

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-Mondry, 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 after 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.

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

**Firearms  
Ordinance**

It was discussed that the City Attorney suggested not using the term "City Proper" since it is hard to define. There was extensive discussion about utilizing a map that would show property where discharging firearms would be permitted, whether the Council should decide the areas or if landowners should have to apply for a permit. Alex Weego stated he

**Firearms  
Ordinance  
Continued...**

would like to see what a completed map would look like. Other Council members stated that the map would probably never be completed and will be constantly changing according to landowner preferences. Donald Fitzgerald made the motion to **approve Ordinance #500-009 An Ordinance Regulating the Carrying or Discharge of Firearms in the City of Hewitt**, Jim Opelia second, Alex Weego no because he wanted to be sure a public meeting was not needed, the rest in favor, motion carried.

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

**Comp Plan**

Donald Fitzgerald shared that Alex Weego has been working with Region Five on creating a comprehensive plan for the City of Hewitt for the past months and it would be a very beneficial thing for the City to have. Alex Weego made the motion to **accept the Comprehensive Plan as presented**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

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

**County  
Prosecution  
Renewal**

Jim Opelia made the motion to **renewal the County Prosecution as stated and pay the \$675 fee**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**MRWA  
Membership**

Alex Weego made the motion to **continue with the City's membership to the Minnesota Rural Water Association**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**LMCIT  
Regional  
Safety Group**

Alice Melzer stated that it is mostly for the City Maintenance and Clerk to work within a region to decide to what they want to work on and learn about. Adam Templin shared that it is based on OSHA standards so it would be beneficial for cities to attend. Alex Weego made the motion to **accept the Agreement Establishing Regional Safety Group**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Safety Group  
Continued...**

Alex Weego made the motion to **authorize to be a member in the regional safety group**, Donald Fitzgerald second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Bertha-  
Hewitt  
Calendar**

Donald Fitzgerald made the motion for **\$290 for the Bertha-Hewitt School Calendar**, Jim Opelia second, all in favor, motion carried.

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

**Building  
Permit  
Revision**

Rebecca Hendrickson-Mondry gave her case why she wants to change her building permit that was submitted and approved last year. After much discussion, the Council agreed that she would need to talk to Minnesota Power concerning a power pole and she should submit a revised new home application for next meeting.

Adam Templin asked if there would be anything for Fire Department reimbursement for the July 12<sup>th</sup> storm. Luke Mitchell stated that he had told the Emergency Management team that they Fire Department were out but he cannot remember the total amount of time he said.

**Meeting  
Adjourned  
8:08 p.m.**

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

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_