

Sept. 14, 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 Geiselhart to approve the Council Proceeding minutes of August 7, 2017 as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizen comments.

Ann Matchey, owner of 3G Gallery, questioned the one-hour parking stalls throughout Alma. She stated she felt the one-hour parking stalls are a deterrent for visitors.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met this morning and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts as presented.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Geiselhart to grant Operator Licenses to: Cheryl Fernandez and Dakodah Hartwig. All members voting yes.

Ruff informed the committee that Eric Davidson, auditor with Bauman Associates, went over the full audit report for the City of Alma. One of the recommendations from the auditor was to have either the Utilities Chairman, the Finance Chairman or the Mayor's approval of all balance adjustments made to water and sewer customer accountholders and to initial those adjustments prior to them being made.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to instruct the Utilities Chairman approve any balance adjustments made to all water and sewer customer accountholders and initial the balance adjustments prior to any being made. All members voting yes.

Dave Earney, committee member, further commented that the committee discussed drones and chickens. It has been reported that residents are raising chickens in the Residential districts which is prohibited by the City of Alma's zoning ordinance. The clerk was instructed to write letters to those with chickens notifying them of the violation.

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

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman David Earney stated that the committee had not met, however, there was authorization given to purchase a roadside mower from Lindstrom Equipment.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that the Facility Plan for the Wastewater Plant prepared by Davy Engineering does include the phosphorus study and a long-term plan for the plant. Mayor Wilkie commented that the financing is the big issue for the future planning.

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

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee had not met.

Mayor Wilkie presented the Agreement between the City of Alma and SPS, LLC for placement of the second siren adjacent to the Buffalo County Courthouse Annex at 317 S. 2nd Street. There is no charge for the placement of the siren and is a year by year agreement. This agreement will not terminate unless one of the parties' requests termination.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Hanson to approve the Agreement between the City of Alma and SPS, LLC for the placement of the 2nd siren on SPS, LLC's property at 317 S. 2nd Street. All members voting yes.

Discussion was held and it was recommended that at the next monthly test of the siren (Oct. 3) someone be at the school while it is tested to verify that the beach siren is heard in that area.

The Council reviewed the proposal from Federal Warning Systems and Emergency Communications Systems for a total of \$19,500.00. The money for the siren has been budgeted for over the past few years.

Motion by Earney seconded by Hanson to approve the purchase of the siren with Federal Warning Systems for \$12,750.00 and \$300 for the battery warming blankets and \$5,450.00 to Emergency Communication Systems for the installation of the siren. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he had drafted a letter regarding the enforcement of the parking ordinances for the City of Alma. The letter was then sent along with the sewer and water bills plus notices posted throughout the City.

Gary Haigh, resident at 500 S. 2nd Street, addressed the Council regarding the parking ordinance and suggested that the ordinance specifies the number of boats a person can have on the streets.

Mayor Wilkie commented that this would be difficult because the City cannot limit the number of cars a person owns and parks on the public street.

Gary Haigh further commented that the Buffalo County Courthouse should build a ramp for the courthouse employees to free up some of the parking spaces in his neighborhood. Haigh stated that the boat that was parked across the street from his home for a long time contained dead carp and his visitors had commented to him about the smells.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the street is a public street and we can't tell people where they can park. We can, however, now that we have a Chief of Police, enforce the ordinances already in place.

Corey Hanson commented that the one-hour parking ordinance was adopted for safety reasons coming up from River Street to Highway 35.

Discussion was held regarding the \$50 parking ticket fine. The Services Committee will place the cost of parking tickets on a future agenda.

Police Chief Kevin Glander stated to Gary & Suzanne Haigh that he had attempted contact with their neighbor, Travis Sonnentag – owner of the boats in question, several times and finally put a notice in the door marked Alma Police. Chief Glander commented that the boats were moved that afternoon.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he had received a letter with photos of a boat, trailer and vehicles that supposedly had not moved in more than the 72-hour limited time period.

Ron Lintvedt, resident at 509 N Second Street, addressed the Council regarding his boat, trailer and car on 2nd Street in front of his home. He stated that the street is not crowded and he felt the \$50 fine was too steep to pay.

Chief Glander stated that each incident will be reviewed under the circumstances and that good judgment would be made.

Gary Haigh commented that those with boats and/or trailers could use the overflow parking down by Dairyland Power.

It was noted that municipal vehicles are not exempt from any of the parking regulations.

Ron Lintvedt thanked the Council for their time and explanation.

Chief Glander informed the public that towing a vehicle can be a liability for the City.

Suzanne Haigh thanked the mayor for the letter that was sent to the citizens of Alma reminding them of the parking regulations that are in force and will be enforced.

Mayor Wilkie read a letter regarding boats and trailers on the city streets for extended periods of time from Richard Harry.

Motion by Hanson seconded by Ruff to ratify the Mayor's appointment of Kevin Glander as the City of Alma's Chief of Police. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Chief Glander informed the Council that he had visited the Sheriff's Department, Courthouse, School and downtown area. He has been working on his office and mobile computer unit for the squad. Glander stated that he will be at training next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Upcoming meetings:

Parks & Recreation -----	Sept. 20 th at 10:00 a.m.
Utilities-----	Sept. 25 th at 3:30 p.m.
Finance-----	Oct. 5 th at 8:30 a.m.
Council-----	Oct. 5 th at 6:00 p.m.

Councilperson Monica Moham thanked the citizens for their attendance and input at the meeting.

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