

February 7, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING

5:45 P.M.

Mayor Jim Wilkie opened the public hearing to the public regarding the possibility of charging for snow removal from snow placed onto city parking stalls that the crew has to haul away.

No testimony was received in favor of charging for the snow removal.

Dave Becker, RODA Properties, Inc., spoke against the charging of the snow removal.

Becker first informed the Council of a situation when he first came to Alma and purchased 312 S. Main Street. He had ordered a 500-gallon LP tank for the building, it was set and then he was informed by the fire chief and he thought 2 councilmen that he could not have that large of an LP tank in that location. He then ordered a smaller tank and that too did not comply according to the fire chief, Tom Brakke. Becker stated when all was said and done it cost him over \$4,000 to comply. Becker asked Brakke about all the other LP tanks along River Street that were not into compliance and Brakke stated he would have those owners comply. After a year went by Becker again asked Brakke about the non-compliant LP tanks. He was then told that they were grandfathered in and he wasn't going to make them comply.

Becker stated it's not the \$75/load charge that concerns him, however, he would like it to be fair, equal and non-discriminatory. He questioned who would determine how much a property owner is charged. Becker stated that he is a taxpayer and thought that snow removal was included in the taxes. Again, he stated that, if the charge is imposed, it should be fair and equal.

Susan Rohl, Rivers Edge Apartments manager, stated to the Council that she agreed with everything Dave Becker said and added her property manager's concern of how the city will know what snow theirs is that's in the pile on River Street. Susan stated that others plow behind garages and put in the pile as well.

Hearing no other testimony for or against the snow removal charge issue, Mayor Wilkie closed the hearing.

February 7, 2019

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 Moham seconded by Farl to approve the January 7, 2019 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the January 2019 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Farl seconded by Geiselhart to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2019 as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments: None.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman Ron Geiselhart informed the Council that the committee had met on January 11, 2019 and discussed the following items:

- Shawn Welte and Mark Davy went over the direction the City of Alma should be taking for the phosphorus removal
- Randy from Ellsworth shared how they are dealing with phosphorus removal compliance
- A representative presented to the committee the software needed for the city's SCADA system
- Brushing and de-brushing of streets was discussed with Joe Wick
- Joe Wick had informed the committee of roads that need to be seal coated this year and to stay on top of the blacktop projects that were postponed from last fall

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he has an update from the block corner projects. The company has completed 50% of the project and will provide a report and are looking for 50% payment at this time. This matter will be turned over to the Utilities Committee for recommendation.

- The committee discussed the possible charge for snow removal from the snow placed in the parking stalls that the city crew has to haul

Discussion was held regarding the snow removal charge.

Dave Earney read the Utilities Committee meeting minutes to the citizens explaining how this process started.

Gary Ruff informed the citizens that it began with the Courthouse cleaning their snow and putting it in front of the courthouse. Ruff stated in years prior, the County Highway department removed that snow and then billed Buffalo County for the snow removal.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the snow removal has a lot of variables and is complicated.

Dave Becker again asked that the charge be fair and non-discriminatory.

Mayor Wilkie asked Joe Wick if he would be able to accurately come up with a cost to charge each person. Joe Wick stated that it would be very hard to judge.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Farl to table this item and refer to the Utilities Committee for study, review and recommendation. All members voting yes.

Joe Wick will be speaking to Marv Rieck, janitor for the courthouse, regarding the snow removal charge.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny 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 had met this morning and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve Operator Licenses to Kevin Longmore, Morgan Geary and Carolyn Oswald Johnson. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve a mobile home park permit to Lorena Hungerford. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to authorize Mayor Wilkie and Clerk Linda Torgerson to renew the liability insurance with EMC so long as the premium is 15% within last year's premium. All members voting yes.

Police Chief Mike Johnson spoke on the two proposals for panic alarm systems for the City Hall and Library.

Johnson stated that with the company from Florida, installation and upkeep was not included and that the City would have to do that on their own. He further stated that he will be presenting in the near future a change to the door at City Hall and the window for the back room of the library for additional safety measures.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the proposal from Per Mar for a panic alarm system per specifications in the amount of \$690 and a \$45/month charge for the monitoring. All members voting yes.

Monica Moham stated she would like security cameras installed and will place that on her next Services Committee agenda.

Motion by Ruff seconded Champeny to appoint Joe Wick as foreman and give him a \$1/hour raise resulting in \$22.20 per hour retroactive to January 1st. All members voting yes.

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

Mayor Wilkie presented the Council with mapping and plans that have been drawn up by Stockholm Gardens for improvements at Buena Vista Park. Mayor Wilkie and Larry Farl (Chairman of Parks & Recreation) informed the Council that donations have been received for some of the improvements planned. The plans for the improvements will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation committee.

Richard Champeny thanked Joe Wick for the good work he and his crew had done brushing along Beach/Harbor Road. Joe Wick informed the Council that it was a cooperative effort with the owners of the marina.

Monica Moham complimented the city crew on the wonderful job they do with the snow removal.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Ron Geiselhart informed the Council that he had attended the fire meeting that was held Feb. 6th.

The firemen discussed the following:

- Rescue training opportunity with the Lock & Dam
- Purchase of sonar equipment with money obtained from the sale of the van
- March 17th will be the Chili Feed

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the Fire Department Liaison Report as presented. All members voting yes.

AMBULANCE BOARD

Gary Ruff informed the Council that the Ambulance Board had met on Monday, January 28th. Diane Mikelson retired, and Justin Sass has taken her position.

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

Upcoming meetings:

Council-----Monday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. Public hearings will begin at 5:30 p.m.
Finance-----Monday, March 11th at 8:30 a.m.

Tourism-----Friday, Feb. 15th at 9:00 a.m.
Park & Rec-----Friday, Feb. 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Utilities-----Friday, Feb. 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

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