

# FEBRUARY 2012

## FERTILE REMINDER



### COMING EVENTS

- Jan. 28 Walk'n Tacos 5:00 - 7:00 p. m.
- Feb. 6 Firemen's Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 7 Senior Dinner noon
- Feb. 7 Recycle
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb. 15 Deadline for the Reminder
- Feb. 20 Post Office Close -- President's Day
- Feb. 20 Library Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 21 Senior Dinner noon
- Feb. 21 Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 23 Recycle

Send any coming events to [fertilermd@wctatel.net](mailto:fertilermd@wctatel.net)



# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2011 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

### Call to Order & Roll Call

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Penny Miller, Tad Miller, Cindy Peters & Pat Renchin; Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts & City Clerk Eddie May.
- *Tad motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the Nov. Minutes.* Carried

### City Maintenance Report

- Steve built the new manger for the Nativity set by the Library. He donated the camel.
- Steve & Warren finished the winter lagoon drawdown on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Steve changed the light bulbs in the water & sewer plants but ran into issues at the garage. Eddie suggested using the fluorescents they will be removing from the Community Center.
- Both City vehicles have had tune-ups and are running great.
- A big thanks to Hare Electric for donating the boom truck and labor to help Steve hang up the Christmas lights & decorations.
- Steve is painting City Hall & 1/2 of the picnic tables have been painted.
- We have 1/3 load of rock to cover spring wash-off at the lagoons.
- Generators have been starting up on a regular basis now.
- Burrowing animals haven't been a problem at the lagoon last month.
- Steve put up reflectors around City Hall to help with plowing snow

### Mayor's Report

- The Fire Dept purchased a 06 Chevy Silverado and sold their 88 Ford
- Buck and Joyce cleaned City Hall and donated a Christmas tree and decorations. City Hall can be rented for holiday parties.
- Larsen's Plumbing & Heating have been installing new water meters in town. More than 70 have already been installed, 31 are left. The City has been pumping more than twice the amount it has been selling, so we are hoping to find our loss with the new meters. The new meters can be read electronically, rather than having to look at the numbers on a rotating dial. The City has also installed a new meter at the pump house to verify the actual amount being produced.
- Our first (and only) snow fall of the year reminds us to keep all obstacles off the streets and right-of-ways for plowing. The City can have vehicles towed, and/or bill for damages to the plow caused by obstacles in the right-of-way.
- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the City passed an audit relating to the CDBG Housing Project. NIACOG managed the project for the City.
- There are 8 shut-offs scheduled for next week and 5 liens being placed against outstanding utility bills.
- Joyce was invited to the Northwood Public Library as a WCDA Board Member. They show-cased the new upgrades installed from the grants given through the Diamond Joe Casino.

### City Clerk's Report

- Eddie presented the November Financials (42% through the year)
- |            | General | Roads   | Water   | Sewer   | Landfill | Total (incl non-budget items) |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Income     | 39%     | 44%     | 51%     | 53%     | 54%      |                               |
| Expense    | 31%     | 16%     | 48%     | 61%     | 40%      |                               |
| Net Income | \$5,577 | \$8,590 | \$3,234 | \$1,986 | \$4,180  | -\$21,934                     |
- *Penny motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve Nov. bills.* Motion Carried.
  - *Pat motioned, Jeff 2nd to approve the following liens: 501 W Washington \$647.86, 210 W Main \$646.83, 103 W Washington \$368.45, 203 E Main \$345.65, 308 W Main \$295.48.* Motion Carried.
  - It is budget time again. All City Departments and/or committees must submit

last fiscal year's financial reports and next fiscal year's budget request at the January meeting for funding to be approved.

### Committee Reports

- Community Center – The committee met tonight before the Council meeting to pick out the ceiling tiles, cabinet colors, countertops, cabinet hardware, floor tiles, bathroom partitions and wall colors. The work on the community center will resume in January and is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. This was the last meeting of the Community Center Committee.
- Library – The City is preparing a public notice to solicit bids for the expansion of the Library. The WCDA has not announced when they will be awarding the next round of grants, but we will apply again as soon as we find out. In preparation, the City will be finalizing construction plans and securing contractor's bids.

### Other Business

- Eddie discussed the progress made towards the potential development of a business incubator to be built in the upstairs of the new community center. He has secured one bid for the heating and cooling and has initiated a discussion regarding "fair market rent" value of the space. The Council approved continuing research regarding the project including pre-inspection by the Fire Marshall, and Electrical Inspector, as well as securing two bids for electrical and a second bid for heating and cooling. The incubator would offer new, or expanding businesses, office space at a pro-rated rate to help their business stabilize and create new jobs, with the hopes of keeping their business in Fertile at the end of the 3-5 year program. The discussion will continue at the next Council meeting.

### Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile Days Committee will meet at 7:00PM, Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, at Fertile City Hall.
- The Fertile City Council will meet in regular session at 7:00PM, Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at Fertile City Hall.
- *Pat moved and Penny 2nd to adjourn the meeting.* Motion Carried.

## Pronto Market

Fertile, Iowa

Hwy 9 East

Open 7 a.m. ~ 9 p.m. Mon-Sat

8 a.m. ~ 8 p.m. Sunday

### MISSING FLAG AND POLE

A Christmas flag and pole put up by the Fertile Garden Club are missing at the Library. If anyone knows anything about where they are please contact Penny Miller, 797-2704 or Cindy Peters, 797-2944. To replace these we have to order more than one as they are sold only in two's.



# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2011 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

### Call to Order & Roll Call

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Julie Jessen, Penny Miller, Tad Miller & Pat Renchin; Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts & City Clerk Eddie May.
- Julie Jessen was sworn in as Council Member.
- The City would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to Cindy Peters for her service on the Council. Cindy has chaired the Fertile Days Committee and has worked on the Community Center, Housing, Parks, and Weeds & Garbage Committees.
- *Pat motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the Dec. Minutes.* Carried.

### City Maintenance Report

- Fixed a major leak on the #2 water pump return pipe.
- Thankful for saving on snow plowing expense so far.
- A BIG THANK YOU to Hare Electric for donating time and equipment to help Steve take down the Christmas decorations.
- Fixed flashing around the garage doors and waxed the truck.
- Painted the meeting room at City Hall and repaired the tile work around the "future" fireplace hearth.
- Cleaned out the Community Center garage so that the kitchen equipment could be stored there until ready to install.
- Helped unload the cabinetry for the Community Center.
- Quotes for utility leak detection=\$800/day & cameraing=\$300/block

### Mayor's Report

- Turned in liens on 12/22, all shut-off notices have been paid.
- Insurance company is requesting that the dam be inspected by Army Corps of Engineers. The dam was last inspected in 1968.
- Lightning damage to the sewer plant has been fixed & paid for.
- City has insurance papers for all contractors working for City.
- In 2011, the WCDA, non-profit arm of the Diamond Joe Casino, awarded the City \$253,652.34. The City has received 2 grants for the Community Center, a grant for the Fertile Days community meal, and receives a monthly allocation based on population, which has been used to pay off a short-term loan for the purchase and construction of the Community Center. A BIG THANKS to the WCDA!
- Concern over the financing of the Community Center has been raised in regards to the utility bill rates. As clarification, absolutely no tax money, roads money, or utility bill money has been used for the purchase and construction of the Community Center. In regards to the utility rates, the City has not raised water or sewer rates since 1/1/07. Last year we raised the garbage and recycling rates by 3% to cover a 3% increase in price by Waste Management. This next year, we have to raise the garbage and recycling rate again by 3%, only because Waste Management is raising their rates again. The City will also be adjusting the water and sewer rates, but the combination

of the two rates will be the same (we are raising the water rates, but are lowering the sewer rates by the same amount.) At next month's Council Meeting we are holding a Public Hearing on the Budget. If you have any questions, or comments, regarding any aspect of the Budget, you are encouraged, and welcomed, to attend the meeting.

- Attended the Worth County Assessors Budget Meeting.
- Attended an Emergency Management Tornado Drill.

### City Clerk's Report

- Eddie presented the December Financials (50% through the year)

	General	Roads	Water	Sewer	Landfill	Total (incl.
Income	43%	53%	58%	60%	61%	non-budget
Expense	38%	22%	62%	81%	48%	items)
Net Income	\$195	\$9,685	-\$8	-\$3,814	\$4,055	\$3,148

- *Pat motioned, Tad 2nd to approve Dec. bills.* Motion Carried.

### Committee Reports

- Community Center – they started sheetrocking yesterday, on the 16<sup>th</sup>! Things are really starting to take shape. All of the kitchen equipment and cabinetry is now here. Once sheetrocking is done, painting will begin, then the suspended ceiling, cabinetry, and fixtures. Finally, the floor will be installed. Construction will hopefully be done by the end of March, middle of April.

### Other Business

- Business Incubator – the State Fire Marshall suggested the following: install 2 layers of 5/8 sheetrock surrounding the stairwells plus add a 90 minute door at the bottom of the stairs; install emergency lights at the top of the stairs; integrate the fire alarms with those downstairs; have 2 exits for each business located upstairs; mount 1 extinguisher in the common hallway. (Specialty businesses may need additional specialty extinguishers). We do not need panic hardware on the doors as long as the doors remain unlocked during business hours. *Penny moved and Pat 2nd to permit Steve to clean-up the upstairs to prepare it for construction for the incubator.* Motion Carried. At the next Council Meeting, Eddie will present a complete proposal for the incubator including construction costs, heating/cooling options, program materials and guidelines.
- Snow Removal Hazards – any item within the City right-of-way may be removed by the City, at any time, from the right-of-way to assist with traffic flow and/or snow removal. This includes: vehicles, posts, landscaping, decorations, etc.

### Upcoming Meetings

- There will be a Public Hearing on the Budget at the next regular session Council Meeting at 7:00PM, Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012, at Fertile City Hall.
- *Penny moved and Pat 2nd to adjourn the meeting.* Motion Carried.



## HERE IS SOME MORE FERTILE HISTORY

Hope you enjoy! (from 1976 supplement to Centennial book)  
BUSINESSES . . . . .

Throughout the years many businesses have come and gone, changing hands or going out of business with changing times. Actually a person coming back after only 20 years would find few businesses retaining the same ownership and location.

Larson Plumbing and Heating opened for business in a new building in June 1957 after having been in partnership with Fertile Hardware for 4 years. (Still going strong in 2012!)

To start with the business offered complete commercial and residential plumbing, heating and wiring. In latter years the electrical business was sold. This year this business incorporated and continues with the mechanical and small amount of excavating.

Jordan's Midland Service was first opened March 6, 1958 under the name of Fertile Coop Station. Previous owners were Marlin Miller and Willard Thovson. The original building was at the same corner and dated back to 1930's.

In 1962 a new modern 2 stall service station was erected. Midland Cooperatives has been the petroleum supplier the last 20 years. Services include complete tire and automobile service, light repairs, front end alignment and wheel balancing. A complete line of farm lubricants, chain and hydraulic supplies are sold.

Ouverson Oil began in March 1957 when Harold purchased the Superior Oil Co. Tank Wagon Service from Louis Suby. The supplier was first Superior Oil and then Gulf Oil for one year. Harold is now an independent oil dealer with his own bulk plant and filling station one half mile south of Fertile on the Fertile to Clear Lake blacktop.

The Nelson Construction Company now of Mason City and owned by Leslie Nelson was operated from his home when the lived in Fertile from 1950-1965.

International Harvester was operated by David and Alan Elthon in the old bank building on main street until 1965. Company franchise changes to larger firms caused the closing of the much needed business.

One of the newer firms in Fertile is Worsley Electric. Started by Richard Worsley in 1972 in a rented building, 2 employees and 2 trucks. Later that year he purchased the building, the former R. Rodberg Garage. Three more employees and another truck was added in 1973. Progress continued in 1974, another truck was added and the front of the building was remodeled.

Electricians presently employed are Fred Hare, Jim Whitehurst, Donald Suby, Scott Morse, Michael Van den Bosch and owner Richard Worsley, plus his wife Paula as bookkeeper.

This firm does all types of residential work but mainly Agri-related and commercial.

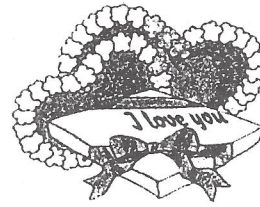
In the spring of 1973, brothers, Larry and Lance Burtness started Burtness Plumbing and Heating in a basement shop of the Worsley building near the Winnebago River.

The first year they worked alone, hiring only Rick Burtness as summer help. In 1974 Tim Abrams, Forest City and Michael Anderson were employed. As work progressed, Darwin Lee joined them in the fall. Michael Anderson left and Jon Morse was replacement. Rick and Kevin Burtness are the extra summer help.

Work consists of residential service and new homes, commercial, ranging from lounges, apartments and business offices and hog complexes. Most of this is within a 70 mile radius.

These are two hometown boys now in business and proud of their town and the support the community gives them.

(more next month from this book.)



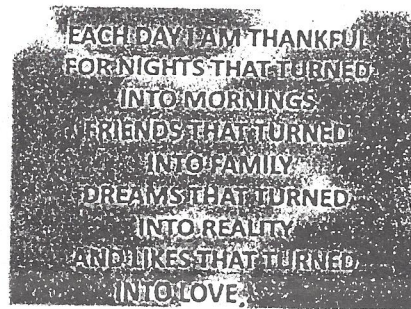
## FERTILE'S OLDEST SWEETHEARTS

Jim and Alvera Lovick have been sweethearts for 70 years as they were married May 25, 1941.

Max "Charley" and Florence Nye have been married for 66 years as they were married July 28, 1945.

Both couples still live in Fertile.

Don't forget your sweetheart this Valentine's Day



### Fertile Lutheran Church

602 W. Washington St. Box 215

Fertile, IA 50434

Pastor, David Halverson

641-797-2767

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am

Sunday School 10:40 am

Wed. 5:30 pm Confirmation Class

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50434



# COOKS CORNER

Any time you have a recipe you would like to share,  
Send it along to **REMINDER, PO BOX 62,**  
**FERTILE, IA. 50434**

## BUTTERSCOTCH CRUNCH COFFEE CAKE

(coffee cake batter)

1 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour

2 tsp. Baking Powder

3/4 tsp. Salt

1/2 cup sugar

1 egg

1/2 cup milk

3 tbsps. Melted butter

Sift flour, baking powder, salt, sugar. Beat egg, combine with milk and slightly cooled butter, and add to flour mixture. Stir only enough to moisten flour. Pour into lightly greased square cake pan about 8x8x2. Sprinkle with butterscotch topping. Bake in a moderately hot oven (400°) about 25—30 minutes.

### BUTTERSCOTCH TOPPING:

3 tbsps butter or margarine

1/2 cup brown sugar

1 tbsp. flour

2 tbsp. Water

2 cups corn flakes or wheat flakes

Melt butter, or margarine and stir into it the combined sugar and flour. Add water and cook over low heat, stirring to blend for about minutes. Quickly pour over the cereal, mixing thoroughly. Spread in a shallow pan and cool. Crush and press into top of coffee cake batter **BEFORE BAKING.**

### SMILES

>A relative asked a 4 year old how his father was doing following a serious heart attack. Little Chris responded: "Dad's going to be just fine now. They took him out of the expensive care uit yesterday.

>Diagnosis: A man went into a doctor's office. "What do you have?" asked the receptionist.

"Shingles," he replied, and was handed a medical form to fill out.

He completed this form impatiently, then was referred to a nurse who asked "What do you have?"

"Shingles," he said again, and was ushered into an examining room.

When the doctor finally appeared, he also asked, "What do you have?"

"Shingles," replied the man, "in my truck. Where do you want them?"

>Skittish— Hospital nurse: "why didn't you eat your Jell-O?" Patient: "I'm not about to eat something that is more nervous than I am."

### REMINDER POLICY

Subscription price.....\$8.00 a year

**A RED mark on your label means this is your LAST ISSUE. A GREEN mark means you have 1 month left.**

**Due to the high cost of printing and mailing, we DO NOT PRINT AND MAIL EXTRA COPIES.**

The work on the Reminder is done by **Volunteers**. Editor Betty Waddington; Treasurer and Subscriptions: Evelyn Elthon; Ads; Betty; Articles: Pat Oswald. Ardis Sheimo, Paula Worsley, Sharon Ganz and the rest of us fold & label the Reminder. **This is all Volunteer work.**

# FUN PAGE!

N Q U I E T E T N I U Q A Y  
Q U I P B L I T Q Q E L H Z  
T D E R B U D N I U N S S I  
R L U B C M A R Q U I S E U  
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"U" and "I" together



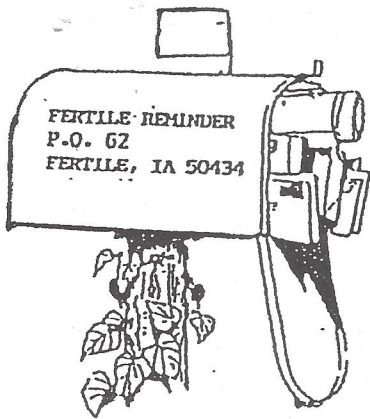
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|---------|----------|-------------|
| BISCUIT | INUIT    | QUINTET     |
| BLUISH  | JUICE    | QUIP        |
| BRUIN   | LIQUID   | QUIRK       |
| BRUISE  | MARQUIS  | QUITE       |
| BUILD   | NUISANCE | QUIVER      |
| CRUISE  | RECRUIT  | QUIZ        |
| DRUID   | REQUIRE  |             |
| FLUID   | SLUICE   |             |
| FRUIT   | QUIBBLE  | TRANQUILITY |
| GUIDE   | QUICHE   | TRUISM      |
| GUILD   | QUICK    | TUITION     |
| GUITAR  | QUIET    | YAQUI       |
| INQUIRY | QUILL    |             |
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## FUNDRAISER



### "WALK'N TACOS"

(Free-will Donation)

WHEN: Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

WHERE: New City Hall, Fertile

WHY? To raise funds for the  
Fertile Days Celebration

We will also be showing the Fertile Days Sesquicentennial DVD throughout the night!

**DOWNTOWN CAFÉ**  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 5:30-2:00  
SATURDAY—5:30 - 1:30  
TUESDAY—TACO NITE - 5:00 - 8:00  
FRIDAY NIGHT - FISH & RIBS 5:00 -8:00

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