

December 13, 2018

PUBLIC HEARING

5:45 p.m.

Mayor Jim Wilkie opened the public hearing to the public regarding the Conditional use permit application submitted by Vonda Wurzbarger, 5413 3rd Avenue South – Minneapolis, MN 55419 -- for a change of use to allow a vacation rental by day, week or month at 901 South 2nd Street in the City of Alma. The property is zoned R3 (Residential small lots), therefore, requiring a Conditional Use Permit.

No one from the public was present, therefore, no testimony was received for or against the Conditional Use Permit application.

Mayor Wilkie closed the public hearing.

December 13, 2018

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, Richard Champeny, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Ron Geiselhart and David Earney. Absent: Mary Johnson.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the November 15, 2018 Public Hearing minutes for the 2019 budget as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve the November 15, 2018 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the November 2018 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the November 2018 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizens comments:

Matt Featherston, owner of the property at 411 South Main, informed the Council that he had received the letter from the City Attorney regarding the condition of his property and will keep the Council updated on his progress. Featherston apologized to the Council for the delay in getting things done with his property.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Ron Geiselhart informed the Council that the committee had met on Dec. 6, 2018 and discussed the following items:

- Status of Lower Swift Street Repair:

Joe Wick mentioned that Swift Street will be repaired in spring of 2019 due to winter weather conditions at the present time. Ron informed the Council that the railing on Swift Street has been installed.

- WPDES Update.

The City of Alma received the WPDES permit which is good for five years. Ron informed the Council that even though the City received the permit, the phosphorus reduction plan will still need to be worked on.

Dave Earney shared that he had visited a facility in Ellsworth regarding the phosphorus reduction and Randy from the facility would like to meet with the Utilities Committee. Earney stated that volume amounts and flow records will need to be provided to Randy prior to the meeting. Joe Wick stated that he will talk to Cal about getting that information to him.

- Block corner survey update.

Geiselhart informed the Council that the survey crew has begun their surveying work this week.

- Garden tractor purchase-pickup.

Joe Wick informed the committee that the tractor was purchased and has arrived and is working great.

- SCADA computer replacement and hiring software support company;

Geiselhart stated that Calvin presented a proposal received from Altronex Control Systems for the SCADA computer and software. The proposal came in at \$30,470.00. This dollar amount also includes startup and training along with a 1-year warranty and support. The committee recommended approval.

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to approve the proposal from Altronex Control Systems for the SCADA computer and software in the amount of \$30,470.00 and this amount does include startup, training and a 1-year warrant and support. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE COMMITTEE

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met this morning and discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Vouchers and bills. The committee reviewed and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.
- Building permit applications. None.
- Building permit violations.

Mayor Wilkie had informed the committee that he had spoken to attorney Jon Seifert regarding the building permit violation at 411 S. Main Street. Attorney Seifert sent a letter to the property owner and per Council instruction gave him 30 days to do the roof, windows, doors and siding. Discussion was held. The 30 days will be up at the end of December.

- Squad purchase.

Mayor Wilkie had informed the committee that he had requested Police Chief Mike Johnson to request from the dealer holding the state bid on police squads if there was a possibility that the City of Alma be placed on a waiting list since the squad bid was not approved in October. Chief Johnson informed Mayor Wilkie that no such list exists, however, the dealer wanted the City of Alma to know that the 2019 Tahoe can still be ordered. In 2020 the Tahoe body changes and the current squad equipment will not transfer over like the 2019. Mayor Wilkie further reported that the estimated increase in the 2020 model will be \$7 to \$8,000 over the current bid price. The 2019 model did increase by \$73 since October.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the cost of the new squad, since the current squad will be passed down to the city crew, will be split between police vehicle and street vehicle outlay accounts. Mayor Wilkie further stated that the amount allocated to the street outlay vehicle account will not be as much as trade-in value would have been due to this vehicle being used as a squad car.

Ruff stated that the committee recommended approval of the purchase of the 2019 for a police squad as presented.

Earney inquired of Police Chief Mike Johnson why he didn't purchase another pickup.

Police Chief Mike Johnson informed the Council that the pickup is just that a pickup and he must take time to unlock the box, then the locked compartments in the box to get out his police equipment when he is called to a situation. Chief Johnson further stated that the turning radius is poor with the pickup and that the pickup is not a police rated vehicle.

Earney asked what the life expectancy of the Tahoe will be as a police vehicle. Police Chief Johnson stated (6) six years.

Police Chief Johnson stated that once the Tahoe is ordered, it will take approximately until May 2019 for the delivery of the vehicle. The Tahoe has a 3-year warranty.

Motion by Earney seconded by Farl to recommend to the Council the purchase of the 2019 Tahoe for a police squad (silver in color) from Ewald Automotive Group in the amount of \$37,274.00 (This includes the \$73 price difference since the October quote) and authorize the 2014 Silverado to be used by the city crew once the new squad arrives. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

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

LIBRARY LIAISON

Ruff informed the Council that the Library Board had met, and days and hours will be changing after the first of the year. The library will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. noon this is an addition to the regular hours. The library conducted a survey to see what patrons thought of the existing hours. No budget changes, however, are needed to provide these hours.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Geiselhart to approve the Library Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee had met on Dec. 12, 2018 and discussed the following:

- Cemetery concerns.

Larry Farl inquired about a section of the Alma Public Cemetery that is unoccupied. Linda will check into that and report back to Larry with her findings.

- Police concerns.

Police Chief Mike Johnson presented his police report for the months of Sept, October and November.

Monica informed Police Chief Johnson to call her if there are feral cat complaints instead of taking them to the vet office.

- Parking/snow removal.

Mary Glover, tenant at River's Edge Residences-302 S. Main, regarding the parking restriction on the west side of main street in front of the apartment building. Glover stated that there are elderly persons who have a difficult time crossing the street to their vehicles.

Moham informed the Council that Glover will be contacting the manager of the apartments to see what can be done about this situation. Mayor Wilkie offered to call the apartment manager as well.

- Squad car purchase.
- Fire department concerns.

Linda informed the committee that she has met with a couple of firemen and spoken with Tom Brakke, Fire Chief regarding the online auction sale of the fire department's rescue van. The van had to be sold under the City of Alma since licensing and insurance is done by the City. The money has been held in account for the Alma Volunteer Fire Department, but Linda informed the committee she will be issuing a check for the amount received for the rescue van to the Alma Volunteer Fire Department. There has been confusion on where the money is from the Fire Department, therefore, this should clear this discrepancy up.

Linda informed the committee that the treasurer's records for the Alma Volunteer Fire Department are available online at: <https://almafiredept.blogspot.com>

- Buffalo County Humane Association/animal care.

Monica informed the Council that she has been trying to have the BCHA meet with the committee to see what services they offer since she has received calls from citizens regarding the way they were treated by the BCHA and were informed they don't provide services for the City of Alma. Monica further stated that she has sent the BCHA members letters requesting a meeting with no response. Jon Seifert, city attorney, is also aware of this matter and will be contacting them.

- Solid Waste concerns.

Foreman Joe Wick informed the committee that he will be attending the Buffalo County Recycling meeting tomorrow evening. Joe stated that he has spoken with Randy Johnson, Buffalo Co. Solid Waste operator, and they are satisfied with the weight and condition of recyclables received from City of Alma residents.

Joe informed the committee that a surveillance camera was purchased so that the landfill operator could tell when someone was entering the facility.

Police Chief Johnson informed the committee that the school has now installed 36 cameras that will be available to the police department when an incident occurs.

The traffic mirror that was installed on CTH E at the 2nd Street intersection has been working well with motorists travelling south on 2nd Street at this intersection notifying them of approaching traffic from CTH E off Hwy 35.

Moham thanked Police Chief Johnson for the good job he has done regarding the parking enforcement.

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

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

Motion by Farl seconded by Ruff to convene into CLOSED SESSION under exemptions set under Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. All members voting yes

CLOSED SESSION

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

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to terminate the employment of Debra Burce on 12/31/2018 as dictated by the City of Alma’s Employee Handbook regarding Leave of Absences. All members voting yes.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Motion by Champeny seconded by Geiselhart to deny the Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Vonda Wurzbarger to operate a vacation home at 901 S. 2nd St. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

January 7, 2019-----Finance @ 8:30 a.m.

January 7, 2019-----Council @ 6:00 p.m.

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