

March 8, 2012

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Corey Hanson 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 Corey Hanson, Richard Champeny, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Mary Johnson, Jim Wilkie and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to approve the February 6, 2012 Public Hearing minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Wilkie to approve the February 6, 2012 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Moham to approve the Special Council Proceeding minutes of February 23, 2012 as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizen comments:

Larry Balk, Alma representative on the Buffalo County Board, read a statement to clarify comments that were made at the February 23, 2012 Council meeting stating the he had not asked for a six month moratorium from the County Board in regards to the approval of the frac mines. Balk stated that he had asked for the moratorium both in November and again at the February meeting of the Board. Balk asked that his statement clarifies any contradictions to what had been mentioned at the February 23rd meeting of the council.

Balk invited the Council to attend the meeting on March 15th at the Alma School gymnasium upon which time the consideration of the moratorium will be addressed by the County.

Mayor Corey Hanson was asked by citizen, Katherine Goodman, to read the following into the proceedings since she would be absent from this meeting:

Thank you to the City Council of Alma, Wisconsin for setting up the February 20, 2012 Public Informational Meeting on the issues facing our community on frac sand mining and it's transportation. Your quick attention to this matter was greatly appreciated. During that meeting I made a misstatement of fact concerning "terms" for the members of

the Buffalo County Board of Adjustment. A county staff member incorrectly informed me that appointment was for "life". In fact, according to the county's Zoning Ordinance, members of this board are appointed by the Chairman of the County Board for a term of three years effective each May 1st.

I also want to thank you for passing a resolution asking the Buffalo County government to consider a moratorium on frac sand mining & processing for a period up to one year. During general discussion on a moratorium I indicated that our County Supervisor, Larry Balk, had suggested a moratorium at a County Board of Adjustment hearing ... either the Stamm Mine or the Barth Mine. I have clarified from the public record that this request was made at the Barth Mine conditional use permit hearing by the Board of Adjustment on November 3, 2011 and Mr Balk suggested a 6-month moratorium.

On March 8th the County Board of Adjustment is meeting to consider the conditional use permit application for R & J Rolling Mines located off State Highway 88 in Gilmanton. The proposed haul route for frac sand is currently south on State Highway 88 to State Highway 35 through Fountain City to Winona. But there is discussion in the public record of using a haul route north on State Highway 88 to State Highway 37 heading to State Highway 35 and through Alma & Fountain City to Winona. It's important that we have legislative representation at this meeting to speak should the haul route be changed to come through Alma. I cannot be in attendance because of family commitments in Texas but would appreciate knowing that the City of Alma is represented in this important decision process.

Thank you for your consideration,
Katherine Wood Goodman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee had met Monday, March 5, 2012. The committee met with deputy clerk, Bridget Ruehmann. Bridget will be leaving, however, has agreed to stay on to continue projects needed to be done. Larry Farl will be talking to one of the finalists for the position to find out if they are available and/or interested in taking the position.

Moham informed the Council that the committee approved all vouchers and bills.

The committee discussed the cost of the proposed TIF sidewalk projects. The engineer's estimate is \$542,322.78. Discussion was held and the council felt that the sidewalks could be done by a local contractor, not using TIF funds, for less money.

Since the sidewalk estimate came in over the proposed maximum expenditure of \$360,000 for the TIF projects, the engineer did not submit an estimate for the staircases.

Wilkie stated that he felt the staircases should be done using the TIF funds and would be a great asset to the City of Alma.

Mayor Hanson commented that he felt the cost of the staircases would come in higher than the sidewalks and couldn't see spending this kind of money on the staircases. He further stated that he didn't feel a committee would approve the staircase project due to its cost. Mayor Hanson felt the TIF districts should be closed.

Attorney Jon Seifert informed the Council of the purpose of TIF funds and the use of TIF funds on projects that benefit the taxpayers.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Earney to authorize the Finance Committee to be in charge of obtaining estimates from Lisa Fleming of Ayres Associates for the staircases at Elm, Hickory and Bluff Streets and with the results, the Finance committee can chose the staircases for replacement, up to the maximum amount of the TIF funds with the priorities of the staircases being Elm, Bluff and then Hickory with Elm Street being the priority. 3 members voting yes (Farl, Wilkie and Earney) 3 members voting no (Champeny, Ruff and Johnson), 1 abstain (Moham) by roll call vote. Mayor Hanson broke the tie with a no vote. Motion failed.

Motion by Johnson seconded by Wilkie to authorize the Finance Committee to be in charge of obtaining estimates from Lisa Fleming of Ayres Associates for the staircases at Elm, Hickory and Bluff Streets and approve the estimates so long as the amount is for all three staircases and does not exceed \$360,000.00 and authorize the Finance Committee to proceed with the TIF project approval process. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Mary Johnson stated that the Finance Committee minutes of March 5th are incorrect in the paragraph that states she obtained the community garden information. Johnson stated that Monica Moham obtained the information and then asked her to review it and come up with suggestions.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Moham to research if there is a conditional use permit for the industrial area of the city farm and if there is not, that the process begin for the conditional use permit so that the community garden issue can be voted on at a later date. All members voting yes.

Motion by Johnson seconded by Wilkie to approve the Finance Committee minutes with the amendment as mentioned by Mary Johnson. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman Gary Ruff opened the sealed bids for the 1998 Ford and the 1995 GMC vehicles that were for sale by the City.

David Earney read the following results:

For the 1998 Ford Dump Truck:

\$1100-----submitted by Rich Huber, Alma, WI

\$3175-----submitted by Corey Mickelson, Ridgeland, WI

For the 1995 GMC:

\$825-----submitted by Brad LaDuke, Buffalo City, WI

\$3160-----submitted by Corey Mickelson, Ridgeland, WI

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to accept the 1998 Ford Dump truck and 1995 GMC truck bids as submitted by Corey Mickelson of Ridgeland, WI. All members voting yes.

Ruff informed the Council that he had spoken with fire chief, Tom Brakke, regarding the conditions of disposal or sale of the 1976 pickup that was purchased from the City of Mondovi. Ruff stated that the City could sell this vehicle; however, it could not be sold as an emergency vehicle.

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

PARKS/RECREATION/SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wilkie informed the Council that the committee had met on March 7, 2012 regarding the selection of a historian/consultant for the Elm Street deck project. The committee had to use the Quality Based Selection method in choosing the historian/consultant to meet the terms of the grant.

Clerk Linda Torgerson had sent out ten letters soliciting for the historian/consultant and received two responses.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve the Parks/Recreation/Services Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

TAX/LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Motion by Ruff seconded by Wilkie to approve mobile home park permits to Jerome Hungerford and Steve Radsek. All members voting yes.

AMBULANCE LIAISON

Champeny reported that the Board had met in February. The ambulance had struck a deer. The minutes presented are from the July 2011 meeting.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Ruff to approve the Ambulance Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

Mayor Hanson informed the Council that an email was received from the WI DOT regarding the speed on Hwy 35. The summary of the report concluded that the speed would not be reduced; however, there would be some signage at the school area.

Mayor Hanson gave the following meeting reminders:

Tuesday---March 13, 2012 ----CapX2020 meetings at the Alma American Legion at 1:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Thursday---March 15, 2012----Buffalo County Zoning meeting at the Alma School gymnasium at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Hanson announced to the Tax/License/Zoning committee that their committee would need to meet prior to the April 12th council meeting for the excessive assessment claim that Alma Apartments has filed with the City and then the full council would need to act upon the claim at the April 12th council meeting. The Tax/License/Zoning committee will also need to meet on a Combination Class B Beer & Liquor License submitted by Shannon Livingston for 107 North Main St.

BUFFALO RIVER/BEEF SLOUGH DREDGING FAILURE

Attorney Seifert informed the Council that the letter has been received from the DNR with the conclusion that they, the DNR, are not responsible and the liability lies with the City and/or Vierbicher, engineer for the dredging project.

Attorney Seifert sent a letter to Attorney Siesennop asking if further mediation is feasible or action of another avenue is to be taken. Seifert will update the Council once he has heard back from Attorney Siesennop.

Mayor Hanson wanted to know if he will still be involved with the Buffalo River/Beef Slough situation. Attorney Seifert stated that he will be speaking with mayoral candidate, Robert Scow, to bring him up-to-speed on the situation.

Upcoming meetings:

March 15, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.-----Utilities
April 9, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.-----Finance

Next Council will be April 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

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

