

January 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, Larry Farl, Mary Johnson, Jim Wilkie and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to approve the December 8, 2011 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Wilkie 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.

No citizen comments were received.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee had met on January 9, 2012.

Moham informed the Council that the committee had met with employees Linda Torgerson and Deb Burce for their quarterly evaluations.

Moham stated that the committee had approved the purchase of blue toothes for the city crew because of the new law that went into effect regarding driving and the use of cell phones.

Moham further commented that the committee had met with Architects David Kane and Bruce Meadows from Kane and Johnson Architects, Inc. from Rochester, MN to discuss the city hall/library/fire station building situation. Moham turned the discussion over to Mary Johnson, who is familiar with the architects.

Johnson stated that she had sent photos of the building problems to the architects in advance, however, when they came they further documented with photos and took the blueprints of the building to their office and put them onto a CD for the City at no cost.

Kane stated that remodeling the fire station for the city hall and library was a possibility that would allow for additional parking and some green space and give opportunity for possible expansion.

Gary Ruff took Kane and Meadows to possible locations to move the fire department, however, Kane stated that he felt these might be too distant and could hurt the City's ISO rating.

Jon Seifert, city attorney, briefed the Council on the Village of Pepin's new city hall and costs and how the Village obtained funding for the building.

The next step will be to researching costs for the suggested ideas for the building.

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

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Johnson reported that the commission met on Jan. 5, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. to act upon the building permit application submitted by Tamara Neitzel at 403 S. Main St. The commission approved her application for a change in windows. The commission approved an application submitted by Katherine Goodman for a door at 331 S. Main St.

Johnson stated that she felt the five member commission costing \$175 was not cost effective for the city since the permit application costs together were only \$40.00.

Discussion was held. The commission, since its origin, has reduced the requirements for a full commission meeting and meets seldom. No action taken.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Ruff to approve the Historical Preservation Advisory Commission report as presented. All members voting yes.

Discussion was held regarding the claim—fell on sidewalk. City Attorney Seifert stated that it is not official at this point and no action is needed.

The Council discussed whether to close the TIF districts or to get cost estimates on possible TIF projects since there is time to amend the TIF project plan.

Motion by Moham seconded by Johnson to keep the TIF Districts open and to develop a project plan amendment. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Sidewalk replacement with handicap curbing, replacement of stairway streets, burying utility lines in alleys, alley drainage, lift stations, retaining walls, parking lot, storm sewer by Cedar Street and hanging flower planters.

Mayor Hanson stated that the reason utility lines are overhead in the alleys is because of the retaining walls with the properties, if the utility lines were buried there would be no way of getting the lines to the homes.

It was suggested that the hanging flower pots project should be referred to the tourism (Room Tax) committee for a possible project used with the room tax revenues.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Farl to provide to Ehlers & Associates (financial advisors for the TIF districts) and Lisa Fleming (engineer with Ayres Associates) a list of the possible covered projects and to get cost estimates on the covered projects. All members voting yes.

BUFFALO RIVER/BEEF SLOUGH DREDGING FAILURE

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to convene into CLOSED SESSION under exemptions set under Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advise concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation to which it is or is likely to become involved. All members voting yes.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Ruff to reconvene into Open Session. All members voting yes.

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