

September 8, 2016

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 and Matt Olson. Absent: David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the Public Hearing minutes of August 4, 2016 regarding the Buffalo County Shop Annexation as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Olson to approve the August 4, 2016 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the August 2016 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Hanson seconded by Farl to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2016 as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments:

Residents Mark and Cherie Noll – S1917 Buena Vista Road, were present to speak about Mill Creek Road. Mark Noll gave a history of his family farm and of Mill Creek Road's use. Mark informed the Council that the Town of Belvidere closed their portion of the road and would not like the City of Alma to do the same for their section of the Road.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Noll's that it was on the agenda as an item of discussion and no action would be taken this evening. Wilkie stated that a possible hiking/bike trail could be developed and not allow vehicular traffic. Noll stated that the road needs to be fixed and is almost impassable. Foreman Debra Burce stated that repairs for Mill Creek Road are on Jeff Reglin's schedule.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson David Earney is not present, committee member Corey Hanson inquired if anyone had questions on the Utilities Committee reports. None were received.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee met on August 25, 2016 and discussed trails, one of the agenda items.

Farl stated that Mayor Wilkie addressed the committee regarding the possibility of designating Mill Creek Road as an alley instead of a city street for the use of a trail. The committee discussed this option, however, no action was taken.

Wilkie stated that a possible hiking/bike trail could be developed and not allow vehicular traffic, therefore, the City would not have to maintain it as a roadway.

Cherie Noll commented that she did not like the idea of hikers and/or bikers on Mill Creek Road because of trespassing that could easily occur if it was a trail. Mayor Wilkie commented that a sign could be installed stating "stay on trail". Mark Noll did not like the idea of putting up signs. Mark stated that he and Cherie enjoy the natural beauty of the area and their property.

Mark Noll inquired about the possibility of his son building a home down off of Mill Creek Road. Noll stated that if it's a trail, his son would not have access to his property.

Mill Creek Road is being used as a snowmobile trail, Noll stated.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to table the issue of Mill Creek Road being converted to an alley and send to the Utilities Committee for review and discussion and recommendation and invite the landowners involved. All members voting yes.

Chairman Larry Farl stated that the committee also discussed the following:

- Public dock repairs. Alma Rod & Gun Club made the repairs to the dock on Beach Harbor Road.
- Beach program concerns. Ropes from the swim area need to be removed.
- Little League concerns. Little League would like to install a sprinkler system for the ball field. This will be studied and brought back to committee.
- Doggie Stations update. Farl will be ordering them soon.

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

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Farl stated that per the minutes three applications were approved.

Motion by Moham seconded by Johnson to approve the Historical Preservation Advisory Commission minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Mary Johnson informed the Council that the committee met on August 19, 2016 at 8:10 a.m.

One of the items discussed was Act 156-Residency Restrictions for Sexually Violent Persons.

Attorney Adam Sticht, Probation and Parole Agents David Brunk and Amanda Standard were present to inform the committee on the policies for sex offenders and the restrictions they may or may not have. Brunk stated that the Department of Corrections has the power to make all and final decisions regarding the action to be taken on a parolee on an individual basis.

Johnson stated that there was still some hope in drafting an ordinance that would prevent other municipalities from making the City of Alma a dumping ground for these type of offenders.

Johnson stated that other items discussed by the committee were the following:

- Cemetery concerns. Deb Burce had given the progress report on the cemetery damage caused by the high wind storm. Mayor Wilkie commented that due to liability issues, volunteers cannot assist with the cleanup of the fallen trees or monuments.
- Landfill concerns. Cedar Corp will be working on a storm water management plan that is required by the DNR.

Johnson further commented that the veteran flags at the cemeteries would be purchased by the City of Alma and installation of the flags may be done with Legion members' assistance.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Motion by Ruff seconded by Hanson to approve an operator license to Kay Miller. All members voting yes.

Ruff informed the Council that Matt Featherston was sent a letter regarding the expiration of his building permit and the condition of his property.

Ruff stated that the committee asked that the Resolution rescinding the covenants at Shawnee Estates be drafted by the attorney. Adam Sticht stated that the property owner at Shawnee Estates would have to be contacted regarding this action. Sticht stated that he will have this done for the next Council meeting.

Mayor Wilkie presented Resolution #16-01 Resolution to name the beach at the Alma Beach Park for Lois Balk: Lois Balk Beach.

Discussion was held. Mayor Wilkie stated that he was approached by residents to honor Lois for her community service. Changing the name of a City Street could not be done for many reasons,

therefore, it was suggested the beach at the Alma Beach Park because of all of her hard work there and involvement in the development of the beach.

Corey Hanson commented that this would set a precedence for others to come forward in wanting something named to honor someone else and where would it end. Mayor Wilkie commented that it could be decided on a case by case basis.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Olson to table the Resolution and place it before a Public Hearing prior to the next Council meeting. All members voting yes.

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

Mayor Comments:

- Progress is being made on the WEDC grant application.
- Budgets need to be worked on by the committees in September

Upcoming meetings:

October 6, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. -----Finance/Tax & License/Zoning Committee

October 6, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. -----Public Hearing for renaming of the beach

October 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. -----Council

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