

City of Hewitt  
509 East Third Ave  
Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

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**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  
                             Tara Greer, Clerk/Treasurer

Guests:                Adam Templin, Karen Raskie, Diana Chromey, Dennis Sandberg, Michael Dagen, Officer Bobby Berndt, Carolynne Bisel

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**            Alex Weego requested Resolution 15-005 be added to the agenda. Alex Weego made the motion to **approve the minutes as written**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**            Alex Weego shared that the City will still owe Region Five for miscellaneous expenses and printing of Comp Plan, bringing the grand total to \$3500. Jim Opelia made the motion to

Financial  
Report  
Continued...

**approve checks 14355 – 14373**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

MAINTENANCE  
REPORT

Luke Mitchell stated that the bathrooms by the softball field/museum were vandalized to the point that the toilet was ripped off the floor and the sink faucet is broken. Mitchell contacted Schmitz's Septic who can supply a Port-a-Potty for \$430 for the summer season. Adam Templin suggested utilizing a game camera on an electric pole to attempt to catch who is committing the crime. Juanita Mitchell suggested they look into setting aside money during budgeting for Police. Officer Berndt suggested having accountability for the key where an individual has to sign it out. Alex Weego made the motion to **approve a Port-a-Potty to utilize throughout the summer until the matter is settled about the bathroom**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

The new crosswalk sign has been out for a couple of weeks and despite it moving around a little, members of the council have seen vehicles slowing down. Alex Weego once again brought up his concerns about people crossing 210 during Pickle Fest. Officer Berndt suggested making use of the Sheriff's Office's speed radar sign for that weekend and agreed to talk to the County Sheriff on behalf of the City of Hewitt.

CLERK'S  
REPORT

Tara Greer informed the Council that the current balance of the USDA loan of 14,433.99 with \$1.22 of interest being added daily. Adam Templin and Tara Greer both agreed that there was never a physical contract between the Fire Department and the townships regarding the payments towards the Pumper Truck.

**CLERK'S  
REPORT**

Greer shared that Deidre Perlinger, owner of Jimmy's Saloon & Grill, came into the City office June 8<sup>th</sup> to ask for the Council's approval for her to serve food and alcohol outside of her establishment during Pickle Fest. Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve Jimmy's Saloon to have food and alcohol outside of the bar**, with the condition that non glass items be used.

Greer then asked if she could possibly have off of the August 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting so she could celebrate her first anniversary with her husband. The Council said that was fine and she can work off the recording of the meeting after she got back in order to type up the minutes.

**FIRE DEPT  
MINUTES**

Donald Fitzgerald asked Adam Templin, Fire Chief, how often the pass code for the fire hall is changed. Templin shared that it has never been changed in the two years that they've had it. Alex Weego suggested it being changed at least on an annual basis.

**\*\* UNFINISHED BUSINESS \*\***

**Sullivan  
Property  
Follow-up**

Donald Fitzgerald stated that the property looks a lot better than what it did a month ago. The property owners even told Alice Melzer that they are not finished with it yet but that they are working on it. Fitzgerald acknowledged that they are making a serious effort. Alex Weego asked if the sidewalk issue still had to be resolved. Luke Mitchell considers it resolved because there was no standing water in the Sullivan's or Koenig's yards after a recent significant rain when others in town had water in their yards.

Alex Weego asked if the City was going to host a City wide pick-up day. Alice Melzer suggested the City work with Prairie Sanitary Services in the future.

**605 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Follow-up**

Donald Fitzgerald acknowledged that the insulation in the windows has not yet been covered with fabric. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the City Clerk should send a letter to the property owner, Dennis Fore, since it distracts from the surrounding businesses.

**LMCIT  
Worker's  
Comp**

The Council was asked to choose between two premiums for Worker's Compensation coverage for the next year. Recognizing that the difference between the two premiums was not that great, Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **accept the Regular Premium Option**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

**\*\*OLD BUSINESS\*\***

**MILL  
REMOVAL**

Donald Fitzgerald stated that it was still there but he had heard a "heavy rumor" that the removal is in the works.

**KIRCKOF  
PROPERTY**

Donald Fitzgerald noticed that it was the same problem that Mr. Kirckof had last year with the City. Nothing has changed during that time so no motion was made.

**\*\*NEW BUSINESS\*\***

**AMENDMENT  
TO #700-001**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve the amendment to Ordinance #700-001**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

**AMENDMENT  
TO #700-005**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve the amendment to Ordinance #700-005**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Ordinance  
#700-009**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve Ordinance #700-009**, Jim Opelia second, all but Alice Melzer in favor, motion carried.

**MAOSC  
RENEWAL**

Jim Opelia made the motion to **renew their membership to the Minnesota Association of Small Cities**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Utilizing  
Property N.  
of City Office**

Juanita Mitchell commented that the property behind the City Office could look better and suggested a lean-to be built was a fence and lock for the storage of the plow truck and other city property. Alice Melzer questioned how much land there was to work with since there is an easement in place. Donald Fitzgerald suggested that him and the City Maintenance Leader look up some options, measure it off, and draw up plans for the next meeting. Juanita Mitchell will look into how much room the City has to work with.

**RESOLUTION  
#15-005**

Michael Dagen explained that it in order to get state legacy funding for trails and parks it is now required to have a regional designation. All the Cities along the trail need to pass resolutions of support. Juanita Mitchell made the motion to **accept Resolution #15-005**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**\*\*REQUESTS & COMPLAINTS\*\***

**Sandberg  
Building  
Permit**

Juanita Mitchell started off by saying that there are a lot of people around town who do things before they get the approval from the City. She requests that the City of Hewitt residents give enough respect to the Council to bring their requests to them before any actions are taken.

Dennis Sandberg gave a brief history of his ownership of the property, stating he first bought the property in 1973 and now wishes to spend his retired summers here.

**Sandberg  
Building  
Permit  
Continued...**

Alex Weego asked Mr. Sandberg why he did not wait for the Council to discuss it, stating it is an application not a permit. Sandberg said he was going off of good faith. Donald Fitzgerald reiterated that they learned about this just the week before, rather improperly from a rude representative of the Sandberg's. Another problem that Fitzgerald shared is that the Ordinance that states mobile homes needs to be ten years or newer to even be considered by the City Council. The Sandberg's travel trailer is a 1998, making it 17 years old. Juanita Mitchell then shared that other cities are not even allowing single-wide mobile homes, let alone a travel trailer.

Alex Weego made the motion to **levee a \$125 fine for failure to first obtain a permit, and require Sandberg to fill out a Conditional Use Permit that says it is ground connected so property taxes can be assessed, which requires \$100 to apply for**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all but Juanita Mitchell in favor, motion carried.

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve the building permit for the carport/deck**, Jim Opelia second, all but Juanita Mitchell in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego then requested that Sandberg's contractor, Randy, apologize to the Maintenance Leader, City Clerk, and Mayor for his very rude and threatening behavior. Dennis Sandberg agreed that he should, even though it was the consensus of the group that he probably would not.

**McManigle  
Building  
Permit**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve the McManigle request to build a lean-to off the back of their garage**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **adjourn the meeting**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_