

March 7, 2013

PUBLIC HEARING

5:30 p.m.

Mayor Robert Scow opened the public hearing to the public regarding proposed Ordinance #164 establishing boat launch fees at three of the municipal docks. All public in attendance received copies of the proposed ordinance. Mayor Scow asked if anyone would like the ordinance read. No one wanted the ordinance read.

Mayor Scow gave the background as to the origin and need for the proposed ordinance. Scow informed the public that in order to maintain and enhance the current city boat launches, docks, the City would need to charge user fees for boat launching since the state imposes levy restrictions.

Scow further stated that he had heard comments that this would affect tourism, however, he felt if the facilities were not maintained, then the tourists would not come as well.

The following spoke in favor of the ordinance:

Kevin Cassidy, resident, supported the user fee system.

The following spoke in opposition of the ordinance:

Brian Brecka, Fisheries Biologist-DNR Alma, expressed opposition to the charging of launch fees and stated the following:

- Funds cannot be used for the repair/refurbishing of the courtesy dock
- Grants should be utilized instead of imposing user fees

Chad Kosidowski inquired about the enforcement to be done and will the police be checking vehicles on the street as well. Scow stated that law enforcement will do the best job that they can.

Scow stated that the City is not currently interested in obtaining grants at the current time and would like to improve the landings by seal coating the parking lot and possibly adding a fish cleaning facility.

Peggy Jost, owner of the Hillcrest Motel, stated that by implementing boat launch fees won't affect the council, but will affect their businesses. Jost further stated that the business owners were first affected by the Room Tax the city adopted.

Jim Lodermeier, resident and owner of the Fishing Float, stated that he did not know if this was the right solution.

Robert Jumbeck, game warden, stated:

- The City would be biting the hand that feeds them
- Other options should have been explored
- Implementing the boat launch fees will hurt the community

Jarrad Fluekiger, resident and owner of Rutting Ridge Outfitters, stated that the boat launch fees will have a real affect on the tournament fishing.

Gary Wolfe, Alma DNR, stated that the DNR receives complaints every month regarding the price of fishing licenses being to expensive and that this will only add to the complaints.

Paul Schultz, resident, stated he is against the boat launch fee and that there are other ways to raise the revenues needed.

Tom Schultz, resident, stated:

- The boat launch fees will negatively affect tourism
- Other ways to raise revenues
- Ask organizations such as the Alma Rod & Gun Club to assist in funding for the maintenance and upkeep of the landings
- Hold raffles
- Boaters, fishermen will go elsewhere

Brian Brecka stated that he has worked with the Town of Belvidere regarding their boat landing and how to minimize maintenance. Brecka suggested that the US Fish & Wildlife possibly take over the landings and agreed with Tom Schultz that organizations such as the Rod & Gun should have been contacted.

Mayor Scow stated that if the City had the Fish & Wildlife take over the landings; local control would be lost. Snow removal of the landings in the spring would be difficult if not under city management.

Hearing no further testimony for or against the proposed boat launch fee ordinance, Mayor Scow closed the hearing.

March 7, 2013

PUBLIC HEARING

5:45 P.M.

Mayor Scow opened the public hearing to the public regarding the proposed ordinance establishing Fishing Tournament Rules and Regulations.

All those present received a copy of the proposed ordinance and did not want the ordinance read.

Mayor Scow informed the public that there was a need for the ordinance so that rules and regulations could be established regarding the fishing tournaments because of the problems in the past; especially at the Alma Marina area.

Speaking in favor of the ordinance was Kevin Cassidy, resident. Cassidy stated that the tournament held at the Alma Marina beach area last year was a nightmare. Boats were in the swimming area of the beach, parking was horrendous and there seemed to be no organization. Cassidy informed the Council that the Marina sponsored the fishing tournament and collected monies for doing so even though the event was not held on the marina leased property.

Speaking against the proposed ordinance:

Mac, representing Reidt's motel, stated that the people who attend the tournaments spend money in Alma. Mac agreed that the Marina should not be getting money to host the tournament. Mac stated that it would be difficult to calculate the \$2/boat fee when it usually isn't until the night before that the number of boats in the tournament is finalized.

Brian Brecka stated that the DNR has the permitting process for the fishing tournaments and that maybe this could be implemented in their permitting process with more structure in the DNR guidelines. Brecka further stated that if the ordinance is adopted then the City will incur more costs with meetings.

Chad Kosidowski stated that the tournaments should not occur during Little League games and that the Little League schedule should be out in April.

Brecka stated he does not agree for charging charter fishermen and creating an ordinance for non-qualifying tournaments, if any.

Hearing no further testimony for or against the ordinance, Mayor Scow closed the hearing.

March 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 the following members present: Mayor Robert Scow, Robert J. Oium, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Mary Johnson, Leighton (Jim) Wilkie and David Earney. Absent: Larry Farl.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the February 7, 2013 Public Hearing minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Oium seconded by Ruff to approve the February 7, 2013 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 Moham seconded by Johnson to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments:

Robert Wemette inquired about his request to move an angle parking sign down 100' from its existing location. Wemette stated that he had spoken to three council members

and was told that this could be done. To-date, Wemette stated that he has not heard from anyone.

Wilkie addressed Wemette and apologized that he had not informed him about the Utilities Committee meeting which addressed his request.

Mayor Scow informed Wemette that his concern would be addressed later in the evening with the Utilities Committee chairman's report.

Tom Schultz and Brian Brecka commented that they would like to see angle parking only on Sunday in this section of 2nd Street as well.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wilkie stated that the committee had met in January regarding establishing a boat launch fee to pay for maintenance and improvements needed at the boat landings.

Motion by Oium seconded by Earney to adopt Ordinance #164 – establishing Boat Launch fees at the City of Alma boat landings. Four members voting yes (Oium, Moham, Johnson & Wilkie), 2 members voting no (Ruff & Earney). Absent: Farl.

Discussion was held regarding Ordinance #163—establishing fishing Tournament rules and regulations. Discussion was held and it was recommended by city attorney Seifert to remove section (j) regarding the fees for the tournaments and make (j) the penalty section.

Motion by Oium seconded by Earney to adopt Ordinance #163—Fishing Tournament Rules and regulations as amended. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Jim Wilkie informed the Council that the committee had met March 5, 2013 and approved the following:

- Using TIF funds for the reservoir and well house projects
- Approved Davy Engineering for doing the bidding process for the reservoir project
- Recommending doing the Elm Street staircase project because of its location being the center of the business district
- Compressor replacement for water department
- Maintain the current angle parking on 2nd Street between the Methodist Church and the Catholic Church
- Street projects for 2013
- Water valve problem at Alma Town House rental unit

Motion by Oium seconded by Moham to table agenda item #8—stairway street projects. All members voting yes.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Robert J. Oium reported that the committee reviewed the liability and health insurances.

The committee approved EMC Insurance for the City of Alma's liability, worker's compensation and boiler insurance.

The committee approved Health Traditions – Plan H90A for the City of Alma's employee's health insurance replacing WPS.

The committee reported no building permit applications and no building permit violations reported, Oium stated.

The committee reviewed and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts, Oium stated.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Oium to approve a Mobile Home Park permit to Jerome Hungerford. All members voting yes.

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

Mayor comments:

Mayor Scow read a card of thanks from Edna Meier for the plant and card she received from the City of Alma upon her retirement from the Senior Center.

Scow instructed the Council to try and not have committee meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the Clerk's office is closed.

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