

July 7, 2016

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, Matt Olson and David Earney.
Absent: Larry Farl.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Hanson to approve the June 6, 2016 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizens comments. No citizens present.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

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

- Vouchers and bills. The committee reviewed and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.
- Shawnee Estates Covenants. Ruff informed the Council that the committee recommended removal of the covenants except for the one that requires a minimum of 1,675 square feet (which can include an attached garage) will be implemented in the zoning of RRC.
- Operator license applications. Recommended approval.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Hanson to approve Operator Licenses to: Anthony Korum, Tabitha Blank, Whitney Hawes and Loren Mueller. All members voting yes.

- Building permit approved for Rick Sweet, 105 N. 2nd Street for a deck.

Motion by Hanson seconded by Olson to approve the Tax/License/Zoning Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mary Johnson, Chairperson, informed the Council that the committee had met on June 15, 2016 on the following:

- Cemetery concerns. Caleb Ritscher is doing the watering of the flowers. Olivia Heller is helping when Ritscher is not available.
- Garbage concerns. The committee will be inviting a representative from Hilltopper's Recycling to the next committee meeting to gather information on the services they offer.
- Fire department concerns. New fire truck is here.
- Act 156. Mary informed the Council that she did receive a letter back from Senator Danou. Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he had attended a round table meeting put on by the Dept. of Corrections and the majority of the meeting was spent on the drug problem issue. Wilkie stated that the last ten minutes were spent on Act 156 and placement of sexual offenders. Wilkie stated that the committee should work on an ordinance regarding this matter and informed the Council that the legislation regarding this issue did not pass. Mary Johnson informed the Council that the City of Alma does not provide a lot of needs for someone being placed. Wilkie commented that the Chief of Police in Mondovi stated that they have so many offenders in Mondovi because Mondovi has its own grocery store. Matt Olson commented that he is concerned because of his proximity to the Courthouse and his young daughters.

Attorney Adam Sticht stated that he had attended a League workshop regarding this issue and does have some sample ordinances regarding the placement of sex offenders that have been upheld by the State. Sticht will attend the next Services committee meeting.

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

BOARD OF APPEALS

Mayor Wilkie commented that the Board of Appeals had met this morning to act on a variance application submitted by Rick Sweet, 105 N. 2nd Street, for a deck that did not meet the side yard setback. The Board granted the variance.

Motion by Hanson seconded by Ruff to approve the Board of Appeals minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he received a letter of resignation from Board of Appeals Chairman, Paul Schultz. Mayor Wilkie expressed his thanks for the many years of service Paul has done serving on the Board of Appeals for the City of Alma. Mayor Wilkie asked the Council for recommendations for filling his vacancy and also the vacancy on the Board of Appeals created from Andy Maday moving to Rochester, MN.

Mayor comments:

Mayor Wilkie apologized for his loud expression last meeting regarding the fence on River Street issue. The Council stated no apology was needed.

Mayor Wilkie expressed his great appreciation for the following people during the Tuesday evening storm damage:

Police Chief-----Todd Ritscher
Brennan Porter-----Buffalo County Sheriff's Department
Nick Scholl-----Buffalo County Sheriff's Department

Assisted in clean up and making sure the trains stopped due to a power line on the tracks.

Fire Chief-----Tom Brakke
Fireman-----Scott Green
Fireman-----Ben Schams

Assisted in clearing trees on CTH E and other clearing.

Foreman-----Debra Burce
City Crew-----Joe Wick
Summer help-----Caleb Ritscher

Mayor Wilkie could not say enough for the work done by Debra Burce and Joe Wick of the crew during this aftermath of the storm.

Police Chief Todd Ritscher commented that Deb Burce had worked until 3 a.m. and then came back two hours later to put her full day in at work.

Upcoming meetings:

Utilities-----Wed., July 20th at 7:00 a.m.

Finance-----Thurs. August 4th at 8:30 a.m.

Council-----Thurs. August 4th at 6:00 p.m.

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