**January 8th, 2013**

**Regular Council Meeting**

**Pledge:**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell and Council Members: Alex Weego, Donald Fitzgerald, Jim Opelia and Alice Melzer were all present. Guests included: Karen Ackerman, Adam Templin, Craig Pomerenke, Karin Neuber & guest.

**Minutes:** December 11th, 2012 Regular Council Meeting:

Alex suggested to Michael that names are always used instead of “he and she said” when typing the minutes. Alex made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Fitz, all in favor, motion carried.

**Financial Reports:**

Alex asked about the Todd County bill. Michael stated that the $320 was the price the City was charged for this past election. There was a discussing about the Friendly Rider service which costs the City $266 per year. Juanita said that it is important for people to use the Friendly Rider service otherwise it may not continue. Alex asked if we have received our LGA and Tax Money. Juanita said that yes we had. Alex asked for an update on the overdue water balances and Michael informed him that everyone had either contacted him to set up a time to pay or had came in and made a payment.

Alex made a motion to refer to audit, Fitz seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Maintenance Report:** Aaron asked if he could go ahead and have the outlet installed in the treatment plant. Juanita answered yes that they had approved this at the last meeting. The painting of the water tower was discussed. Adam Templin stated that roughly 6 water tower painting companies might serve our area and that the painting would have to be performed once the temperature stays above 50 degrees. Juanita asked if the inventory is done and Aaron said yes. Adam stated that he talked again with Eric from the DNR about the dam at the river park. Mr. Templin said that the first request for the new dam has been put through his department. Juanita asked if the new dam would happen this summer. Adam said that they would survey in the spring and go from there. Mr. Templin said that he told the DNR that the City is interested in having the dam fixed because of its importance to the community with the fishing and swimming it provides. Adam relayed that Eric from the DNR had asked that when the project gets to the stage of needing rock if there are any local places to find some? This statement was followed by an extended uproar of laughter in the room.

**Mayor’s Report:** Juanita stated that the City has the new fire truck. There was a discussion about the “new” 93’ fire truck. Adam stated that new hoses for the truck are coming by the end of the month. Juanita read a thank you from the Santa Day committee. The mayor stated that there was a great turnout for Santa Day this past December.

**Clerks Report:** Michael stated that Barbara was here today for some more training and that she would return next week as well. Michael read through his notes. Clerk Dagen stated that the website is coming along and if anyone has any ideas let him know. Michael stated that the Legion Auxiliary has disbanded and that they donated $100 to the City, which has been put towards the Veterans Memorial. Dagen stated that he applied for a scholarship to attend the clerks training in April. Alex made a motion that Michael be able to attend the conference whether he receives the scholarship or not with travel expenses paid, Fitz second, all in favor, motion carried. Lastly, Michael asked for permission to install a programmable digital thermostat in the City office to help regulate the temperature. Fitz made a motion to purchase a digital thermostat, Alice second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Mt. Nebo Park Plan Presentation**: Michael gave a brief recap of the Mt. Nebo Park plan and the process that has been ongoing this past year. Mr. Dagen explained that the majority owner of the land known as Mt. Nebo, which is located three miles north of Hewitt on highway 71, is interested in leaving a portion of her property to the public in her memory. Michael asked the council for permission to send the Park plan to the majority owner of Mt. Nebo for her review and asked for permission to start a fund raising campaign to cover the City’s initial cost for creating such a park. Clerk Dagen spoke of the Legacy Grant program through the DNR that is setup for cities acquiring and developing parks, with the next grant cycle’s deadline being in September. Councilman Fitzgerald asked about maintenance and security for the park. Alex spoke about security and said that there are a ton of parks that don’t have a problem with day use security. Councilman Weego also said that there would probably have to be some kind of agreement with law enforcement if there would ever be overnight use of the park, but that overnight camping would be a later phase of the Nebo Park. Adam Templin stated that if funds were raised for a new maintenance vehicle, this equipment could help meet the needs in the City as well. Juanita asked if the park is still going to be connected to Hewitt. Michael said that the goal is to connect the park to the City and that the parks committee will continue to explore different options for a trail with one possibility being the abandoned railroad bed that runs north of Hewitt and to the east of Nebo. Dagen stated that he contacted the City Administrator from Wadena in regards to their Black’s Grove Park which was donated to Wadena many years back and is a similar size to the proposed Nebo Park and is separate from the Wadena City limits. Michael said that he was told that maintenance costs for Blacks Grove are less that $5000 annually. Alex made a motion for the parks committee to proceed with the Nebo Parks project, Jim seconded, all in favor except for a nay vote by Fitz, motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**: The Craig Pomerenke application for exemption to City Code was discussed. Craig presented a map of his existing property. Mr. Pomerenke stated that his intentions were to split his property into two separate parcels and to build new on the vacant part of his property. Alex stated that the City ordinance says that connection is required; “when property is so situated so as to be reasonably capable of connection to the City water system.” After some discussion there was a consensus that where Craig was planning to build a house it would not be reasonable for a connection to the City system. Alex made a motion to exempt Craig from connecting to the City water system. Jim Opelia stated a building permit should be presented first, before an exception to City code could be made. Alex removed his previous motion. Craig asked about raising the grade of his property, building a driveway to his house and building a fence along the west side of the driveway. Juanita stated that he would need to submit for two separate building permits, one for the house and one for the fence. Fitz made a motion to deny the exemption to City code, Jim seconded it, all in favor, motion carried.

**Removal of the Mill was discussed**: Adam Templin stated that there was a discussion of applying for a grant for a multi county coordinated Fire Department burn of the Mill for training purposes. Mr. Templin said that there are grants up to $60,000 available for this kind of training. The owner of the property would need to contact the Chief of the Fire Department. Alex made a suggestion that the Fire representative that Adam spoke with be invited to a council meeting to discuss the options for the coordinated project.

**Hiring a part time Maintenance Worker.** Adam Templin stated that Bertha is interested in sharing a part time maintenance worker. Aaron stated that Hewitt is in need of a position of no less than 20 hours per week. Mr. Templin stated that Bertha would most likely need help with at least 10 hours per week. Fitz made a motion to hire a part-time maintenance worker, Jim seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Rescind: Resolution 12-012 setting final levy 2013**. Juanita stated that the Fire Fighter Retirement resolution #12-012 would need to be rescinded and then adopted after the proper information is filed and reviewed with PERA. Jim made a motion to rescind resolution 12-012, Fitz seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**An ordinance #500-011 regulating animal within the City of Hewitt was discussed**. Information that Karin Ackerman dropped off in regards to a new animal rescue & shelter called “Jacks Second Chance” was discussed. Adam asked if the shelter charged for taking animals. It was stated that no they don’t charge to take the animals, but the fees to adopt range from $25-$250.

**League of MN Cites 2012 Property/Casualty Dividend** This year’s dividend information was discussed. It was stated that this year the City of Hewitt received $2839 from the League of MN property/casualty dividend.

**Initiative Foundation yearly donation** The IF yearly donation was discussed. Alex asked if the City could make a donation out of the general fund rather than the charitable gambling fund. It was stated that the City would need to wait to donate from the charitable gambling fund because there was only $55 in the fund.

**Designation of official newspaper, depositories, acting Mayor and Committees:**

Juanita made a motion to pass resolution #13-001 designating the official newspaper of the City as: the Independent News Herald, official depository: Star Bank of Bertha, official endorsement signatures: Mayor Mitchell and Council member Jim Opelia, official legal counsel of the City: Dan Carlisle, date and time and place of regular City Council meetings: second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at City Hall 509 East Third Ave Hewitt, MN and mileage reimbursement rate shall be the current standard IRS mileage rate: 56.5 cents per mile & resolution #13-002 adopting the 2013 Fee Schedule, Alex second, all in favor, motions carried.

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