

# FERTILE REMINDER

February 2020



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 3 Firemen meet
- 8 Firemen's Soup Supper
- 12 Reminder Deadline
- 13 & 27 Recycle
- 17 Library Board Meets
- 18 Fertile Girls
- 18 City Council
- 19 Reminder E-mailed
- 25 Reminder Mailed
- 29 Spaghetti Supper



*If you have only one smile in you  
give it to the people you love.*

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2019 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

### Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Mayor Joyce Russell called the council meeting to order. Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Tad Miller, Cindy Peters, Nick Bailey, Ron Rachut and Holly Lovik-Hanna. City Clerk Wendy Lunning and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.
- Ron motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the minutes of the November meetings.** Unanimous
- Tad motioned, Nick 2nd to accept agenda.** Unanimous. Agendas are posted at City Hall, at the Library, and at the Post Office, 24 hours in advance of each Council Meeting. If you wish to be on the Agenda, please contact City Hall two days before the meeting.

### Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag

#### Property Liens by Ryan Smith

- No Report.

#### City Maintenance Report:

- Steve patched streets.
- Sewer pump was not working. This was replaced with backup pump. DNR monthly reports reprocessed.
- Steve is working on sewer permit. There will be new test that will need to be completed with the new permit.
- Warren proposed a 20-year plan to save money for new well as requested by the DNR. Wendy will be working to incorporate this into the budget.
- Holly motioned, Nick 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.** Unanimous

#### Mayor's Report:

- Clapper Tree Service removed 2 trees on Park Street.
- Joyce received request for liquor license for Fertile Market.
- Thank you to the Church of Christ for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Thank you to Jody Smith & Cindy Peters for the Open House in celebrating 18 years of service as Mayor of Fertile. Thanks also to the community for attending.
- In response to the DNR inspection. Joyce notified the Fire Department that a backflow valve needs to be installed on their filler source.
- Joyce swore in Cindy Peters & Ron Rachut as re-elected council members and Nick Bailey as elected mayor. Elected officials signed their Oath of Office and was presented with their Certification of Election.
- Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

#### City Clerk's Report:

- City Hall office will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup> due to Holidays.
- First Security Bank is getting paperwork ready to sign. This should be ready by end of week. Wendy reviewed with Nick and council about issuing Credit Cards vs Debit Cards as requested by auditors. Wendy is checking into options.
- Committee/Department budgets are due December 31, 2019. Public Hearing will be held in January to approve the Maximum Property Tax Dollars.
- Wendy is working with Fire Department to update their financials. Dylan will be working on getting financials up to date and we will review again in January.
- Tad motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve resolution 19-12-17-1 authorizing the internal transfer of funds.** Unanimous
- There will be a vacant council seat as of 1/1/2020. Publications will be published and posted at least four but no more than 20 days prior to the appointment. The city residents have the right to request a special election by filling a petition. The appoint must be made within 60 days of the vacancy. Council is planning to fill council seat at the January meeting.

7/1/2019 to 11/30/2019	General	Roads	Emergency	EE Benefits	LOST	WCDA	Capital Projects	Utilities	Total
Income	384,726.22	16,242.34	1,033.77	6,186.45	18,920.35	0	1,666.66	70,936.82	499,712.61
Expense	397,194.18	16,653.57	962.13	3,353.81	0	3,000.00	0	35,303.59	456,467.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>-12,467.96</b>	<b>-411.23</b>	<b>71.64</b>	<b>2,832.64</b>	<b>18,920.35</b>	<b>-3,000.00</b>	<b>1,666.66</b>	<b>35,633.23</b>	<b>43,245.33</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>-8,142.74</b>	<b>78,114.73</b>	<b>71.64</b>	<b>5,537.19</b>	<b>54,829.30</b>	<b>21.32</b>	<b>1,666.66</b>	<b>234,845.26</b>	<b>366,943.36</b>

- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous

- Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to approve November Bills.** Unanimous

- Liens presented to the Council were as follows:

605 W Washington	\$254.33
115 W Main	\$299.51

- Ron motioned; Tad seconded to process liens with Worth County Treasurer.** Unanimous

#### Committee Reports:

- Fertile Days Spaghetti supper is scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm at Fertile City Hall.
- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

#### Summary:

- DNR Inspection
- Council Vacancy

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

#### Deposits

##### November 30, 2019

11/01/2019	Property Taxes	3,381.19
11/01/2019	Farm to Market Deposit	2,150.02
11/04/2019	Casino Funds Deposit	3,207.62
11/05/2019	Refundable Utility Deposit	150.00
11/05/2019	Utility Deposit	743.72
11/05/2019	Skid loader Blade Deposit	320.00
11/05/2019	Utility Deposit	441.82

11/06/2019	Enrich Iowa - Library Funds	1,385.75	11/20/2019	Utility Deposit	3,524.08
11/06/2019	Farm to Market Deposit	2,500.09	11/20/2019	Lien Interest Deposit	185.00
11/10/2019	Utility Deposit	2,368.65	11/20/2019	Paypal Utility Deposit	254.79
11/10/2019	Utility Deposit	272.97	11/20/2019	Lien Payment Deposit	509.07
11/12/2019	Local Option Sales Tax	3,062.03	11/22/2019	Paypal Utility Deposit	356.28
11/19/2019	Open Access State Aid for Library	1,056.12	11/25/2019	Utility Deposit	2,436.26
11/20/2019	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00	11/26/2019	Local Option Sales Tax	3,227.84
11/20/2019	Library Deposit	25.00	11/30/2019	Interest	28.81
11/20/2019	Library Deposit	400.00			31,987.11

As of November 30, 2019

**Bills Paid**

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>				
<b>Checking</b>				
Paycheck	11/06/2019	9318	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor -300.20
Paycheck	11/06/2019	9319	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk -574.29
Paycheck	11/06/2019	9320	Russell, Grant	City Maintenance -95.10
Paycheck	11/06/2019	9321	Russell, Joyce	Mayor (Donated 22 hours) -1,284.79
Check	11/07/2019	EFT	First Security Bank & Trust	Main Street Loan -716.90
Check	11/09/2019	DEBIT	Intuit	Payroll -12.84
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2019	9334	Alliant Energy	Electric -1,362.60
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2019	9335	Hare Electric	Change Bulb on bridge path -123.98
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2019	9336	IMWCA	Worker's Compensation Coverage -3,269.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2019	9337	Iowa Finance Authority	Sewer Loan -691.25
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2019	9338	Maguire Iron, Inc.	Water Tower Interior Cleaned & Disinfected / Interior & Exterior Electronic inspected -1,550.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2019	9339	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax -85.99
Bill Pmt -Check	11/09/2019	9340	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone -75.80
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9322	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing -140.25
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9323	Alliant Energy	Electric -685.54
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9324	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck -135.05
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9325	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder -15.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9326	Kum & Go	Gas for Mower & Pick-up -135.46
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9327	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Winterize Concession Stand -124.36
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9328	Menards	Cleaning Supplies -4.99
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9329	Shineway Services	Floor Strip @ Community Center -875.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9330	Waste Management	-2,410.65
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9331	WCTA	Telephone/Internet -204.01
Bill Pmt -Check	11/13/2019	9332	Wendy Lunning - v	Mileage (10 miles @ .58 per mile) -5.80
Paycheck	11/13/2019	9341	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance -1,149.43
Liability Check	11/14/2019	EFT	IPERS	-352.62
Liability Check	11/14/2019	EFT	IPERS	-871.69
Liability Check	11/14/2019	EFTPS	United States Treasury	-1,831.10
Check	11/14/2019	DEBIT	Standard Bearings	Coupling -36.70
Paycheck	11/16/2019	9342	Arndt, Linda J	(L) Assistant Director -221.17
Paycheck	11/16/2019	9343	Knudson, Loni	(L) Clerk -170.93
Paycheck	11/16/2019	9344	Thompson, Angela M	(L) Librarian -1,441.10
Check	11/21/2019	TRANSFER	City of Fertile	Capital Funds 0.00
Check	11/21/2019	TRANSFER	City of Fertile	Casino Funds Transfer 0.00
Check	11/21/2019	TRANSFER	City of Fertile	Emergency Funds Transfer 0.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2019	9353	Green Canopy, Inc.	OCTOBER 2019 Fishing Dock, Park & Ball Diamond -385.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2019	9354	Menards	-269.50
Bill Pmt -Check	11/22/2019	9355	Mosquito Control of Iowa	Mosquito Control -1,500.00
Paycheck	11/27/2019	9352	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance (L) Books, CDs, Supplies, DVDs, Postage & Magazines -1,149.43
Check	11/29/2019	ACH	Citibusiness Card	-559.38
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2019	9345	AgSource Laboratories	-59.75
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2019	9346	Alliant Energy	(L) Electric -166.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2019	9347	Baker & Taylor	(L) Books & CDs -347.91
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2019	9348	Black Hills Energy	-449.81
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2019	9349	Iowa Rural Water Association	IRWA Membership Dues -225.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2019	9350	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Repair Toilet -92.85
Bill Pmt -Check	11/29/2019	9351	MicroMarketing	(L) Books -35.99
Bill Pmt -Check	11/30/2019		ClerkBooks A/P Adjust	QuickBooks generated zero amount transaction for bill payment stub
Bill Pmt -Check	11/30/2019		ClerkBooks A/P Adjust	QuickBooks generated zero amount transaction for bill payment stub
Total Checking				-26,194.21
Total Operating Accounts				-26,194.21
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>-26,194.21</b>

## City of Fertile

### City Council Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

#### Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Mayor Nick Bailey called the council meeting to order. Present were: Mayor Nick Bailey; Council Members: Tad Miller, Cindy Peters, Ron Rachut and Holly Lovik-Hanna. City Clerk Wendy Lunning and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.
- *Ron motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the minutes of the December meetings.* Unanimous
- *Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to accept agenda.* Unanimous. Agendas are posted at City Hall, at the Library, and at the Post Office, 24 hours in advance of each Council Meeting. If you wish to be on the Agenda, please contact City Hall two days before the meeting.

#### Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag

#### Appointment to Fill Vacant Council Seat:

- There were three candidates that expressed interest in the vacant council seat: Jeff Berg, Deena Biretz & Penny Miller. Jeff withdrew his position in support of Deena Biretz. Deena Biretz received two (2) votes, Penny Miller received three (3) votes.
- Nick swore in Penny Miller as appointed city council member. Penny signed Oath of Office.

#### City Maintenance Report:

- Steve worked with Bell Fire to update the city's fire extinguishers.
- Steve worked with Hare Electric to fix light at the Water Plant and security lights on the south side of the Community Center.
- The pick-up truck is in need of new tires.
- Thank you to Dwight & Warren Bruns for helping Steve get snowplow on the road again.
- DNR is completing new sewer sample of Sulfide during the sewer draw down.
- Brian Nettleton recommended Veenstra & Kimm engineering to help with the pipe at the marsh.
- Steve received an estimate from Quality Pump to rebuild the Sewer pump of \$5,600.00.
- *Tad motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.* Unanimous

#### Mayor Joyce Russell's Report:

- Bank papers have been signed for Nick & Cindy.
- Liquor License for Fertile Market has been taken to new owner for completion.
- Thank you to Fertile Library for the nice Christmas Party with Santa Claus.
- Water Tower inspection report has been received from McGuire Iron. It was recommended that guard rail be installed at end of ladder.
- Joyce completed WCDA Annual Report. Total funds received in 2019 is \$118,768.58. Thank you WCDA and trustees.
- *Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the mayor's report.* Unanimous.

#### Mayor Nick Bailey's Report:

- Nick met with ICAP insurance to review policy.
- The Community Center / City Hall is being rented several times in February.
- Nick appointed Tad Miller as Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Nick appointed the following Committee Assignments:  
Streets & Signs – Cindy Peters & Penny Miller  
Water & Sewer – Cindy Peters & Penny Miller  
Parks – Cindy Peters, Holly Lovik-Hanna & Ron Rachut  
Weeds & Garbage – Holly Lovik-Hanna & Ron Rachut  
Bldg Permits & Projects – Tad Miller & Ron Rachut  
Winn Worth Betco – Tad Miller & Ron Rachut
- *Penny motioned, Tad 2nd to approve Mayor's report.* Unanimous

#### City Clerk's Report:

- IPERS audit found in question that wages should not include Health Stipend. Wendy with working with employees & IPERS affected by these findings. All IPERS funding as of 01/01/2020 will not include wage from Health Stipend.
- Public Hearing held for Maximum Property Tax Dollars. *Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to approve Maximum Property Tax Dollars of \$113,636.00 resolution 20-01-21-3.* Unanimous.
- *Ron motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve resolution 20-01-21-1 authorizing the internal transfer of funds.* Unanimous
- *Holly motioned, Penny 2nd to approve Financial Report.* Unanimous
- *Tad motioned, Ron 2nd to approve December Bills.* Unanimous

7/1/2019 to 12/31/2019	General	Roads	Emergency	EE Benefits	LOST	WCDA	Capital Projects	Utilities	Total
Income	394,364.27	17,796.20	1,174.80	7,049.98	22,148.19	0	2,083.32	83,182.24	527,799.00
Expense	422,134.24	18,186.92	962.13	4,208.72	0	3,000.00	0	41,910.24	490,402.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>-27,769.97</b>	<b>-390.72</b>	<b>212.67</b>	<b>2,841.26</b>	<b>22,148.19</b>	<b>-3,000.00</b>	<b>2,083.32</b>	<b>41,272.00</b>	<b>37,396.75</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>-23,444.75</b>	<b>80,298.11</b>	<b>212.67</b>	<b>5,545.81</b>	<b>58,057.14</b>	<b>21.32</b>	<b>2,083.32</b>	<b>240,484.03</b>	<b>363,257.65</b>

- Liens presented to the Council were as follows:  
101 East Main Street \$337.19

*Ron motioned; Tad seconded to process liens with Worth County Treasurer.* Unanimous

#### Committee Reports:

- Ron has Hackberry, Elderberry & Dogwood trees.
- Ron presented a Code of Ethics to the council. This will be reviewed and discussed at the February meeting.
- Ron suggested hiring a deputy clerk for the City of Fertile. The council took no action on this at this time.
- Fertile Days Spaghetti supper has been postponed for February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Garden Club received grant for \$3,471.00 to purchase golf cart with sprayer.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Fertile City Hall.
- *Holly motioned, Cindy 2nd to adjourn the meeting.* Unanimous

#### Summary:

- Fill Vacant Council Seat
- Maximum Property Tax Dollars

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

## City of Fertile Deposits

As of December 31, 2019

Accrual  
Basis

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO???

By Ann Hendrickson  
On December 25, 1902, National Biscuit Company introduced Animal Crackers in a box with a white string attached to hang on the Christ tree. They were an instant success. Do you remember? The Worth County Historical Society says a very grate "Thank You" to anyone who contributed to reaching some of our goals this year. It was greatly appreciated. There is always more work to be done, so we look forward to another year of goal-making.

"The best holiday decoration is being wreathed in smiles."

Until next time.....

Date	Memo	Amount
12/01/2019	Utility Deposit	583.00
12/01/2019	Property Taxes	6,516.05
12/03/2019	Casino Funds Deposit	2,457.74
12/04/2019	Paypal Utility Deposit	169.14
12/06/2019	Farm to Market Deposit	2,162.87
12/11/2019	Court Settlement Deposit	227.50
12/11/2019	Utility Deposit	3,354.03
12/11/2019	Paypal Utility Deposit	532.84
12/12/2019	Road Use Tax	1,553.27
12/18/2019	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
12/18/2019	Utility Deposit	3,399.20
12/18/2019	Facility Rental Deposit	50.00
12/18/2019	Paypal Utility Deposit	67.67
12/18/2019	Library Deposit	26.00
12/24/2019	Utility Deposit	5,536.19
12/24/2019	Facility Deposit	125.00
12/25/2019	Utility Deposit	517.52
12/31/2019	Local Option Sales Tax	3,227.84
12/31/2019	Interest	30.35
		30,536.21

## City of Fertile Bills Paid

As of December 31, 2019

Accrual  
Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>					
<b>Checking</b>					
Paycheck	12/01/2019	9356	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-300.21
Paycheck	12/01/2019	9358	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-479.26
Paycheck	12/01/2019	9358	Russell, Grant	City Maintenance	-134.25
Paycheck	12/01/2019	9359	Russell, Joyce	Mayor (Donated 16 hours)	-1,275.40
Bill Pmt -Check	12/01/2019	9360	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-10.00
Check	12/01/2019	CORR	Treasurer - State of Iowa	Reverse duplicate entry processed on	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/04/2019	9361	AgSource Laboratories	11-06-2019 for Enrich Iowa Funds.	-1,385.75
Bill Pmt -Check	12/04/2019	9362	Hawkins, Inc.	Sewer Testing	-61.25
Bill Pmt -Check	12/04/2019	9363	Quality Pump & Control	Chlorine Cylinder	-15.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/04/2019	9364	Stromleys Repair LLC	Lift Station	-565.30
Bill Pmt -Check	12/04/2019	9365	WCTA	Flat Repair on Pick Up	-58.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/04/2019	9366	Wendy Lunning - v	Telephone/Internet	-202.01
Check	12/04/2019	DEBIT	USPS	Mileage (114 miles @ .58 per mile)	-66.12
Check	12/09/2019	DEBIT	Intuit	Postage	-220.00
Check	12/09/2019	DEBIT	Vistaprint	Payroll	-14.98
Paycheck	12/11/2019	9367	Roberts, Stephen J	Business Cards	-28.88
Bill Pmt -Check	12/11/2019	9368	AgSource Laboratories	City Maintenance	-1,149.42
Bill Pmt -Check	12/11/2019	9369	Alliant Energy	Water Testing	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	12/11/2019	9370	Five Star CO-OP	Electric	-1,372.10
Bill Pmt -Check	12/11/2019	9371	Hare Electric	Gas for Truck	-114.07
Bill Pmt -Check	12/11/2019	9372	Verizon Wireless	Security Lights	-552.02
Bill Pmt -Check	12/11/2019	9373	Waste Management	Cell Phone	-75.80
Bill Pmt -Check	12/11/2019	9374	Forest City Ambulance		-2,410.65
Bill Pmt -Check	12/11/2019	9375	John Greve Attny Trust Acct	2019 Donation	-500.00
Liability Check	12/12/2019	EFT	IPERS	2019 Donation	-1,000.00
Liability Check	12/12/2019	EFT	IPERS		-361.58
Liability Check	12/12/2019	EFT	United States Treasury		-663.39
Check	12/12/2019	DEBIT	USPS	Certified Mail USDA AFR	-1,568.88
					-6.85

Paycheck	12/16/2019	9390	Arndt, Linda J		-168.40
Paycheck	12/16/2019	9391	Knudson, Lori		-305.63
Paycheck	12/16/2019	9392	Thompson, Angela M		-1,441.12
Paycheck	12/18/2019	9380	Russell, Joyce	Mayor - Annual Salary	-898.50
Paycheck	12/18/2019	9381	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,149.41
Check	12/18/2019	TRANSFER	City of Fertile	Capital Funds	0.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/18/2019	9382	AgSource Laboratories	Sewer & Water Testing	-158.75
Bill Pmt -Check	12/18/2019	9383	Alliant Energy	Electric	-773.30
Bill Pmt -Check	12/18/2019	9384	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-541.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/18/2019	9385	Clapper Tree Service	Removal of 2 trees and grinding of stumps on Park Street.	-1,200.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/18/2019	9386	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Sewer Permit Application Fee	-85.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/18/2019	9387	Marco		-136.45
Bill Pmt -Check	12/18/2019	9388	Worth County Auditor	Election	-735.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/18/2019	9389	Fertile Garden Club	Beautification of Fertile 2019	-950.00
Check	12/18/2019	DEBIT			-335.00
Check	12/20/2019	ACH	WCTA	(L) Telephone	-33.73
Bill Pmt -Check	12/20/2019	9393	Alliant Energy	(L) Electric	-166.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/20/2019	9394	Baker & Taylor	(L) Books & CDs	-332.92
Bill Pmt -Check	12/20/2019	9395	Black Hills Energy	(L) Natural Gas	-78.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/20/2019	9396	Forest City Summit	Annual Renewal	-47.99
Bill Pmt -Check	12/20/2019	9397	MicroMarketing	(L) Books	-29.99
Bill Pmt -Check	12/20/2019	9398	North Iowa Libraries		
Bill Pmt -Check	12/20/2019	9398	Collaborating	(L) Barcodes	-125.00
Check	12/23/2019	DEBIT	Amazon	Replacement Ink Pads	-11.61
Bill Pmt -Check	12/25/2019	9399	Staples	Paper & Pens	-43.98
Check	12/26/2019	ACH	Citibusiness Card	(L) Books, CDs, Supplies, DVDs, Postage & Magazines	-173.25
Paycheck	12/31/2019	9376	Bailey, Nick	City Council	-406.34
Paycheck	12/31/2019	9377	Lovik-Hanna, Holly	City Council	-516.66
Paycheck	12/31/2019	9378	Peters, Cynthia	City Council	-481.94
Paycheck	12/31/2019	9379	Rachut, Ron	City Council	-369.04
Bill Pmt -Check	12/31/2019	9412	Alliant Energy	Electric	-1,878.90
Bill Pmt -Check	12/31/2019	9413	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-570.05
Bill Pmt -Check	12/31/2019	9414	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck	-189.29
Bill Pmt -Check	12/31/2019	9415	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-90.29
Bill Pmt -Check	12/31/2019	9416	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-75.69
Bill Pmt -Check	12/31/2019	9417	Waste Management		-2,410.65
Sales Tax Payment	12/31/2019	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		0.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/31/2019		ClerkBooks A/P Adjust	QuickBooks generated zero amount transaction for bill payment stub	
Total Checking					<u>-31,513.55</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>-31,513.55</b>

## Abraham Lincoln, "The Rail Splitter"

(1861-65)

Lincoln was quite the tinkerer. He loved to analyze and create. He is the only U.S. President to hold a patent for one of his inventions (U.S. Patent No. 6469).

After having spent time in his youth on river boats, he knew the necessity of being able to raise the boat above treacherous shoals. Lincoln's design created a balloon or bellows system that would raise the ships higher in shallow water to avoid running aground.

Lincoln has remained a dynamic character study for many. Not only because of his placement in U.S. history, but also due to his complex personality, and dramatic features. Garner Holt Production has recently created an animated Lincoln based on the facial expressions marked in photographs of him. While some of the expressions are downright scary, it's truly fascinating to imagine what he would have looked like in life!

□ When my wife and I arrived at a car dealership to pick up our car after a service, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door.

As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'its open!'

His reply, 'I know. I already did that side.'

**STAY ALERT!**

They walk among us, they breed, and they vote.....

In 1875 the firm of Grove and Kirk bought out the Oувerson store and Mr. Gove was postmaster conducted the office in this store.

The first election in Fertile township was held in the house of Warren Caswell on the first Tuesday of November, 1860. Only five votes were cast resulting in the election of the following officers: John Morris, supervisor; John Morris, Warren Caswell, William Fankell, trustees; William Rhodes, clerk; William J. Clark, assessor; William Rhodes and William Clark, justices of the peace; and William Fankell, constable.

The first election in the Town of Fertile was at the house of William Rhodes in October, 1861. Just six votes were cast.

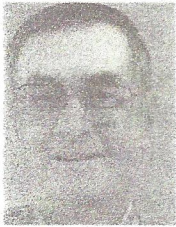
George Westcott homesteaded 240 acres in Fertile Township in 1868, 80 acres of which is still in the family, being the home of the S. W. Parker family.

The first persons in the county to be naturalized and receive their citizenship papers were Ole Knudson, Aaron Robinson, and Soren Benson in 1860.



Pictured above from left to right in front row: Betty Waddington, Penny Miller, Deb Kleveland, Joyce Russell (our newest member) , Back row: Eileene Schissel, Susanna Lee and Cindy Peters.

**FERTILE GARDEN CLUB** received a grant from Worth County Community Foundation to purchase a golf cart and water tank to water the flower pots and flower beds maintained by the club in Fertile. We thank the foundation for the grant and will put it to good use when summer rolls around, In the past we have had to save jugs (all winter) fill them to carry water to each of these places. It usually took an hour and a half to get this done and many times it was done daily.



**THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON**

Happy New Year Fertile. We have a new year, new decade, new Mayor, and we will have a new council person at our January meeting. There are two items I put on the agenda for our January

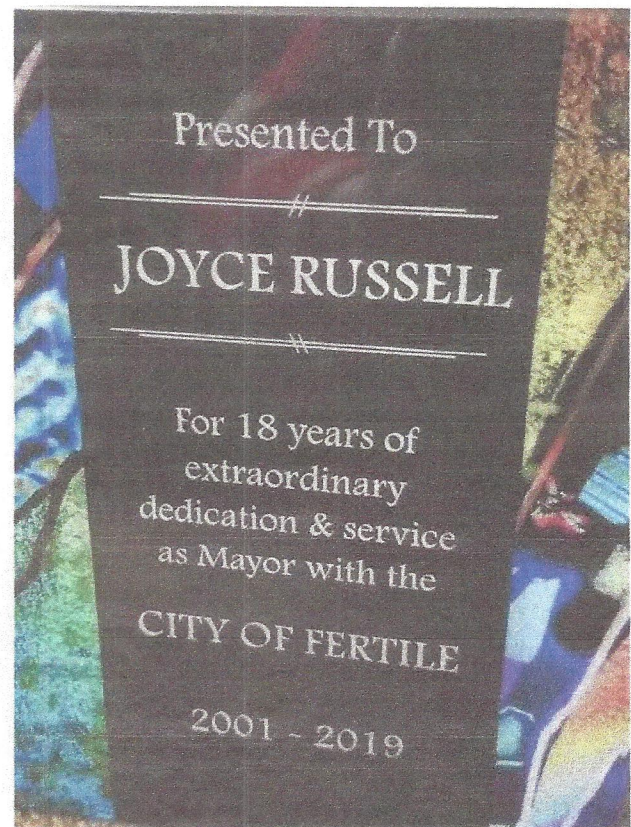
meeting. The first is to adopt a Code of Ethics for our City Officials. We don't have a problem now, but there has been in the past. This will insure that we don't in the future. The second is discussion about possibly adding the position of Deputy City Clerk or a City Treasurer. This new position would assume the duties that Mayor Russell was doing on an hourly basis and not spelled out as duties of the Mayor in our Book of Municipal Code of Ordinances. Mayor Russell did nothing wrong as this was approved by our City Attorney and the State of Iowa. Mayor Bailey and all council people will have a time to express their thoughts about this proposal. The pay will be based on the extra Mayor Russell was getting so very little extra cost to the city. It doesn't mean it will happen. We just need to discuss it so nothing effecting Fertile goes undone.

Some of you are probably going to think I am a crack-pot for saying this, but it is something I really believe. On January 5 during the Pastor's sermon, I had a revelation. I went back to Operation LZ in Forest City. Donna and I were ready to leave the Huey helicopter that we had just flown in. The soldier that was seated across from us was having trouble undoing his seat belt, so Donna reached across and undid it. That is when I noticed those five words on his vest. Those words were 'AGENT ORANGE I AM DYING'. God had been trying to speak to me for years to do more volunteer work to help others through pastor's sermons and I wasn't listening, so God took another approach. I saw a soldier. Donna saw a soldier. Those five words was God speaking to me, to take this soldier's place to help others, and it worked. Among others, I have volunteered to help at Youth for Christ and the homeless Veterans at the Mason City shelter. I firmly believe God speaks to us in his own way. It is just, are we listening. Until next time, Thank a Veteran for the freedoms we enjoy, Thank a farmer for the food on your plate, and above all, Thank God for your daily blessings.



**Congratulations for 18 years of being the Mayor of Fertile. Thank you to all the Citizens of Fertile for coming to the party. Thank you also for the beautiful plaque that Jody and Cindy had made for me.**

**Thank You Jody Smith and Cindy Peters for the wonderful party you gave me on December 8th at the Fertile Community Center.**



**May 22, 1902**

Source: Decorah Republican May 22, 1902 Page 6 Col 2 Shooting and Killing at Northwood. Northwood, Iowa; May 8. - August Herman was shot and killed by his wife, here, as the result of a family quarrel. The couple has not got along very well of late, having had numerous quarrels, according to neighbors. Mrs. Herman claims she shot in self-defense.





### Raspberry Cream Dessert

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. heavy whipping cream, whipped
- 1 pkg. frozen sweetened raspberries, thawed
- 1 Tbs. cornstarch

In a small mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Gradually fold in whipped cream. Pipe mixture into two dessert dishes or spoon into two 4-in. spring form pans coated with nonstick cooking spray. Refrigerate for 4 hours or until set.

Drain raspberries, reserving juice; set berries aside. Add enough water to the juice to measure 3/4 cup. In a small saucepan, combine cornstarch and juice mixture until smooth. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir for 1-2 minutes or until thickened. Cool slightly.

Stir in reserved raspberries. Cover and refrigerate until chilled serve with cream dessert.

YIELD: 2 servings.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Chicken Bundles for Two

- 2 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- 2 med. red potatoes, quartered, cut into 1/2" slices
- 1/4 c. chopped onion
- 1 medium carrot, cut into 1/4" slices
- 1 celery rib, cut into 1/4" slices
- 1/2 tsp. rubbed sage
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Fresh dill sprigs

Divide chicken and vegetables between 2 pieces of double-layered heavy-duty foil (about 18" square). Sprinkle with sage, salt and pepper; top with dill sprigs. Fold foil around the mixture and seal tightly. Grill, covered, over medium heat for 30 minutes or until the chicken juices run clear and vegetables are tender.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Tips from the olden days!

A book from 1951 says: ... add a little sugar to vegetables while cooking, it improves their flavor.

### Creamy Hot Chocolate

- 1/2 c. baking cocoa
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 6 1/2 c. water
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- Miniature marshmallows, optional

In a large saucepan, combine the cocoa, milk and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat. Gradually add water; cook and stir until heated through. Stir in vanilla. Top each serving with marshmallows if desired. YIELD: 8 servings.

\*\*\*\*\*

### All-Around Seasoning Mix

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1/2 c. paprika        | 4 tsp. salt          |
| 3 Tbs. onion powder   | 4 tsp. dried thyme   |
| 3 Tbs. garlic powder  | 4 tsp. dried oregano |
| 3 Tbs. cayenne pepper | 4 tsp. ground cumin  |
| 2 Tbs. white pepper   | 4 tsp. chili powder  |
| 2 Tbs. pepper         |                      |

In a small bowl, combine all ingredients. Store in an airtight container in a cool dry place for up to 6 months. YIELD: 1 2/3 cups.

\*\*\*\*\*

Retirement: I've been told that you are twice as busy than before retirement. I say it just takes you twice as long to do things. ☺

eBay is so useless. I tried to look up lighters and all they had was 13,749 matches.

Entered what I ate today into my new fitness app and it just sent an ambulance to my house.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Why are the numbers on a calculator and a phone reversed?

\*\*\*\*\*  
 May you have a  
 Happy Valentine's  
 Day

\*\*\* ♥ \*\*\*



## DAM AND DAMN ARE DIFFERENT

Neil Kuns

There has been a dam across the Winnebago River in Fertile, Iowa for over 150 years, since 1868. The dam was placed there because of a twelve foot limestone ledge on the north side of the river and because the gradual slope upstream from the site was a half-mile long and would become a twelve-foot deep reservoir holding enough water to run a mill. That was the reason it was selected as the dam site.

I recall the first time we were in the Nether...



I recall the first time we were in the Netherlands and I heard the main square of Amsterdam referred to as the "Dam Square." At first I felt that the person was expressing disdain for the place. Later I learned that it was once the site of a dam on the Amstel River. "Amstel dam" morphed into "Amsterdam" and the rest is history. I came to understand the difference between "dam" and "damn."

As an adjective "damn" expresses certainty or a matter of degree. As a verb it means to condemn or bring to ruin. As a noun swear word it is a curse or an expression of the least degree -- "I don't give a damn (with an n on the end)," for instance. A tinker's dam (no n on the end) was also an item of little value. The old expression "not worth a tinker's dam" is not a crude comparison if you know what you're talking about. I mention this because some time ago I heard a host on a national television talk show say something was "not worth a tinker's darn." Surely he was attempting to be proper and refined, but all he did was expose his ignorance. It is an easy mistake to make

A tinker was an artisan who repaired leaking pots, kettles and pewter plates at a time when "use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without" was the order of the day. People did not discard a utensil just because it was discolored or developed a leak. They repaired it. A tinker's dam was a disc of tin the size of a dime or perhaps smaller. The tinker would place a dam on a pin, insert it through the hole, put another dam on the other side and then solder or hammer the application smooth thus plugging the leak. It wasn't pretty, but it was effective and much more economical than buying another utensil. The repaired pan would still hold water, just like any dam across a river. Now you know the difference, if you give a...-- if you care.



Left to right: Dalton Cullinan, Nick Bailey, Dan Miller, Dylan Knoph, Ryan Smith, Mitch Tuttle, Mike Dahn, Jason Thompson and Jesse Luther.



## **FERTILE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER**

**FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**4 - 7 PM**

**FREE WILL DONATION!!!**

**COME HUNGRY!!!!**





FERTILE DAYS COMMITTEE

# RESCHEDULED ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER

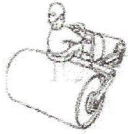
FREE WILL DONATION!  
HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL  
THERE!

NOW RESCHEDULED TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020  
5 PM TO 7 PM  
FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER

# ASPHALT PAVING

North Iowa Sand & Gravel, Inc.

- Residential
- Commercial
- Driveway
- Asphalt Paving
- Street
- Asphalt Repair
- Parking Lot
- Crack Filling
- Bike Paths
- Cold Tar Sealing



Free Estimates  
Locally Owned

**Bob Tuttle, Owner**

46 years' experience

641-424-5591 • 800-310-5591

18237 Killdeer Ave, Mason City, IA

## OUIVERSON INSURANCE

& Group Benefit Services, Inc.

Neil L. Ouverson, Broker

Betty A. Ouverson, Broker

641-797-2100 Office 746A - 342nd St.

641-797-2101 Fax Hanlontown, IA

888-944-2127 Toll Free 641-430-2170 Cell

[Ouversins@wctatel.net](mailto:Ouversins@wctatel.net)

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

## LARSEN PLUMBING & HEATING

641-797-2219

FERTILE, IOWA 50434

LENNOX®

## YOUNG CONSTRUCTION

ROOFING – SIDING - GUTTERS

WINDOWS - INSULATION

FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATES

641-430-0655

Showroom:

1539 N. Federal – Mason City

LOCALLY OWNED BY

DAN YOUNG AND TAMI RAMON

## CRAZY FAST FIBER INTERNET!



Plus  
Digital TV  
& Voice  
too



800-592-6105

[www.wctatel.net](http://www.wctatel.net)

Call us at 800-592-6105 today!



**BURTNESS - LUNDGREN  
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

Call for all your Plumbing, Heating  
& Air Conditioning Needs!

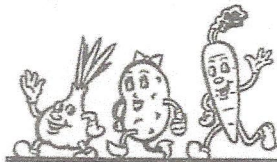
John Burtness & Todd Lundgren  
Clear Lake, 641-357-8882  
Fertile 641-797-2680

Greg Knopf, owner

**HAUGEN LAWN SERVICE**

Mowing Seeding Spraying Fertilizing  
Thatching sodding garden tilling  
Over-seeding  
Spring and Fall Clean-up and Snow Removal  
24529 Finch Ave., Clear Lake, IA  
E-Mail: [Knopfdylan@gmail.com](mailto:Knopfdylan@gmail.com)  
Phone: (641) 590-1977 641-590-5132

**FERTILE VALLEY GARDENS**



*Ron Rachut*

641-797-2811 Fertile, IA

**OLSON INSURANCE**

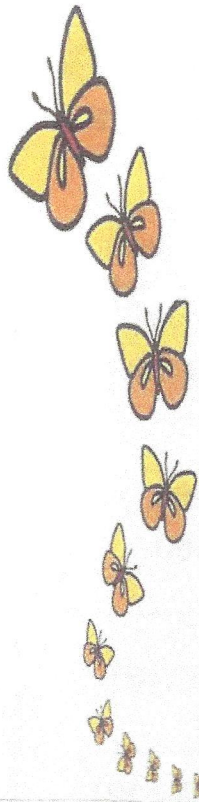


**Kory T. Olson**

[kory@tohins.com](mailto:kory@tohins.com)  
Cell (641) 390-1865

**Northwood Office**  
704 Central Ave., P.O. Box 287  
Northwood, IA 50459  
(641) 324-2452  
Fax (641) 324-1229

**Manly Office**  
103 N. Todd St., P.O. Box 248  
Manly, Iowa 50456  
(641) 454-2292  
Fax (641) 454-2293



**SALON INTRIGUE**  
210 us Highway 18  
West Ste C.  
Clear Lake, IA

**Full service salon**  
641-357-3301

**HEATHER SCHULZE**  
Owner/Cosmetologist

**ANNOUNCING**  
**"ELLIE SCHULZE"**

**PCI GRADUATE**

**IS NOW TAKING**  
**APPOINTMENTS**



*An out-of-the-way, quiet retreat  
on the Winnebago River*

For the busy types . . .  
quiet, relaxing solitude!

For the quiet types . . .  
peace & luxury!

Call year-round for  
reservations

**Rhodes Mill Retreat**

Main Street, Fertile, IA 50434

918-630-9935

[www.rhodesmill.com](http://www.rhodesmill.com)



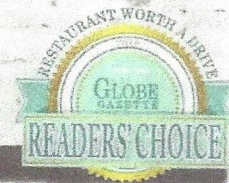
# Cafe Milk

local food • wood-fired pizza  
european wines • midwestern beers

follow us on Facebook for  
weekly menu updates!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
5 - 9 PM

\*reservations  
gladly accepted  
641-797-2999  
or via Facebook message

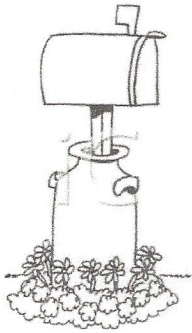


MAIN STREET HIST FERTILE IOWA

**WE'RE PROUD TO  
CALL IOWA HOME.**

At POET Biorefining - Harlontown, we're helping transform the world with renewable energy and advanced bio-products. Innovation is the product of hard work and that creativity comes from common sense. The same values make Fertile a great place to live and work.

POET



**Fertile Reminder  
Box 62  
Fertile, IA 50434**

**PRSR STD  
US Postage paid  
Fertile, IA 50434  
Permit # 3**

### **REMINDER POLICY**

Suggested Price is .....\$8.00 a year.  
Due to the high cost of printing and mailing, we **DO NOT MAKE UP AND MAIL OUT EXTRA COPIES**. The work on the Reminder is done by Volunteers. Editor, ads & articles. Betty Waddington & Tammy Waddington; Treasurer & Subscriptions, Cindy Peters; proof reader, Joan Norem; fold and label, Carolyn Nedved, Paula Worsley, Sharon Ganz, Marcheta Pederson. If you want the email version which comes out a week earlier and in color, contact [bettvw@wctatel.net](mailto:bettvw@wctatel.net). Same Price!

CHECK YOUR LABEL TO SEE WHEN SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE. Green star is next month, Red star is OVERDUE. For questions on your subscription write Cindy Peters, Fertile Reminder, Box 62, Fertile, IA 50434

### **Fertile Lutheran Church LCMC**

**602 W. Washington Box 215  
Fertile, IA 50434  
Pastor David Halverson  
641-797-2767  
Sunday Worship Service 9:30  
Sunday School 10:30 am**

### **Fertile Church of Christ**

**Pastor Rob Perry  
Sunday School - 9:00 am  
Fellowship Time - 9:55 am  
Worship - 10:15 am  
Wednesday night Youth  
6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Men and women's Bible Study**

### **Celebration Community Church**

**805 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. North, Clear Lake, Ia 50428  
641-357-0026 (Pastor Dan Miller)  
Praise and Worship Service - 9:30 am  
Fellowship 10:15 Praise & Worship 10:30 am  
Wednesday - 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study**

### **Pilot Knob Lutheran Church**

**AALC Rural Forest City  
Pastor Robert Snitzer  
Worship 9:00 am  
Sunday School 10:15**





## Library Events

### Adult Craft Afternoon

February 9th @ 1 pm

Join us for making Valentine jars, snacks, and conversations.

### Movie Afternoon

February 18th @ 3:00 pm

Join us for a showing of the new Mister Rogers movie, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood. Treats will be served.

### Cookbook Club

February 20th @ 6:30 pm

Join us as we enjoy good food and each other's company.

### Family Movie Night

February 21st @ 7 pm

Join us for the movie Arctic dogs & popcorn. Jammies always welcome.

## Fiesta Night Fundraiser

The library is holding it's annual fiesta fundraiser on Saturday March 21, from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. We are looking for items for our silent auction. If you have any items you wish to donate, please contact Angie @ the library.

FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
204 West Main Street/Box 198  
Fertile, IA 50434  
641-797-2787 Phone/Fax  
Monday & Wednesday: 1-6 P.M.  
Thursday: 3-6 P.M.  
Friday: 9- Noon & 2-6 P.M.  
Saturday: 9 - Noon

[WWW.YOUSEEMORE.COM/NILC/FERTILEPL](http://WWW.YOUSEEMORE.COM/NILC/FERTILEPL)

## featuring New Books

A distance too grand - Regina Scott  
Hindsight - Iris Johansen  
Moral Compass - Danielle Steel  
Lost - James Patterson  
The mothers - Britt Bennett  
No better friend - Robert Weintraub  
The rise of magicks - Nora Roberts

## featuring New DVDs

Hustle  
Poms  
The farewell  
Judy  
Yesterday  
Joker

## FERTILE FIRSTS from FERTILE CENTENNIAL 1956

The first marriage was that of Marcus O. Blackmore and Louise Fankell which took place July 2, 1868.

The first death was that of a daughter of Luther Place in the winter of 1856-57. The roads were so badly blocked by drifting snows that it was necessary for a man to walk to Mason City and bring a coffin to Fertile on a sled.

The first school was a summer term taught in 1860 by Phoebe Dennis. She had 5 scholars.

The first breaking in the township was done by Gabriel Pence, for William Rhodes for a garden.

The first blacksmith was David W. Fisher.

He first wheat was raised by William K. Fankell in 1859. He had some fifteen acres of it, and it is reported he had an excellent return for his labors.

The first Norwegian school was taught by Betsy Resta during the summer of 1873.

As a reminiscence of that terrible winter of 1856-57, it was frequently told that all of the provisions for this little settlement had to be brought from Mason City on hand sleds.

The first religious services in the township were held at the school house during the summer of 1867. The Rev. James Williams preached the sermon and conducted the services. They organized a Sunday school and these services continued for about five years.

During the fall of 1871 the Scandinavian settlers held their first service at the house of A. Halversen by the Rev. T. A. Torgesen.

The cemetery of the Lutheran Society was bought by K. Paulson from J. C. Calhoun in the fall of 1874. The first to be interred in this cemetery was Carl Johan a son of G. K. Daley.

The village was platted during the year 1877 and the plat thereof filed for record August 21 of the same year.

Thomas Ensley of Mason City was the owner of the town site and sold the first lot to Grove and Kirk on October 5, 1877.

The first store was opened in 1872 by Ole Ouverson. In 1874 he took K. Paulson as a partner for one year.

Halvor Ouverson commenced the business of blacksmithing in 1875. He also did wagon and general repair work. He invented some of the machinery he used in his business.

Gunder K. Daley also conducted a blacksmith and wagon shop. He built an 18x24 foot shop 10 feet high and continued his work there until 1880 when it was blown down by a tornado. He then erected a new building 24x42 feet which he added a wood working room and a grindstone room where he polished the steel part of the plows. The machinery in his shop was run by horse power.

Dr. J. R. Jones was the first physician, arriving in 1878 and in 1879 he put in the first drug store.