

February 7, 2013

PUBLIC HEARING

5:30 p.m.

Mayor Robert Scow opened the public hearing to the public regarding a proposed amendment to the City of Alma's Zoning Ordinance Section 155.025 Residence District (R-4) regarding subparagraph (B) uses.

Mayor Scow read the following proposed amendment:

In Section 155.025 RESIDENCE DISTRICT (R-4): NO SEWER AND WATER

Subparagraph (B) Uses.

Sub-subparagraph "(1) Permitted uses. Same as R-1 District" is deleted and replaced with the following:

"(1) Permitted uses.

(a) Any permitted use in the R-1 District.

(b) Agricultural animals in limited numbers, including up to 3 horses and up to 20 chickens per parcel, provided the parcel is not less than 3 acres in size.

(c) Growing and harvesting hay."

Scow informed the public that the Planning Commission met on January 24, 2013 and recommended an amendment to the proposed amendment to the Council as follows:

“(1) Permitted Uses.

(a) Any use permitted in the R-1 District.

(b) Housing and feeding of up to three (3) horses and up to twenty (20) chickens per parcel provided that the parcel is not less than three (3) acres in size,

(c) Shelters for the above animals provided that the shelters are not less than fifty (50) feet from the parcel boundary lines.

(d) Growing and harvesting hay. “

Mayor Scow stated that the Planning Commission approved the amended amendment unanimously.

Speaking in favor of the proposed amendment:

Fritz Balsley, with Secluded Land Co, LLC, stated the reasons why Secluded Land Co., LLC requested the ordinance amendment. Balsley stated that it would be less cumbersome than dealing with each lot with a Conditional Use Permit and it would assist sales of the lots by the prospective buyers knowing the regulations of the zoning prior to purchasing.

Hearing no further testimony for or against the proposed ordinance amendment, Mayor Scow closed the hearing.

February 7, 2013

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Robert Scow 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 all members present: Mayor Robert Scow, Robert J. Oium, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Mary Johnson, Leighton (Jim) Wilkie and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to approve the January 7, 2013 Council proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

There were no citizens present for comments.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Scow stated that no residents were present at the public hearing objecting to the ordinance amendment relating to the permitted uses of the R-4 zoning district.

Scow stated the Planning Commission met on January 24, 2013 and amended the proposed ordinance amendment for the R-4 district and recommended unanimously the following to the council:

“(1) Permitted Uses.

- (e) Any use permitted in the R-1 District.
- (f) Housing and feeding of up to three (3) horses and up to twenty (20) chickens per parcel provided that the parcel is not less than three (3) acres in size,
- (g) Shelters for the above animals provided that the shelters are not less than fifty (50) feet from the parcel boundary lines.
- (h) Growing and harvesting hay. “

Motion by Oium seconded by Farl to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation for an ordinance amendment to the R-4 zoning district—permitted uses. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE COMMITTEE

Farl informed the Council that the committee met this morning and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.

Farl further stated that insurances (health & liability) were discussed and will be quoted prior to the March 1 renewal.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Moham to authorize the chairman of the Finance/Tax & License committee (or the entire committee) to select insurance companies for the health and liability insurances so long as it stays within the budgeted amount. All members voting yes.

Farl further stated that the committee briefly discussed unused Class B Beer & Liquor Licenses. The committee will be working on this issue in the near future.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the Finance/Tax & License committee report. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

No meeting was held.

Mayor Scow complimented the city crew on the wonderful job that the city crew has done in regard to the snow removal.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Ruff informed the Council that the committee met on February 6, 2013 and reported the following from the minutes:

The committee after the previous meeting regarding the possibility of co-mingled recycling with Waste Transport, the committee realized that the annual cost of the recycling program would be \$30 to \$36,000.

Currently the cost of contract with Alma/Arcadia Recycling is \$3,900/year. The City of Alma receives a recycling grant of \$4300 annually.

Other points discussed by committee that would pose problems with using the 96 gallon recycling dumpster per household:

- Downtown lack of space with apartments

- Possibility of garbage (fish guts, debris, etc) being put into dumpsters placed on sidewalks causing smells and extra enforcement issues
- Size of recycling dumpster not efficient for many residents on 2nd street who have a sizeable flight of steps from their homes
- Traffic congestion both on Hwy 35 and 2nd Street – Truck would have to make many stops to pick up the containers

The committee discussed that the current recycling program is working well and has been since its implementation in 1989. City hall has received only three contacts regarding wanting another method of recycling.

Mary Johnson informed the committee that the Friends of the Library have already contacted persons to have their recyclables picked up. The Friends of the Library will do the recycling pickup for those in need and will, after the one-year trial period, report back to the City the information of how many residents took advantage of the pickup and estimated costs.

Ruff further stated that the committee unanimously approved granting the Recycling Agreement to Arcadia Recycling for one year.

Ruff informed the Council that he had attended the Fire Department meeting on Feb. 6th and the department will be selling chili feed tickets again this year.

Ruff stated that the posts are in and waiting for the speed zone sign for Riverview Drive and Second Street.

Motion by Farl seconded by Wilkie to approve the Services Committee report. All members voting yes.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee met on January 31, 2013 and reported the following from the committee minutes:

Agenda Item 1: Boat launching fees/permits.

The following items as prepared by Mayor Scow were discussed and reviewed by the committee for preparation of an ordinance for the boat launch fees/permit system:

Account per DNR regulations related to maintenance and improvements of landings and docks.

- Alma South Landing
- Harbor-Marina landing
- Breckow's Landing

The following are recommendations I would suggest:

- \$5 launch fee-vehicle left at launch fee for more than one day must pay \$5 fee for each additional day parked
- Canoe or kayak launch fee - \$2 per watercraft
- Fee must be put in envelope supplied at launch sites. Permit displayed on dash (tag off of registration envelope)
- Seasonal pass \$30 Resident (City of Alma taxpayer who lives at least part-time in the City of Alma)
- \$45 Non-resident
- No commercial exclusion – must obtain seasonal pass
- Government agencies exempt – DNR, Municipal, US Army Corps of Engineers, Law Enforcement , Fire Services, Fish and Wildlife
- Signage with regulations and ordinance displayed – lock drop box and envelopes at each landing
- Seasonal passes available at City Hall – or paid for at landing with pass mailed by City Hall. Pass must be for registered owner of vehicles – if more than one vehicle to be used. Pass should be placed on dash or hung from rear view mirror.
- The committee suggests a parking fine fee of \$50 to match the existing parking fines

Farl reported that the committee unanimously passed a motion to proceed with the above recommendations in ordinance form consulting with the city attorney and presents the ordinance at the March council meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Fishing tournament – permits and guidelines.

The committee reviewed and amended a sample ordinance provided by Clerk Torgerson regarding fishing tournaments on City of Alma property.

Mayor Scow stated that he would like the Boat Launch and the Fishing Tournament Ordinances ready for the March council meeting.

The committee passed unanimously a motion to approve the proposed Fishing Tournament ordinance as amended and present to the City Attorney for review and introduce to the Council at the March meeting.

Public hearings will be held regarding the proposed ordinances.

Agenda Item 3: Park concerns.

Police Chief Todd Ritscher stated that he would like a different method of campers to register at Rieck's Lake Park. Ritscher suggested that campers, upon registration and/or payment, have a placard or ticket to place on the campsite # post so that when he patrols, he will know who is registered or not.

Larry Farl informed the committee that the City of Alma will receive environmental impact fees from the CapX2020 project that will be going through the City of Alma. Farl stated that the amount paid is based on the miles of line running through your municipality. The first year a larger amount is given and must be used for parks and recreation, environment improvements etc. as prescribed in the WI Stats. Then each year thereafter the City will receive approximately \$20,000 and will be able to spend this amount on anything they wish. More information is forthcoming, Farl stated. Linda commented that she has not received this information as of yet.

Linda informed the committee that she received a request from Deb Rothering regarding the 4-H having rotating books at Rieck's Lake Park. Farl stated that he attended the library board meeting and that it was discussed and everyone on the board felt it was a good idea. The committee had no objection to the 4-H group doing this project.

Motion by Oium seconded by Ruff to approve the Parks and Recreation committee report. All members voting yes.

AMBULANCE LIAISON

Ruff informed the Council that the Ambulance Board met on January 28, 2013. Out of 12 EMT's taking the class for certification, 8 passed and will be doing ride along training.

Ruff reported that the ambulance's trouble for coverage is during the day. Employers are not letting employees to go on runs.

Motion by Farl seconded by Oium to approve the Ambulance Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

LIBRARY LIAISON

Farl stated that the Library Board met on January 28, 2013 and discussed the 4-H project of having books at Rieck's Lake Park, which was previously discussed.

Motion by Oium seconded by Ruff to approve the Library Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

SENIOR CITIZENS LIAISON

Mary Johnson announced that Edna Meier, nutrition site manager, is retiring after many services to the Alma Nutrition site. Johnson stated that Betty Bechly will be the new site manager.

Mayor Scow stated that the Council should send Edna Meier a plant and card for her years of service. Linda will take care of this matter.

Motion by Oium seconded by Ruff to approve the Senior Citizens Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Carl Duley, coordinator, will be finalizing the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Alma for submittal to the State and then action by the Council in the near future.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Oium to approve the Comprehensive Planning Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

STAIRCASE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman Jim Wilkie informed the Council that the committee met on January 22, 2013 and reported the following from the minutes:

Phil Johnson, Ayres Associates engineer, presented a power point presentation to the committee entitled – “City of Alma Stairway Reconstruction” – Concept Design Phase.

The presentation provided the information of the staircases at present and a design for the proposed reconstruction.

Johnson stated that “ghost structures” could be implemented in the design, either at time of construction or at a later date to enhance and provide a history of the City of Alma and some of the pivotal historical structures.

The following streets and items were discussed:

- **Hickory Street**
 - a. Property line needs to be determined
 - b. Current steps to not meet code – have to bring new steps up to code
 - c. ADA guidelines
 - d. Accommodate a snow mobile trail
 - e. A retaining wall is needed to obtain the 4 to 1 slope needed
 - f. Landscaping will be fairly easy

Dorothy Peterson stated that she was not in favor of a snowmobile trail on Hickory Street.

Gary Schlosstein stated that he is opposed to a snowmobile trail on Hickory Street due to the liability. Schlosstein stated that the trail is only one width wide and if a snowmobile going down hits one that is coming up, there could be an accident.

Phil Johnson stated that the City should have recreational immunity against liability. He further stated that the reason for the trail on Hickory Street is to access gasoline at the Kwik Trip store.

➤ **Elm Street**

- a. Big slopes – harder to obtain the correct slopes needed
- b. 9 to 11 steps before a landing
- c. 5' of landing to meet ADA guidelines
- d. Width must be 5' wide for 2 persons, 48" for one person
- e. Tread size must meet code

Phil Johnson suggested that Elm Street's staircase should tell a story on the risers and possibly have patterned lighting.

Larry Farl and Max Bachhuber stated that a zig zag pattern instead of a railroad trestle type staircase be researched.

Lois Balk stated that this past year a staircase was held and many participants commented on the beautiful homes and pride the residents take in their property because the staircases are there.

Shaun Duvall inquired if each staircase street could become a park and be renamed. Phil Johnson stated that he would look into this possibility.

Clerk Torgerson stated that the stairway streets are actually streets, per ordinance, and it would take amending the ordinances and the city plat, including following the vacation of streets procedures in order to make the stairway streets into parks.

Dorothy Peterson stated that Bluff Street is the staircase most need of repair. Clerk Torgerson commented that Bluff Street (the lower half) is part of the project and should have been presented as well.

In summary, Phil Johnson stated that the right-of-way is needed for each staircase and a dialogue between the Kwik Trip and the snowmobile club needs to be done.

Mayor Scow commented that the Bluff Street staircase repair was in the original plan of the steps to be replaced and/or repaired and that funds should be allowed for their repair/replacement.

Wilkie announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2013 at 6 p.m.

Motion by Oium seconded by Ruff to approve the Staircase Advisory Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

BUFFALO RIVER/ BEEF SLOUGH DREDGING PROJECT

Attorney Seifert informed the Council that Clerk Torgerson had called him regarding contact she received from Bruce Neeb of the WI DNR.

Linda stated that Neeb was reviewing the list that was provided to him regarding the City of Alma's efforts to promote/maintain boating recreational use and monies available to do so.

Linda informed Neeb of the environmental impact monies projected to be received from the CapX2020 project. The initial payment will be in excess of \$160,000.

Neeb stated that he would inform the Waterways Commission of this information and felt confident that a resolution would be forthcoming in the near future.

Mayor Comments:

Police Chief Todd Ritscher is doing a good job.

Foreman Debra Burce and the entire city crew—only 3 full-time employees are doing what 5 full-time employees did years ago and the crew is doing an exceptional job with the snow removal. (applause were presented to foreman Burce at this time).

Next council meeting will be Thursday March 7th with public hearings preceding for the proposed ordinances.

A service of illegal tax was received by Clerk Torgerson from Riverland Communication and a service of excessive assessment for the 2012 taxes was received from Alma Apartments Limited Partnership. Both were turned over to the city attorney for guidance.

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