

**September 6, 2012**

**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, Larry Farl, Mary Johnson, Leighton (Jim) Wilkie and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Johnson to approve the August 6, 2012 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 Oium seconded by Farl to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Steve Theurer, Waste Transport, addressed the Council regarding the Recycling Services their company provides.

Mayor Robert Scow informed Theurer that the City is bound by ordinances for the solid waste removal in the City of Alma. The garbage pickup is contracted with Waste Management until 2015 and the recyclable material has to be taken to the City of Alma's Recycling Center. The Recycling Contract currently is with Arcadia Recycling.

Theurer informed the Council that there has been an interest by citizens from Alma, particularly the elderly who can't get to the recycling center, to have the recyclables picked up curbside at their residences.

Mayor Scow referred this matter to the Services Committee for study and review. Theurer will be invited to the committee meeting where curbside recycling is discussed.

Stacy Lewellyn, resident, addressed the council regarding curbside and co-mingled recycling. Lewellyn stated that she ordered a recycling container from Waste Transport because of the convenience of being able to mix the recyclables in one container, place it curbside and it is removed. Lewellyn stated that she is willing to pay for this type of service and thinks it should be allowed to the residents.

Mayor Scow informed Lewellyn that the City of Alma currently receives a recycling grant that needs recyclable tonnages in order to qualify for the grant.

Mayor Scow informed Lewellyn that this matter will be on an upcoming agenda of the Services Committee for discussion. Mayor Scow thanked Lewellyn and Theurer for their comments.

### **FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE COMMITTEE**

Oium informed the Council that the committee had met earlier today and had discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Evaluations will be done in January of 2013
- Committee is recommending to the Council a .50/hour raise for full-time employees and a .25/hour raise for the active part-time employees for 2013
- Discussed eliminating and/or re-doing the Shawnee Estates covenants
- Possible sale by auction – Shawnee Estates
- Budgets to be done by October

Motion by Oium seconded by Farl to approve a .50/hour raise for full-time employees and .25/hour raise for active part-time employees for 2013. All members voting yes.

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

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Wilkie informed the Council that the committee had not met; however, many projects had been done in the last month including the following:

- Handicap ramp at the Museum
- Sidewalk repairs
- Storm sewer on Sunset Drive
- One-lane for Riverview Drive with guard rails. Additional signage for the one-lane portion of Riverview Drive will be forthcoming

Mayor Scow stated that the above projects look good. Moham and Johnson commented on the good job done of replacing sidewalks.

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

### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had met and discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- 2013 budgets
- Buena Vista Park concerns
- Fishing tournaments

➤ Art & Music Festival went well

Farl informed the Council that the committee will be meeting next month with Bobbi Sedlmayr, Beach Manager and Bob Major with the Alma Little League Program for their annual reports.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Ruff to approve the Parks and Recreation Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

### **SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee had not met, however, stated that the committee will be meeting on September 12, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. to go over the chief of police applicants and invited the Council to attend. Ruff further stated that interviews will be scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> and interviews will be done by the Council at that time.

Discussion was held regarding requesting that the Buffalo County Zoning Board extend the moratorium for frac sand mining.

Oium stated that he did not agree with the moratorium because it prohibited jobs. Oium further stated that if frac sand trucks are regulated so should grain and gravel trucks.

Johnson commented that frac sand mining/trucking is a controversial issue unlike the other types of trucking done in the County.

Wilkie stated that the frac sand is a unique asset and careful study should be done. Wilkie further stated that the County has a chance to prevent damage to the County and recommends that the County moratorium be extended for six months.

Earney commented that once a frac sand mine permit would be approved, we would have to live with it. Earney stated that there are other locations in the State for the frac sand mining.

Scow commented that the County has been more informative to the municipalities that the frac sand mining would affect.

Stacy Lewellyn commented that she lived in Alaska and was familiar with the mistake done with the Red Dog Mine there. Damage was done to the water source for failure to line a holding tank.

Mayor Scow suggested a letter to the County Board. Scow stated that he would like to continue the good working relationship that the City has with the County.

Motion by Wilkie seconded by Johnson to instruct the Mayor to draft a letter expressing the Council's request for consideration of a six-month extension to the current

moratorium regarding frac sand mining to allow more studies and that the letter be presented to the County Board at their next meeting. Six members voting yes. 1 no (Oium) by roll call vote.

Motion by Oium seconded by Farl to convene 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. All members voting yes.

#### CLOSED SESSION

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

Mayor Scow announced that the next Council meeting will be October 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Oium requested that the November meeting be postponed until November 15, 2012. The November meeting will be November 15<sup>th</sup>.

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