**February 5, 2015 COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jim Wilkie 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 Jim Wilkie, Robert J. Oium, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Mary Johnson and David Earney. Absent: Matt Olson.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to approve the January 5, 2015 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Oium to approve the Financial Report for January 2015 as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Oium seconded by Ruff to approve the Treasurer’s Report for January 2015 as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen Comments:

Corey Hanson, Alma Area School Board member, presented a handout for the Council explaining the costs for the heating systems proposed at the school. Hanson informed the Council that this will come to a Referendum vote at the April 2015 election. Hanson stated that he will keep the Council informed as new information becomes available.

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

David Earney, chairman, informed the Council that the committee had not met, however, there have been developments in the ongoing projects for the City.

Lisa Fleming and Woody Woodarz from Ayres Associates gave a presentation to the Council on the Alley Street retaining wall and sanitary sewer project for the City of Alma. Fleming gave a detailed presentation which included wall design for this project.

Fleming gave the following timetable for the project:

* March 12, 2015-------Plans released
* April 2, 2015----------Open bids
* April 6, 2015----------Award bids

Discussion was held and prior to the plans being released, temporary utility easements must be obtained from all property owners involved in the project.

Mayor Wilkie thanked Lisa and Woody for their presentation.

Dave Earney informed the Council that the Well #2 renovation project is close to being finished.

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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had met on January 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. One of the items discussed was the ball field lighting at the beach area park.

Tim Ruff and Corey Hanson were present at Council to discuss the ball field lighting.

Tim Ruff, Little League coordinator, informed the Council that the following were reasons for the Little League getting involved in lighting for the ball field:

* Safety for the children. At dusk and thereafter it is hard for the children to see the ball and accidents could occur.
* Fair game strategy. When it is too dark to play and the game is called early, neither the home team nor the visiting team sometimes gets a fair game.
* School softball games held at the beach are affected as well.
* Hosting of tournaments for Little League and softball.
* Interest in adult softball teams that would play at a later time.

Ruff and Hanson further commented that the rules for the lighting would be honored the same as the tennis court lighting in the evening for the lights to be shut down at 10 or 10:30 p.m. This would prevent any hardship to the boat owners at the adjacent marina.

Hanson and Ruff stated that the only funds needed would be for the poles for the lights at this point.

Mayor Wilkie questioned if the electrical service would handle the lights. Hanson stated that the little league had spoken to an electrician that stated that it would. Wilkie requested this be in writing.

Hanson stated that initially when the Little League began the fund raising for the ball field lighting they stated that there would be no funds needed from the City.

Mary Johnson informed Hanson and Ruff that the committee had discussed this issue and actually made a motion not to allow ball field lighting.

Police Chief Todd Ritscher stated that in no way did he want adult slow pitch leagues at the beach area in the evening that would create problems with the marina and that the 10 p.m. curfew would be enforced.

Larry Farl questioned if the lights they purchased were cost effective.

Hanson stated probably not the most energy efficient, however, for the amount of time they are needed it wasn’t cost effective to purchase $100,000 lights.

Discussion was held regarding the ongoing costs of which no amounts were given to the Council.

Motion by Oium seconded by Farl to send the ball field lighting issue back to the committee and the Little League is to provide to the committee specific ongoing costs such as the electrical usage costs, maintenance and other economic factors. All members voting yes.

Farl continued with his Parks & Recreation committee from January 19th and informed the Council that the committee had discussed upcoming projects and issues for 2015:

* Marina structure violations – nothing new was reported at this time.
* Park concerns – Buena Vista Park landscaping. Mayor Wilkie informed the Council at this time that he had received a call from a family member of someone deceased who would like to donate $3,800 for something at Buena Vista Park. Mayor Wilkie stated that this may cover the cost of the much needed landscaping.
* Mossy Hollow possible bike trail. Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that a trail designer will be at Mossy Hollow on Saturday and that Xcel Energy needs to conduct a road for the trucks to get to the electrical poles for repair/replacement and the good news is that the City owns the land and has a say as to where this road goes. Wilkie stated that the intent is to use this road as a mountain bike trail that could connect to a trail that Danzinger winery will build from that point. Wilkie stated that he felt a survey should be done of the property the City owns so that the trail is built properly.

Motion by Moham seconded by Oium to conduct a survey of the city-owned property known as Mossy Hollow up to $5,000. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Moham seconded by Oium to approve the Parks & Recreation Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

**SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Gary Ruff, chairman, informed the Council that the committee had not met, however, he did attend the Ambulance Board meeting and all is going well and they are considering purchasing a new cot which will cost between $22,000 and $40,000.

Ruff stated that he attended the Fire Meeting last evening and the Fire Department does have figures for a new truck that they will be presenting at the next committee meeting.

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

**FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE COMMITTEE**

Acting chairperson Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee had met this morning on the following:

* Building permits-The committee approved two building permits pending the Historical Preservation approval to Jack Spencer at 121 South Main Street for signage and Marvilla Zittel for siding at 304 South Main Street.
* Building permit violations-the committee instructed Clerk Torgerson to send out the building permit violation letters as were discussed.
* Other items discussed-Mayor Wilkie informed the committee about the Xcel project at Mossy Hollow and that he will be requesting approval for a survey of Mossy Hollow at the Council meeting
* Bills, receipts and vouchers. The committee reviewed and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.

Moham informed the Council that a mobile home park permit application is on the Council agenda for approval for Jerome Hungerford.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to grant a mobile home park permit to Jerome Hungerford. All members voting yes.

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

**WUTA (WISCONSIN UTILITIES TAX ASSOCIATION)**

WUTA chairman Robert J. Oium informed the Council that he has proposed two bills that affect the City of Alma. The first one is to raise the per capita of Utility Aid money from $425 to $525 and the second involves when the decommissioning of the power plant #1. Oium stated that the bill would request no change in aid so long as the building exists even if it is decommissioned.

**LIBRARY LIAISON**

Library liaison, Larry Farl informed the Council that the Library Board had met. The new librarian is Rita Magno who began work on December 1st.

Farl stated that all is going well and that Library Board minutes have been provided to the Council.

Motion by Moham seconded by Johnson to approve the Library liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

**Mayor comments:**

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he had received the letter and map from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad which they all received in their packets. The letter states that the railroad will be erecting three (3) 50’ communication poles in the City of Alma and need no permitting from the City, however, if anyone wants to make comment the letter directs where to comment.

Mayor Wilkie showed the Council contour maps provided by the Corps of Engineers showing the Mossy Hollow area and the Bluff land area that may be donated to the City or the County in the near future.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he has been requested from Dairyland Power to meet with them regarding the closing of Plant #1.

**Upcoming meetings:**

Next council will be Thursday, March 5, 2015.

Utilities – Friday, February 27, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to adjourn.