City of Hewitt

509 East Third Ave

Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes September10th, 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 at the public hearing prior to the Regular City Council meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**

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 Maintenance

Michael Dagen, Clerk/Treasurer

Guests: Diana Chromey, Karen Ackerman

Alice Melzer stated that on page 5; the 2nd sentence should read; “a private contractor dug a trench” instead of; “the City dug a trench”. Donald Fitzgerald made a motion to **except the Aug 13th Council meeting minutes with the change made**, Alex Weego 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego made a motion **to except the minutes from the budget workshop meeting on Aug 27th**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:**

**CLERK’S REPORT:**

Alex asked what the “Hawkins Inc” bill was for and Clerk Michael Dagen stated that this bill was for chemicals. There was a discussion about the delinquent water bills. Jim Opelia **made a motion to refer to audit and to pay check #’s 13558-13570**, Fitz 2nd, all in favor motion carried.

Alice & Fitz said that they thought the new horse hitches looked great. Maintenance Luke Mitchell shared that Tri-State Coatings would sand blast and paint the water plant for $6500. Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve the repair & painting of the water plant not to exceed $7000**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried. Luke explained that Rory from Tri-State told him that the City’s water tower would need to be sand blasted inside and out in 15-20 years. Rory suggested that Hewitt start budgeting for this expense now. Mr. Mitchell shared that he poisoned 5 gophers at the ball park in response to Ardy McAllister’s complaint. Luke requested permission to have Doug Carter weld the bucket on the City’s tractor.

Clerk Michael Dagen referenced his notes and explained different options for the Wi-Fi Hot spot location. Alex Weego made a motion **to approve the downtown Wi-Fi coverage and to go with the 15mg internet option**, 2nd Jim Opelia, all in favor, motion carried. Michael described the upcoming grant opportunities for the City to receive assistance with designing a renewable energy heating & cooling system for the Hewitt Museum & Community Center. Clerk Dagen requested permission to apply for the upcoming grant programs listed in his notes. Michael asked to attend a free Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) presentation on behalf of the City on 9/13 in Wadena.

**CLERK NOTES CONT…**

**MAYOR’S**

**REPORT**

**SHEILA & MICK STOKES’ SEWER**

Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to allow Michael to attend** **the CERT meeting on behalf of the City**, Jim 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Juanita Mitchell shared that the Hewitt Fire Department sold the 77’ Chevy pumper truck for $3000 to the Wadena fair grounds. Juanita stated that the fair doesn’t plan to paint the truck, so there will be free advertisement for the Hewitt Fire Department.

Mayor Mitchell stated that she received an email from Mick Stokes saying that they wouldn’t be able to attend the meeting tonight. Alex Weego presented that he spoke with seven people who were around at the time of the City water & sewer installation. Alex said that he was told that the home owners were responsible for hooking up their water & sewer from the property line to the house. Mr. Weego explained that there was no information available at the County level on this matter. Council member Weego shared that he also spoke with two people with more recent building projects and they were also responsible for hooking up the water & sewer lines from the property border to the house. Mr. Weego stated that it is his opinion that the City has no responsibility for the Stokes’ sewer issue. Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **that the City of Hewitt** **is not responsible for the Stokes’ water and sewer problem**, Jim Opelia 2nd, all in favor, motion carried. Alex Weego made a motion **to rescind his motion from July 9th that provided $500 assistance to Mick Stokes**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**HEWITT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DONATION**

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REQUEST FOR DONATION**

**HEWITT FARMERS MARKET**

**REQUEST**

**RESOLUTION #13-009 ADOPTING STREET PLAN & APPROVING RECONSTRUCTION BONDS**

**2014 BUDGET RESOLUTION #13-008 SETTING PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell shared that the Hewitt United Methodist Women donated $243.25 to the Hewitt Veterans Memorial.

Juanita explained that the City has received a request from Community Corrections for their yearly donation. Mrs. Mitchell said that the requested donation amount this year is $138 which has to do with population. It was asked what community corrections do and Mayor Mitchell explained that they help youth stay out of the court system. Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve the resolution of sponsorship #13-010**, Alex Weego 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Mitchell explained that the Hewitt farmers market would like to extend their season by holding the market at City hall.

Alex Weego made a **motion to approve resolution #13-009, adopting a street plan & approving reconstruction bonds**, Donald Fitzgerald 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Alex Weego explained that he found out from County Assessor Chuck Pelzer that Hewitt’s tax capacity is currently at $63,453, but is projected to be $67,624 for 2014. Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **to approve resolution #13-008 setting the preliminary tax levy at $67,000, dependent on County acceptance**, Alex Weego 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**MT NEBO PARK PROJECT UPDATE**

**BUDGET MEETING**

**MEETING**

**ADJOURNED**

Clerk Dagen explained that the Mt Nebo Park project was accepted by the Region Five Development Commission as a “vital project”. Michael explained that 21 projects were submitted to Region Five for assistance, with 9 being selected. Dagen told the Council that nothing is certain at this point, but it was unlikely that there would be a park at Mt. Nebo and that it is more likely that Nebo could end up as a nature preserve; accessible to the public. Michael shared that for the Region Five assistance program, the park project could be adjusted to focus on a trail connecting Hewitt to Nebo. Clerk Dagen said that the best case scenario would be that Mt Nebo is preserved and accessible for the public, with the City of Hewitt not being responsible for maintaining a park there. Donald Fitzgerald made a motion **for Michael to submit a trail plan to Region Five**, Alice Melzer 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

The Council set a budget workshop meeting for Dec. 4th at 6 pm.

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