

January 9, 2017

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, Corey Hanson, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Mary Johnson and David Earney. Absent: Larry Farl and Matt Olson.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Hanson to approve the Council Proceeding minutes of December 8, 2016 as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to approve the Financial Report for December 2016 as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Hanson seconded by Ruff to approve the December 2016 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments: None.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Kathy Goodman, representing Alma Chamber, explained to the Council the process of Designating the City of Alma as a bird City. She stated that the Chamber would pay the annual fees. One of the events involves tying saplings to street light poles. This will be done on the same day as the city-wide cleanup day with the students. Goodman further stated that if the resolution passes, it will declare May 13th as International Migratory Bird Day in the City of Alma.

Motion by Moham seconded by Hanson to adopt Resolution #17-02, International Migratory Bird Day, May 13, 2017. Four members voting aye, 1 nay (Earney).

Goodman went on to inform the Council that May is designated Great River Birding Month-the signage that was used for the Great River Road Festival will be used.

Further discussion was held.

Motion by Hanson seconded by Johnson to authorize the City of Alma to make application for the City of Alma to be designated as a bird city. Four members voting aye and 1 nay (Earney).

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

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman Dave Earney went over the prepared minutes of December 19, 2017. Items discussed by the committee were the following:

- Buffalo County Shop sewer connection—Bob Platteter, Highway Commissioner, was present and updated the committee. The County Shop is connected to the City Sewer System.

- Billing concerns for the County Sewer Project. The engineering bill to oversee the sewer connection was presented to Platteter for payment.
- Town of Alma-Secrist Lane. Platteter informed the City that they have no responsibility for this portion of Secrist Lane.
- CMOM-Dave Earney stated that the CMOM is a living working document and an Emergency Response Plan for the Sewer needs to be developed and Mutual Aid Assistance documented.
- Mill Creek Road update. No changes made to the status of Mill Creek Road. Resident Mark Noll was present and asked that the City leave it the same at the present time.
- Sewer Rate Increase. Linda informed the committee that the recommended increase from the auditors should be 30%. Dave Earney commented that the committee would have to look over the recommendation and consult with Shawn Welte of Davy Engineering.
- Water loss issue. The City of Alma has been working with WRWA (Wisconsin Rural Water Association) on testing for water leaks.
- Water Rate Increase. Will be prepared in 2017. A telephonic public hearing will be held with the PSC prior to the increase.
- Badland Road – Town of Nelson. Deb Burce, foreman, informed the committee that the City of Alma has been doing the entire plowing of Badland Road including that portion in the Town of Nelson. Dave Earney will talk with representatives from the Town of Nelson regarding shared services.

Discussion was held concerning the hiring of engineers. Hanson stated that he would like the engineering needed to be bid out. Mayor Wilkie commented that when engineering services are bid out, a salesman comes to sell the company and the engineer isn't known until after and this could be very disadvantageous to the City. Mayor Wilkie commented that he appreciates Shawn Welte, of Davy Engineering, for his depth of knowledge and judgment.

Attorney Jon Seifert commented that there are pros and cons with bidding out for the engineering services and that the city will have to decide what they would like to do.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he had contacted a structural engineer under the advice of Shawn Welte for establishing a weight load for the second story floor of the city garage. Mayor Wilkie commented that this was done for a cost of \$500.00. Mayor Wilkie stated that he designed a sign for the weight load and it is posted. The sign was needed for the City's property liability insurance inspection.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met this morning and acted upon the following:

- Approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.
- No building permits presented.
- No building violations reported
- Operator License-Julie Lindstrom-committee recommends approval.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve an Operator License to: Julie Lindstrom. All members voting yes.

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

TOURISM COMMISSION

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that the committee had met Dec.16th. Most of the meeting dealt with the website, Wilkie stated.

Corey Hanson commented on the minutes prepared by Dan Kordiak. Although the minutes are entertaining, Hanson stated that he felt they were inappropriate for official minutes. Attorney Seifert concurred and Mayor Wilkie volunteering to speak with Dan regarding the city's concerns.

Mayor Wilkie presented Resolution #17-01 in support of land acquisitions funded by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program for the flyway trail project of Buffalo County Land and Trails Trust, Inc. Mayor Wilkie stated that the resolution is in support, of the idea and not a cost to the City of Alma. Discussion was held.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to adopt Resolution #17-01. Three members voting aye, 1 nay Earney and 1 Abstain (Olson).

Mayor Wilkie discussed the policy for purchasing items from the City of Alma that is no longer in use. The current policy (from 1993) states if it is over \$500 it has to be placed on sealed bids, if it is less than \$500 then an auction can be held. Mayor Wilkie suggests that the limit should be raised and policy reviewed.

Mayor Wilkie commended Foreman Debra Burce and her crew for the cleanup of the Fire Station Basement. The Council commended Deb and crew for the snow removal job this winter as well.

Upcoming meetings:

Finance-----Feb. 6th at 9 a.m.
Services-----Feb. 6th at 11 a.m.
Council-----Feb. 6th at 6 p.m.

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