

**July 19, 2012**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**5:30 P.M.**

Mayor Robert Scow opened the public hearing to the public regarding Resolution 12-05 for the discontinuance of the following described public way: Old State Hwy 35 from the northerly entrance (not including the area of Old State Hwy 35 needed to access the overflow parking lot lying north of the northerly entrance) and continuing southerly to its terminus at the intersection of STH 35.

No public was present to give testimony for or against the Resolution.

Mayor Scow closed the public hearing.

**July 19, 2012**

**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 the following 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 Oium to approve the June 14, 2012 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Ruff to approve the July 3, 2012 Special Council 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:

Arnold Retzloff, resident, inquired about the complaint he filed regarding a citizen from Alma dumping brush on Garden Valley's property without their consent. Retzloff feels the brush should be removed.

Mayor Robert Scow informed Retzloff that he had spoken with the manager, Jeremy, from Garden Valley regarding this complaint and he stated that he was not concerned about the brush that was dumped. Therefore, the issue was dismissed at that point.

Scow thanked Arnie for being such a good watchdog and for filling out the official complaint form.

### **FINANCE/TAX AND LICENSE COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Oium informed the Council that the committee met on July 16, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. and approved all vouchers and bills.

The committee reviewed the city hall situation and it was determined that local contractor, Randy Secrist, can monitor the building. Oium stated that caulking of the block on the west wall needs to be done.

Mary Johnson suggested that the City start a building plan. Mayor Scow instructed the committee to begin looking at a building plan for the city hall/library/fire station.

Oium stated that the committee is researching new health insurance possibilities for the employees.

Motion by Oium seconded by Farl to approve the following Operator Licenses: Susan Blomstrom, Chris Pickering, Rebecca Livingston, Marla Loewenhagen, Terry Papenfus, Steffanie Larson, Daniel Connelly, Nathan Poltiske, Najib Schlosstein, Lori Cloutier and Melissa Gephart. All members voting yes.

Motion by Oium seconded by Ruff to approve a 3-day Class B Beer Picnic License to the Great River Harbor Softball club. All members voting yes.

Oium stated that he would like all committee chairpersons to begin budget work earlier this year.

Motion by Earney seconded by Wilkie to approve the Finance/Tax and License committee report. All members voting yes.

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Wilkie informed the Council that the committee met on July 10, 2012 regarding the following agenda items:

- The committee discussed and approved the purchase of a moveable radar speed sign.
- The street repair work has been completed by Dunn Blacktop.
- Discussion was held regarding a one lane area needed on Riverview Drive where the bank is unstable. Wilkie stated that the WI DOT will be building a retaining wall in approximately two years.

The Council discussed the Riverview Drive situation and concurred that the area on Riverview Drive where the bank is not stable should be reduced to a one lane road and

install a barrier along the bank as recommended by engineer, Lisa Fleming, from Ayres Associates.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Johnson to proceed with the one lane on Riverview Drive where the emergency exists. All members voting yes.

Wilkie informed the Council that he will be speaking with representatives from the Town of Nelson asking them to do the snow plowing on Badland Road since the City of Alma has done it for the past five years. The City will then do the roadside mowing that the Town has done for the past five years.

Motion by Oium seconded by Farl to suspend with the reading of Resolution 12-05 Resolution discontinuing and vacating Old STH 35 as described in the public hearing notice. All members voting yes.

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

### **SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Ruff went over the minutes of the committee meeting held on June 28, 2012. A correction to the minutes is to be made. Mary Johnson was the committee member present instead of Monica Moham listed. Clerk Torgerson will correct the minutes.

Motion by Oium seconded by Farl to approve the work needing to be done to construct a dike at the landfill. All members voting yes.

Motion by Oium seconded by Moham to authorize the purchase of a new John Deere riding lawn mower. All members voting yes.

Ruff stated that the meeting that was held at the Alma American Legion to recruit ambulance personnel was successful and the meeting was well attended. Ruff stated 140 hours of training is needed the first year and next year 180 hours. Mayor Scow officiated the ambulance crew meeting at the Legion.

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

Earney commented that he recognizes the ambulance crew as very important in staffing the ambulance service and it needs to be successful otherwise a service would have to be sought elsewhere.

Johnson stated that she felt the age of the people in Alma may be a factor in not being able to staff the ambulance crew.

Ruff stated that a lot of employers are no longer letting their employees leave work to go on an ambulance run. Scow stated that we all need to give the Ambulance Board support in the recruitment of ambulance personnel.

Mayor comments:

Mayor Scow informed the Council that Police Chief Roger Engel has resigned. Engel's last day was July 6<sup>th</sup>. Engel will be receiving a severance of unused sick leave and vacation pay. Scow stated that the City wishes him well. Scow instructed Ruff to have the Services Committee meet and start the process for the Chief of Police position.

Mayor Scow read a thank you from Clerk Linda Torgerson expressing her appreciation for everything the City did for her on her 30 year celebration with the City of Alma. Linda again thanked the Council.

Mayor Scow instructed the Parks and Recreation committee to work on the possibility of a permitting system for fishing tournaments held in the City. Scow stated that there were problems with the last couple of fishing tournaments; setting up where they were instructed not supposed to and bringing boats in within the swimming buoy area.

Scow stated he is not trying to chase away business and feels that the committee can come up with a permit system that will work.

Attorney Seifert stated that the City can restrict where the tournaments are set up and can manage and control the City property they wish to use.

### **BUFFALO RIVER/BEEF SLOUGH DREDGING FAILURE**

Attorney Seifert informed the Council that he has provided the City's E & O insurance company with copies of the contracts with the engineer. The insurance company will review the contracts and provide a letter of their determination of liability.

Upcoming meetings:

Next Council meeting will be Monday, August 6, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Johnson complimented Todd Ritscher, police officer working part-time for the City, regarding the striping that was done on the squad car.

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