

**February 6, 2012**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**5:45 p.m.**

Mayor Corey Hanson opened the public hearing to the public regarding the conditional use permit applications submitted by Matthew Danzinger-S2026 Grapeview Lane, to actively farm land, growing agricultural crops in a rotation which meets soil erosion and nutrient management compliance on Lots #28, 29, 33, 34, 35 & 36 of the Alma Hills subdivision. Current zoning of the property is R-4.

Hearing no testimony for or against the proposed conditional use permit, Mayor Hanson closed the public hearing.

**February 6, 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, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Mary Johnson, Jim Wilkie and David Earney. Absent: Richard Champeny.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the January 12, 2012 Council Proceedings as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizen's Comments:

Kevin Cassidy addressed the Council regarding the concerns of the frac mine trucks traveling through the City of Alma estimated between 250 to 420 trucks per day.

Cassidy's regarding the approval of the frac mines by the Buffalo County Board of Adjustments:

- Impact studies were not done
- Impact on tourism in the City of Alma
- Pedestrian safety crossing Hwy 35 in Alma
- National Scenic Byway
- National Historic District

Cassidy read the mission statement of the National Scenic Byways Commission and stated that local commitment in regards to zoning is a requirement of the National Scenic Byways.

Cassidy stated that he felt the City should pursue a legal challenge against Buffalo County because the approval of the frac mines was done without notifying the City of Alma of its impact.

Cassidy further stated that the City of Alma should come to a resolution to prevent future approval of frac mines and present the resolution in front of a judge or an alliance with Fountain City.

Kristine Kjos, owner of The Commercial, stated that she has been in the City of Alma for 15 years and feels that tourism won't come into her store if the trucks go through Alma and the scenic beauty is lost. Kjos stated that the frac trucks will ruin all the businesses in Alma.

Andy Maday, resident, stated that it will be difficult crossing the street with the increased truck traffic.

Lois Balk, former Mayor, stated that the County Board was just as shocked and that the committee (Buffalo County Board of Adjustments) made these decisions. Lois suggested that Kevin Cassidy's comments be checked out by the National Scenic Byways representative, Robert Miller and felt more power could come from National Scenic Byways if approached.

Mary Johnson commented that she has spoken with Senator Kathleen Vinehout regarding the impact of the frac mine trucks through the City of Alma.

Attorney Jon Seifert stated that the use of the highway is a hot topic currently because of the frac mine trucks; however, the other interest on the other side has not been advocated. Seifert further commented that the highways were designed for commerce and to move goods and the City of Alma does not have a right to shut down or control the state highway system.

Ann Maday, resident, stated she is worried about the environmental impact of the frac mines.

Lorena Hungerford, resident, expressed her concerns of the school bus routes and the truck traffic.

Robert Scow, resident and mayoral candidate, stated that he felt the Open Meetings Law was violated by the Buffalo County Board of Adjustments in not stating in the meeting notice that the committee would be traveling to the mine site, at which time the motion and vote was taken to approve the mine. Scow further stated that if this is a violation then any action taken at that meeting would be null and void.

Attorney Seifert concurred, however, further commented that the Board of Adjustment could just properly post the meeting, hold it again and come up with the same decision.

Bibie Pearson, member of the Garden Club, wanted to thank the City for the electricity for the trees on the boulevard.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Monica Moham, chairperson, informed the Council that the committee met February 3, 2012.

The committee met with Police Chief Roger Engel and all is going well.

The committee discussed the possible TIF projects that Lisa Fleming from Ayres Associates will be presenting and approved vouchers and bills.

Lisa Fleming presented the proposed TIF project costs to the Council for the sidewalks and staircases throughout the City of Alma.

Fleming stated that sidewalks near the intersections would have to provide WIDOT approved handicap ramps. Sidewalks on Main Street were estimated at \$470,015.55 and sidewalks on Second Street were estimated at \$363,638.89. Staircase replacements were estimated at \$510,000 and retaining walls at \$154,500.

Demolition and engineering costs are included in the estimates given. Discussion was held and the council felt that the sidewalks and staircases be reviewed and to do the ones in need of repair and replacement first.

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to obtain firm cost estimates for Elm and Hickory Street staircases by Ayres Associates. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to authorize the Utilities Committee to work with Ayres Associates regarding the TIF improvement proposed projects. All members voting yes.

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

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mayor Corey Hanson stated that the Planning Commission met January 30, 2012 regarding the conditional use permit application submitted by Matthew Danzinger -S2026 Grapeview Lane, to actively farm land, growing agricultural crops in a rotation which meets soil erosion and nutrient management compliance on Lots #28, 29, 33, 34, 35 & 36 of the Alma Hills subdivision. Current zoning of the property is R-4.

The Planning Commission, without conditions, recommended approval.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Earney to approve the Conditional Use Permit as submitted by Matthew Danzinger -S2026 Grapeview Lane, to actively farm land, growing agricultural crops in a rotation which meets soil erosion and nutrient management compliance on Lots #28, 29, 33, 34, 35 & 36 of the Alma Hills subdivision. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the Planning Commission report as presented. All members voting yes.

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Gary Ruff informed the council that the committee met on February 2, 2012 and one of the agenda items discussed was the Mill Creek Road closure.

Ruff stated that the committee was interested in possibly retaining the roadway; however, transform its use to pedestrian traffic instead of vehicular.

Wilkie stated that if the road is abandoned, it would revert back to the property owners. Discussion was held.

Motion by Moham seconded by Wilkie to start the proceedings for closure of Mill Creek road. Five members voting yes. One, no (Earney).

Ruff stated that the committee approved the installation of a stop sign on the north/west side of Cedar Street and a yield sign on the south/east side of Cedar at Second Street.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to adopt the Cross Connection Control ordinance update. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to adopt the Well Abandonment Ordinance update. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Wilkie to adopt Resolution #2012-01 Reducing the tax equivalent payable to the City of Alma by the City of Alma Water Utility. All members voting yes.

Ruff stated that the committee approved selling on sealed bids the 1995 GMC one ton and the 1998 Ford Dump truck.

Foreman Debra Burce informed the Council that there was a leak under the well pump house located outside of the city hall. Burce showed the rock that caused the hole in the water pipe due to vibration over many years. Burce stated that an estimated 20,000 gallons/day was lost due to this leak. The leak has detected by water coming out of the pump house.

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

**BUFFALO RIVER/BEEF SLOUGH DREDGING FAILURE**

Attorney Seifert informed the Council that he did not send the letter to the DNR, however, spoke to Ms. Kavanaugh and she indicated she would be sending out a letter in about a week.

March 8<sup>th</sup> will be the next council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Earney seconded by Farl to adjourn. All members voting yes.