**May 8, 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, Larry Farl, Mary Johnson, Ron Geiselhart and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the April 17, 2017 Council Proceedings minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Ruff to approve the April 18, 2017 Re-Organization minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Geiselhart to approve the Financial Report for 2017 as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Earney seconded by Geiselhart to approve the Treasurer’s Report for April 2017 as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments: None.

**SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Chairman Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee had met May 4, 2017.

Dave Earney inquired about the hiring of an inspection company for the Fire Dept.

Moham stated that the Alma Volunteer Fire Department does not have the manpower nor the expertise in things required to do inspections of the businesses.

Ron Geiselhart stated that he liked the idea of a company doing the inspections of the businesses rather than members of the fire department. It will keep good relationships between the fire department and the businesses, Geiselhart stated.

Bob Scow, former Mayor and Chief of Police, addressed the Council of the need for a full-time Chief of Police. Some of the items he addressed were:

1. Public safety
2. Having the Chief of Police be part of the community to gain public trust and knowledge of the community.
3. Develop pride and respect in the community.

Scow went into detail the statutory duties a sheriff can do if under contract with the municipality.

1. Enforcement of local ordinances.
2. Towing of vehicles
3. Animal control
4. Enforcing property maintenance standards
5. Boat launch fees
6. Campground collection and patrol
7. Open intoxicants.

Bob Scow stated to the Council to keep the job attractive in both the job and pay so that you get what you

Mayor Jim Wilkie announced to the Council that he had concurred with City Attorney Jon Seifert regarding Perry Pronschinske’s offer to do police administrative work until someone is hired at his current rate.

Moham stated that having Perry do the administrative work in the interim was a great idea.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to authorize the Mayor to place an ad for a full-time Chief of Police position. All members voting yes.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the City has set up a separate account in the general fund for checks received in memory of Todd Ritscher. A decision will be made as what to do with these funds at a later date.

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

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairman David Earney informed the Council that the committee had met on May 4, 2017.

One of the agenda items was the contract with HydroCorp to do the City of Alma’s Cross Connection Control inspections for the commercial water accounts.

Motion by Earney seconded by Hanson to approve the proposal from HydroCorp for a two-year period in the amount of $4,284/year. All members voting yes.

Mayor Wilkie informed Chairman Earney that Cal Loewenhagen and himself went out to the County Shop to look for the hour meter so that the sewer could be billed accurately. Mayor Wilkie stated that no such meter was found. Earney commented that he had spoken with Bob Platetter, Buffalo County Highway Commissioner, and he had told him the meter was in. Earney will contact Platteter again regarding this matter.

Another item discussed by the committee was the washout at Laue Street behind Riverland Energy’s property. Mayor Wilkie stated that he was informed that city crew, Joe Wick, placed a berm for now and that Jeff Reglin will come and assess this situation.

Dave Earney informed the Council that the committee had met regarding the paving jobs for 2017. Scheduled was High School Road, however, it is dependent upon the school paving their adjoining parking lot. Earney stated that if High School Road isn’t done, then Cedar Street would be repaved.

Mayor Jim Wilkie informed the Council that according to the deed for High School Road, it is 66’ in width.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to table the paving of High School Road until more information is obtained. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to approve the line painting quote from Oium Blacktop in the amount of $6,154.00 and to take the funds from the appropriate accounts listed on the proposal. All members voting yes.

Earney informed the Council that the committee gave approval for the purchase of a van up to $6,000 to be funded by the water and sewer departments. Cal and Joe will be researching vans available.

Motion by Hanson seconded by Farl 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 met this morning at 8:30 a.m. and have prepared minutes before them.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to retroactively approve the Mobile Home Park Permit for 2016 to Steve Radsek and the 2017 Mobile Home Park Permit and notify him that all accounts due to the City of Alma must be paid in full by April 1, 2018 or the Mobile Home Park will have to be closed. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to approve Operator Licenses to: Andrew Casey and Kyrie Dorschner. All members voting yes.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he had received an email from Cedar Corp to clarify if their engineering proposal included a Phase 2 environmental study. Wilkie stated it did not and this is a requirement for the grant. Discussion was held.

Motion by Earney seconded by Farl to continue working with Ayres Associates regarding the Countryside Coop property for up to $6,400 for asbestos testing.  All members voting yes by roll call vote.

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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Farl informed the Council that the committee met on May 3, 2017 and minutes have been prepared and provided.

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

**WUTA LIAISON**

Motion by Earney seconded by Geiselhart to approve the WUTA minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

**AMBULANCE**

Ruff informed the Council the Ambulance Board met on April 27, 2017 and discussed the building concerns. At this time, the ambulance crew is not requesting different housing nor any changes to the present building.

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to approve the Ambulance Board minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Farl seconded by Earney to enter into CLOSED SESSION under exemptions set under Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advise concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation to which it is or is likely to become involved. The Council will reconvene into open session.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Farl seconded by Ruff to reconvene into Open Session. All members voting yes.

Motion by Hanson seconded by Moham to send a letter to Randy Morgan, Alma, WI stating that the City of Alma is willing to pay for actual damages repaired to his boat/trailer. All members voting yes.

Hiring of a Chief of Police was discussed and where to advertise.

Motion by Moham seconded by Geiselhart to advertise for Chief of Police, full-time position at $24.53/hour and benefits negotiated upon qualifications. All members voting yes.

Advertisement for Chief of Police will be in the following:

* Buffalo County Journal
* Law Enforcement Bulletin
* Municipality Magazine
* Eau Claire Leader Telegram
* Winona Daily News
* La Crosse Tribune

Applications are due June 12, 2017 at noon.

Upcoming meetings:

May 15, 2017 Board of Review Noon to 2 p.m.

June 8, 2017 Finance/Tax &License 8:30 a.m.

June 8, 2017 Council 6:00 p.m.

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