

The regular meeting of the Hewitt City Council was held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14. Visitors included Officer Bobby Berndt, Fire Chief Adam Templin, Matt Wedde, Ginny Bruder, Holley Johnson, and Maintenance Supervisor Luke Mitchell. Members Alice Melzer, Jim Opelia and City Clerk Tara Greer were absent. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

#### **Actions**

- Approved the application for Brian Christensen to join the Hewitt Fire Department upon completion of background check and drug test.
- Reviewed a request to pay \$564.18 for repairs to Julie Denny's yard for a skid loader rental. That request was denied. Approved to pay Performance Paving and Sealcoating LLC for no more than \$1550 for repairs to Denny's driveway.
- Approved the application to the Minnesota Association of Small Cities for a total of \$239.70.
- Approved to accept \$1000 from the Hewitt Lions Club towards the heating system upgrade at the Hewitt Community Center.
- Approved to accept the donation of \$250 from Minnesota Power toward the Hewitt Pickle Days pig races.
- Ginny Bruder from Prairie Sanitation notified the council that their fees have been raised by \$30 per ton. They asked the council for an additional \$2.60 per household. Council Member Alex Weego shared his concern about the increase and requested a letter stating the exact reason why the increase is happening sent to all residents. The council approved the request.
- Approved the revisions of the nuisance property ordinance that would include up to a \$1000 fine and a gross misdemeanor with possible imprisonment.
- Approved the abatement process guidelines for nuisance properties.

#### **Discussion Without Action**

- The council announced that City Clerk Tara Greer had a baby boy at 4:55 p.m. they named Casey Jr. Congratulations!
- They used four dumpsters for the clean up day. \$1698 was the total bill, the city made approximately \$398. Only two of the six nuisance properties brought items for disposal. It rained over the weekend, which may have caused some added weight. The building materials and garbage were not sorted out causing additional charges.
- Mayor Juanita Mitchell reviewed the clerk's report. Shelia Stokes expressed she was upset with the garbage service and that they won't pick up their extra bags. Greer explained they won't pick it up unless they are in blue bags, sold at city hall. Holly Johnson from Prairie Sanitation said she is a seasonal customer and doesn't get charged in the winter.

Jim and Kathy Walker requested that \$80 in late fees be forgiven. Robin and Rodney Bibeau used to rent the property and received funds from the state to cover the bill. When the organized garbage began, the state didn't cover the full bill, but the renter accused the city of cheating them. They never caught up on payments and Rodney has since passed away and Robin moved out of town. According to the ordinance, the owner of the premises is liable to pay for the service. The council denied the request.

- Matt Wedde owner of the All American Roadhouse shared he started a motorcycle appreciation night, every other week and asked if he can block off the road on those nights for safety purposes for approximately four hours from 4-9 p.m. The council approved the request.

Wedde inquired about serving outside for Pickle Fest. The council requested no glass containers. Wedde shared his concern about Pickle Fest not being fenced in for drinking. The council approved outdoor serving and selling only cans in off-sale that day as well. Bobby requested putting up no glass signs during the festival to make it policeable.

- Discussed the nuisance properties. None were in attendance at the meeting for their hearing to discuss it. Bobby recommended sending the information to their attorney to begin the abatement process.
- Discussed having off site training in August at NJPA in Staples. They will not be voting or making motions on topics and is open to the public.
- Discussed the shelter idea for the tractor pull area. They would like to wait and make a bigger, better one that will last many years.
- Tabled discussion on commercial buildings.
- Discussed a complaint against Michael Dagen's fence and complaint asked it be painted. Weego said Dagen is planning on painting it this fall.

Mayor Juanita Mitchell

Clerk Tara Greer