

City of Hewitt  
509 East Third Ave  
Hewitt, Minnesota 56453

City Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting

August 11, 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  
                             Donald Fitzgerald, Councilmember  
                             Alice Melzer, Councilmember  
                             Alex Weego, Councilmember  
                             Jim Opelia, Councilmember

Staff present:        Luke Mitchell, Maintenance

Guests:                Marietta Matthews, Rosemary  
                             McLaughlin, Diana Chromey, Adam  
                             Templin, Kimberly Moeller, Lance Quam,  
                             Rebecca Hendrickson-Mondey, Carolynne  
                             Bisel

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**            Alex Weego requested to add the Comp Plan under Old Business. Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve the minutes as written**, Alice Melzer second, all in favor, motion carried.

**FINANCIAL  
REPORTS**

Alex Weego made the motion to **approve checks 14223-14459**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE  
REPORT**

Luke Mitchell stated that the flag poles and flags that are missing from the storm on July 12, are covered under the City's insurance so we should go that route to recoup some of the money.

The drainage ditches need cleaned out, which was made worse from the storm. In the past the Fire Department had burned the downed trees but it has not been done in a number of years. Luke Mitchell is concerned about flooding in the Spring or a significant rain. There was discussion about talking to the Emergency Management Director about the possibility of recouping some monies. Donald Fitzgerald suggested doing some research about how much it would cost to fix the situation.

Donald Fitzgerald asked if Luke Mitchell found out how much it would cost to put in the fence down at the riverside park. Mitchell said it would cost around \$16 a post and would probably cost under \$50 for the whole thing. There was discussion about where they thought the fence should be and decided it would cost more to do it. Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to purchase the fence and rope to not exceed \$120, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

**CLERK'S  
REPORT**

Since Tara Greer was absent from this meeting, Mayor Juanita Mitchell read her prepared report.

Greer wanted to know if anyone would like to attend the Leadership Training even on October 7<sup>th</sup> in Parkers Prairie. Donald Fitzgerald and Alice Melzer said they would like to attend.

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to approve Tara Greer's request on creating the new fund Small City Assistance –

**CLERK'S  
REPORT  
Continued...**

Roads in order to keep special funds separated from the General Fund, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

Jim Opelia made the motion to give \$250 endowment pledge to the Initiative Foundation, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**FIRE DEPT  
MINUTES**

Adam Templin shared that he met with Oak Valley Township, and they found a discrepancy that somehow the payments towards the Pumper Truck were not for the full amount of \$5000, which is being factored into the Fire Department's Stand-by Fees, resulting in a \$2904.00 difference. Templin asked for approval to write a check for the difference to the USDA Rural Development from the Fire Department Capital Fund. Alex Weego made the motion to authorize a payment to USDA Rural Development of \$2904.00 out of the Fire Department Capital Fund, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

Templin then discussed with the Council how the Fire Department wants to purchase a new truck in the next three years. Oak Valley Township shared that they would rather the Fire Department find a used truck to purchase and then come to them for the money. Templin asked what the Council's preference is, which they shared that they would prefer a new truck and they think the Fire Department should talk to the other townships to see what their preferences are.

Greer then asked the Council if anyone would want to attend the Emergency Management Training provided by Todd County. Alex Weego stated he would like to attend.

Greer also asked the Council if anyone would like to attend the informational meeting regarding the LMCIT Regional Safety Group in Bertha on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Alice Melzer said that she would like to go.

Greer then requested August 10-13 off for a trip. The council had no arguments against it.

Some complaints had come before the City regarding a Fire Call that happened on

July 7, 2015. Donald Fitzgerald wondered why the siren in town did not go off for the fire; he had heard that one volunteer firefighter stated that it was of the first one at the Fire Hall. It was shared that the County is the one to set off the siren when the fire department is called or else it is running for minutes on end, which can lead people to come out of their homes and possibly impede their response. A few Council members felt as though if the siren would have gone off, more members would have showed up since the pagers reportedly, are not working.

Fitzgerald also brought up the rumor there was no water in the Fire Truck. Adam Templin, Fire Chief, stated that there was water in the truck; it was just a low amount of water. Cory Godel said that he had only told two people about the low water and it somehow got out to the Bertha Fire Department and the whole town.

The Council recognized that this one volunteer firefighter was a connecting link between all of these complaints and recognized that without him, some of them might not even be a problem. The Council suggested that the Fire Department Committee meet to discuss the continuing issues concerning this person and to go from there.

## **CD RATES**

### **Property North of Office**

#### **LMCIT Waiver**

#### **LMCIT Accident Plan**

**LMCIT  
Renewal  
Summary**

better than both Star Bank and the 4M Fund. Further discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Drawings weren't made up. Tabled until next meeting

**COMP PLAN**

Alex Weego gave his thoughts that "do not waive" was the option was the best for the City. No objections.

**Tractor Pull  
Project**

The Council agreed that no additional coverage was needed for City Volunteers.

The City Council did not have any questions regarding the renewal summary.

**\*\***

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS \*\***

Juanita Mitchell and Alex Weego stated that they both had talked to financial representatives that the LMC Conference in Duluth and they found out that rates at Credit Unions are

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

Alex Weego made the motion to **accept the zoning map provided by Todd County as presented for the Comp Plan with the condition that changes can be made when needed**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

Juanita Mitchell shared that they did not use all of the money that they put aside in the Tractor Pull Project Fund and she suggested that the money be used towards the bleachers at the ballpark. Alex Weego made the motion **transfer \$1500 out of the Tractor Pull Project Fund into a new Parks and Recs account for the ball field**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Law Enforcement**

**Park Damage**

Hewitt is becoming known as a city with lack of law enforcement and he suggested contracting Eagle Bend’s police to patrol the City of Hewitt for a few hours a week. After much discussion and many questions fielded by Officer Bobby Berndt, Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to have a **trail period of 90 days with Eagle Bend Police Department, not exceeding \$500 a month or four hours a week/16 hours a month**, Juanita Mitchell second, all in favor, motion carried.

After a trailer got stuck in the soft dirt at the Road side park, Donald Fitzgerald suggested the City install posts and connect them with chain or rope to prevent people from driving beyond the signs that read “no motor vehicles past this point”. Luke Mitchell will look into costs for the next meeting.

**Firearms**

*From here on out, Councilman Jim Opelia is present.*

Two different Discharge of Firearms Ordinances were presented to the Council. One was drafted from the City of Verndale which completely prohibits the use of firearms within the City Limits and another from the City of Princeton that allows its citizens to discharge firearms in certain areas within the City Limits. The Council agreed that the more in-depth ordinance that allows firearm use in certain areas would be the right fit for the City of Hewitt but it was agreed to table it until the next meeting after the City Attorney had a chance to review it.

**Jimmy’s Saloon**

Dee Perlinger, owner of Jimmy’s Saloon and Grill, is asking permission from the Council to have karaoke outside of her establishment Friday, July 17. The Council had no objections provided she use non-glass items outside and end the festivities by midnight.

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

Donald Fitzgerald shared how

**Hewitt Cemetery**

**Community  
Center**

the Hewitt Cemetery. He noted that they received some help a couple years ago but it has since run out. Work needs to be done including cutting back lilac bushes which are encroaching on a number of gravels. Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve \$400 towards the Hewitt Cemetery**, Alex Weego second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Emergency  
Management**

Wally Wiese of the Hewitt Lions presented the estimates to install a gas furnace system that the Council asked for at their March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minnesota State Technical College provided an estimate of \$10,000 and would begin in the fall when classes started and Wayne's out of Parker's Prairie gave an estimate of \$12,000. Mr. Wiese shared that the Hewitt Lions could only cover about a quarter of the cost and asked if the City could help footing the rest of the bill after they got all the donations they could receive from area businesses. Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **commit to \$2,500 to the Hewitt Lions and the City of Hewitt would cover any other costs that they could not get covered through donations with a cap of \$7,500**, Alice Melzer second, all in favor, motion carried.

Ken Blaske requested a contribution from the City of Hewitt for

Alex Weego stated that it was unacceptable that the warning siren did not go off July 12<sup>th</sup> when the Nation Weather Service sent out a tornado warning and to seek shelter immediately. Reportedly, the County had no idea about the severe weather that was going on.

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

**Hendrickson  
Fence Permit**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve Christopher Hendrickson’s fence permit**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Mitchell  
Fence Permit**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve Ricky and Juanita Mitchell’s privacy fence permit**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, Mayor Juanita Mitchell abstain because it’s her fence permit, motion carried

**Rosin  
Building  
Permit**

Donald Fitzgerald let it be known that the permit application was submitted that day and the City Clerk had informed her that the Council might not vote on it since the deadline was Thursday, July 9 and the Building and Structures committee did not have a chance to investigate it. Alex Weego made the motion to **approve the Rosin building permit for a deck, provided the Building and Structures Committee gives the OK**, Juanita Mitchell second, all in favor except Donald Fitzgerald because he feels it should be tabled until the next meeting, motion carried.

Donald Fitzgerald presented Luke Mitchell with a Certificate of Appreciation for noticing the City of Hewitt Fire Department needed assistance at a fire and took it upon himself to provide assistance as needed.

**Meeting  
Adjournment  
9:43 p.m.**

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

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_