

January 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 December 6, 2012 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizen's comments. No citizens present at the meeting.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Wilkie informed the Council that the committee met and discussed Well #2 pump house and reservoir violations and alternative solutions. Wilkie then turned the discussion over to Shawn Welte, P.E. with Davy Engineering.

Welte presented to the council the alternatives as discussed with the committee:

- Remove current well house and replace with a pitless system (\$96,820.00)
- Replace current well house with another pre-formed concrete building (\$125,000.00)

Welte presented the benefits to each alternative and gave approximate cost estimates.

Discussion was held.

Welte presented the option of a building may be more aesthetically appealing because there are options in designing the outside of the building with the pre-cast material.

Welte stated that the current building is a vertical turbine, which is 75% efficient vs. the pitless well being 55% efficient.

Mayor Scow inquired about the level of maintenance/repairs between the two alternatives. Welte stated approximately the same.

Wilkie commented that the pitless would make more sense economically.

Welte discussed the various funding options for the project. The City of Alma, with his assistance, did apply for a Safe Drinking Water loan. Welte stated that the City doesn't have to accept the loan, if approved, however, will find out where the project is rated.

Welte further informed the Council that the service line to the Lock & Dam would need to be re-routed, no matter which alternative is chosen.

Linda checked with financial advisors, Ehlers & Associates, to see if the water projects could be funded by TIF funds. Bryan Reilly, with Ehlers, stated according to the TIF 1 project plan, they could be. Reilly had Linda check with city attorney Seifert and he found no problem with including the water repairs with TIF 1 funds.

Motion by Oium seconded by Moham to install a pitless well system with a new submersible pump as the alternative to the DNR violation of the Well #2 pump house. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Moham seconded by Ruff to enter into an agreement with Davy Engineering to proceed with a pitless well system with a new submersible pump at an estimated cost of \$96,820.00, which is construction cost with engineering and contingencies. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE COMMITTEE

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

Oium informed the Council that the committee will be meeting this month to go over the employee health insurance options.

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

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met on Dec. 12, 2012 to discuss possible recycling options.

Representatives from Waste Transport were present at the meeting. Their recycling program would include the following:

- Recycling containers – 96 gallon
- Co-mingled recycling would be allowed

- Recyclables would be picked up twice per month
- Cost would be \$6/household

Ruff informed the Council that originally the committee was considering the option at \$3,000/year. However, it would be \$3,000/month--\$36,000/year approximately.

Also discussion was held regarding where the containers would be stored and put out on collection day and who would monitor if there was garbage in the containers, especially along Main Street.

Earney stated that the recycling from Waste Transport would be cost prohibited and that it would be hard to facilitate the approximate 500 containers.

Mayor Scow stated that he had a disabled person contact him regarding the difficulty in getting to the recycling center. The mayor would like the committee to look at some possible options for the disabled, if feasible.

Monica Moham suggested that picking up recyclables for the handicap could be a volunteer program.

Ruff stated he will be meeting again to finalize the Recycling Agreement.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Scow informed the Council that the Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a condition within the City of Alma's Zoning Ordinance to allow the conditional use permit as requested by Secluded Land Company.

Scow further stated that the city attorney has worked with Seclude Land Co.'s attorney in coming up with the needed ordinance amendment to include the conditions being requested.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ruff informed the Council that the committee met with coordinator, Carl Duley, and worked on final items to be included in the City of Alma's Comprehensive Plan. The committee will be meeting again on January 9, 2013.

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

Attorney Jon Seifert went over his Retainer Agreement with the City Council. Seifert stated that nothing has changed except the per hour costs (not included in the retainer), will increase from \$130/hour to \$170/hour.

Motion by Oium seconded by Farl to approve the City Attorney retainer contract with Jon Seifert at a cost of \$6,000 per year for ordinary expenses and \$170/hour for anything not included in the retainer. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

BUFFALO RIVER/BEEF SLOUGH DREDGING PROJECT

Attorney Seifert informed the Council that the DNR has received the list they requested and he has not heard anything since that time.

Mayor comments:

Mayor Scow complimented Deb Burce and the city crew for their snow removal during the past two big snow storms and to keep up the good work.

Monica Moham asked Police Chief Todd Ritscher how everything was going. Ritscher stated very well.

Next council meeting will be Thursday, February 7th.

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