**

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF SMALL CITIES RENEWAL**

There was a discussion about the Mt. Nebo Park project and if clerk Dagen should be working on the project on City time. The Council requested that a form be made up for the donators to the park project to decide where their funds should go if it is discovered that a Hewitt City Park at Mt. Nebo is not possible.

 **\*UNFINISHED BUSINESS\***

Council person Alex Weego stated that he took a hard look at the State Performance Measures Program and if the City adopted 10 of the program’s measures, the City would save $36 and would be excused from levy limits. Mr. Weego said that he felt the program was designed for larger Cities and it isn’t economically feasible for Hewitt to participate in the program.

Alex informed that there are no new developments with the removal of the old mill.

 **\*New Business\***

Ken Blaske asked the Council for a donation for the Hewitt Cemetery. Mr. Blaske stated that the City donated $400 to the cemetery 3 years ago. Fitz made a motion **to table this item to the next meeting to allow for more research**, Alex 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Jim asked if the information that the Minnesota Association of Small Cities (MASC) provides is useful and clerk Dagen stated that yes the information is useful and that MASC does lobby on behalf of small cities at the State Government level. Michael pointed out that the City of Hewitt has been a member of MASC for the past three years. Alex made a motion **to renew Hewitt’s membership to the MASC**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**THANK YOU FROM THE BERTHA HEWITT POST PROM**

**OLD FIRE DEPARTMENT PUMPER TRUCK**

**MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

**LMC WORKERS’ COMPENSATION PLAN**

**GLORIA NOKES HORSESHOE PIT REQUEST**

**ROADS AND BRIDGES REQUEST**

Mayor Mitchell shared that the City received a thank you from the Bertha Hewitt post prom committee for their donation to their 2013 event.

Jim made a motion **to approve the sale of the old Fire Department pumper truck**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego stated that he (Alex) and Jim have a report to present to the Council in regards to the maintenance department, but they have decided to present their recommendation in the closed meeting.

There was a discussion about the deductable options for the City of Hewitt’s League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Workers’ Compensation Plan. Jim made a motion **to continue at the $250 deductable plan**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

There was a discussion about the request to have horseshoe pits at the Community Center Park. Fitz made a motion **to deny the request**, Alex 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Jim Opelia brought up that the Roads and Bridges committee has received a request by a Citizen to use a platted portion of east 2nd Ave to access their field. Mr. Opelia stated that this portion of 2nd Ave is over grown with trees and is currently not passable. There was a discussion about the safety of

using this route to access the field and the other possible routes to this land. Jim made a **motion to table this item to the next Hewitt City Council meeting**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS**

**MAINTENANCE**

**COMMITTEE**

**MAINTENANCE**

**RAISE**

**CLERK RAISE**

Alex made a motion **to close the meeting for employee evaluations and for Jim and himself (Alex) to present their maintenance committee report to the Council**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Fitz made a motion **to open the meeting**, 2nd by Alice, all in favor, motion carried.

Jim made a motion **to accept the Maintenance Committee’s plan pending review and approval of the City’s attorney. Once the plan is approved by the City attorney, the plan will be effective immediately**, 2nd by Fitz, all in favor, motion carried.

Fitz made a motion **to give Luke Mitchell a pay raise to $11.50 per hour**, Alex 2nd, Alice, Jim, Alex and Fitz in favor, Juanita abstained, motion carried.

Fitz made a motion **to give Michael Dagen a pay raise to $12.00 per hour**, Alice 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Alex made a motion **to allow Clerk Dagen to work on grant writing for the City for the official time it takes**, 2nd by Fitz, all in favor, motion carried.

 **OPEN FORUM**

Alice Melzer informed the Council that she received a call from Gerald Ganske on the moving of the tractor pull to a new location. Alice told how Mr. Ganske thought that the new location would pay for itself in the long run. Mrs. Melzer said that her husband Terri would do all of the work on the new pull track with no machine time, just the cost of fuel. Council person Melzer said that by giving the tractor pull a permanent spot, it opens up the possibilities of having more truck/tractor pulls in the future. Mayor Juanita said that due to lack of funds this year, we cannot afford to move the

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

tractor pull. Mrs. Mitchell also stated that due to lack of funds, support and volunteer helpers, it doesn’t look like there will be a Pickle Festival next year. Juanita pointed out that this year’s tractor pull may even be canceled if more donations don’t come in.

Fitz made a motion to **adjourn the meeting**, 2nd by Alex, all in favor, motion carried.