

**April 12, 2012**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Corey Hanson called the regular monthly meeting of the Common Council of the City of Alma to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Clerk Linda Torgerson took roll call with the following members present: Mayor Corey Hanson, Richard Champeny, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Mary Johnson and Leighton (Jim) Wilkie.  
Absent: Larry Farl and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to approve the March 8, 2012 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Ruff to approve the Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizens comments:

Lois Balk informed the Council that Volunteer Clean-up day is Friday April 20, 2012 and encourages all to participate. A lunch will be served at Rieck's Lake Park for that day. Balk informed the Council that the film crew of Discover WI will be in Alma beginning April 26<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Kathy Goodman commented that the film crew will be focused on birding and that the condition of River Street is a concern.

Kathy Goodman informed the council that she had been to McGregor, IA and visited with the Mayor regarding the impact that the frac sand trucks have had on their community. Damage to gutters being pulled away from the sidewalks, historical buildings crumbling are some of the examples of impacts, Goodman stated. McGregor is looking to partner with other communities being affected in the same manner.

Mayor Hanson thanked Kathy Goodman for her information.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Moham reported that the Finance Committee had met March 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the proposed TIF projects. The committee approved proceeding with the TIF 1 amendment for the staircase projects as were presented.

The committee met on April 9<sup>th</sup> to do vouchers and bills and discussed the community gardens on Shawnee Drive.

Moham stated that the area has been tilled and plotted. Moham has developed rules and regulations and an application form for those interested in purchasing a garden plot. Moham is concerned about the cost of hauling water to the gardens and suggested just a first-time fill and after that people can take their own water.

Discussion was held. Bob Scow, upcoming Mayor, commented that he felt the City should not supply the water for the gardens.

Jim Wilkie suggested using the sludge tank that is currently not being used by the city and have it at the garden area.

City Attorney Seifert suggested the terminology of permit instead of lease regarding the community garden plots. He further suggested that on the application wordage stating that the City of Alma reserves the right at anytime, without notice, to terminate the lease for the City's use.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Ruff to approve the Finance Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Ruff informed the Council that the committee met on March 15, 2012 and discussed the proposed road and sidewalk projects. Ruff stated that the committee will be meeting on April 16, 2012.

Dorothy Peterson, Alma Historical Society, requested she be notified when the handicap ramp for the Museum is discussed.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Moham to approve the Utilities Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

### **SERVICES/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Wilkie informed the Council that the committee met April 9, 2012. The committee met with representatives from the Alma Little League regarding the coaches hiring. The committee felt that the Little League should meet again amongst themselves to resolve this issue and report back to the committee.

Wilkie reported that the well at the beach area is currently testing unsafe and Cal Loewenhagen is working on this situation.

Wilkie reported that the docks should be back in at Breckow's Landing in approximately 2 weeks.

Wilkie informed the committee that an anonymous donation has been made to the City of Alma in the amount of \$1,000 for the beach swimming program.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the Parks and Recreation Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

**TAX/LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE**

Champeny informed the Council that the committee had met regarding the claim filed by Alma Apartments for the 2011 assessment claiming excessive assessment.

The committee met with assessor, Eric Kleven, and reviewed the Board of Review's 2011 minutes and actions taken. The committee recommends to the council to deny the claim.

Champeny inquired Attorney Seifert of any update on the 2010 excessive assessment claim filed by Alma Apartments.

Attorney Seifert stated that they have filed a lawsuit and it has been assigned to Pierce County, however, no trial date has been set.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Johnson to deny the excessive assessment claim for the 2011 assessment as filed by Alma Apartments, Ltd. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Clerk Torgerson will send a letter of denial.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to grant a Combination Class B Beer and Liquor License to Double Barrel Bar & Grill, LLC-Shannon Livingston, agent. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to grant a Combination Class B Beer and Liquor License to The Burlington Hotel, LLC-Kathi Korum, agent. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve an Operator License to Rebecca Livingston. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve the mobile home park permit application to Mark Olson. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the Tax/License/Zoning committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

**HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Moham to approve the March 29, 2012 minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item 7: Discuss request for a City Moratorium on frac sand mining and processing within the city limits.

Kathy Goodman, resident, stated that Carl Duley commented that Glacier Sand Co. has met with Dairyland Power regarding storage and barge use. She is very concerned of the possibility of Dairyland Power have a storage facility and rail and barge use system for the frac sand mining.

Attorney Seifert suggested that, if a moratorium is to be considered, that the environmental and health impacts be considered, not one industry impacting another, and to discuss the pros and cons and reasonable risks.

Bob Scow suggested that the City contact Dairyland Power directly and ask them if they are getting involved in the frac mining. Scow stated he will go to Dairyland Power and discuss this issue with them and report back.

Wilkie questioned being able to put a moratorium on an industrially zoned property. Seifert will check into the City's options and report back.

Foreman Deb Burce commented that the City needs to get the opinion of all citizens and that some of our citizens are benefiting from the frac sand mining in the way of jobs.

Attorney Seifert suggested that the Council wait until Bob Scow has spoken with Dairyland Power and reported back to the Council with his findings and go from there.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Wilkie to send the issue of the frac sand moratorium to the Tax/License/Zoning committee, if needed, after Dairyland Power has been contacted. All members voting yes.

### **BUFFALO RIVER/BEEF SLOUGH DREDGING FAILURE REPORT**

Attorney Seifert stated that he has had no response and has nothing new to report at this time.

Police Chief Roger Engel presented his police report for Dec. 5, 2011 to April 10, 2012.

Mayor Hanson commented to the Council, now that his term as Mayor will be ending, that the Council work at getting the City of Alma combined into one Ward since our population is fewer than 1,000.

Council applauded Mayor Hanson for his service as Mayor to the City of Alma.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to adjourn. All members voting yes.