

May 6, 2018

PUBLIC HEARING

5:30 p.m.

Mayor Jim Wilkie opened the public hearing to the public regarding proposed ordinance amendment #19-03 amending Chapter 73: Traffic Schedules, Section II, One-way streets. Pine Street from Hwy 35 to River Street would be one-way westerly and Orange Street from Hwy 35 to River Street will be one-way easterly. River Street between Pine and Orange will be two-way traffic. This ordinance also includes High School Road which would become one-way with entrance from the south off of Hwy 35 and exiting to the north onto Spring Street.

Those speaking for the ordinance:

Rob Stewart, Superintendent of Alma Area Schools, spoke in favor of High School Road becoming a one-way as described. He felt it will provide safety in the winter, so vehicles aren't exiting onto Hwy 35. Stewart further commented this would create a better flow of traffic by the school. Stewart informed the Council that he is working with WIDOT for flashing lights for the school zone on Hwy 35.

No one spoke against the ordinance.

Hearing no further testimony for or against the ordinance, Mayor Wilkie closed the public hearing.

May 6, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING

5:45 p.m.

Mayor Jim Wilkie opened the public hearing to the public regarding proposed ordinance amendment #19-04. This ordinance would amend Chapter 72: Parking. Amendment to Section 72.22 (B)(1) and 72.22 (B)(2) -- No Parking shall be on River Street between Pine and Orange Street on the East side. This ordinance shall also amend Chapter 72.22 (A)(2) One-hour parking shall be repealed as the single parking space designated therein, in front of 200 S. Main Street, is hereby ordained to be restored to a regular Twenty-Four Hour Parking space and the description of which shall be added to Chapter 72.20 (A). In addition, the current parking space in front of 120 South Main Street shall be restored to a Twenty-Four-hour parking space and shall be removed from the "No-Parking" classification thereby amending section 72.22 (B)(2).

No one spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Gerald Everson, co-owner of the Alma Townhouse Rental, spoke against the ordinance because it would eliminate the parking his customers use on River Street. He further stated that he didn't feel there is a safety issue entering onto Hwy 35 from River Street if you "creep" out onto Hwy 35. He suggested to the Council that two parking stalls to the north in front of 120 and 114 South Main should be no parking and this would resolve the issue.

Hearing no further testimony for or against the proposed ordinance, Mayor Wilkie closed the public hearing.

May 6, 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, Larry Grisen, Ron Geiselhart and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the April 11, 2019 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Geiselhart to approve the April 16, 2019 Re-organization Meeting minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the April 2019 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Councilman Larry Grisen inquired about the status of the current budget. Linda will get this information to Larry Grisen.

Motion by Farl seconded by Ruff to approve the April 2019 Treasurer's 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 reviewed and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.

Chairman Gary Ruff stated that the committee discussed the City farm field suggested uses.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to plant a cover crop on the specified city farm fields to prevent erosion with the city crew doing the fieldwork. All members voting yes.

Chairman Ruff stated that the committee recommended approval of the Assessor's contract as submitted by Eric Kleven.

Larry Grisen asked if there had been a request for proposal for the assessor contract. David Earney, committee member, commented that Eric Kleven has been the assessor for many years for the City of Alma and knows the properties giving the City of Alma stability. Grisen suggested that next year a request for proposal for the assessor's contract be done.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to recommend Council approval of the Assessor's contract submitted by Eric Kleven in the amount of \$6,600. Six members voting yes. One no (Grisen), by roll call vote.

Gary Ruff informed the committee that he had attended the annual WUTA meeting in Madison. Ruff stated that the per capita being paid might be increased.

Mayor Jim Wilkie encouraged council members to write to their legislators in support of the bill that would increase the per capita portion of the shared revenue the City of Alma receives from the State.

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

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had met on April 24, 2019 and discussed the following:

- Playground equipment.

Monica Moham stated she had not done any work on this topic due to the flooding at Rieck's Lake Park.

- Flooding.

Foreman Joe Wick stated that clean-up day is this upcoming Friday and the city crew has been cleaning up a lot of debris from the park caused by the flooding

- Beach/Harbor Road fishing dock-flood/ice damage.

Farl stated that the Alma Rod & Gun Club along with the city crew will work on the dock so that it can be used.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the river flow is at 8 mph and feels the boat dock is unsafe and that the landings should be closed. Discussion was held. No action was taken on this matter.

- Buena Vista Park-Surveillance cameras. Foreman Joe Wick and Police Chief Mike Johnson explained where the cameras will be placed and how they operate. Chief Johnson stated that the cameras should be in on Friday.
- Stockholm gardens update. Mayor Jim Wilkie stated that Harley will have to do a lot of things manually since he could not get in there when the ground was frozen due to the snow.
- Fishing tournament application.

Farl informed the Council that the committee approved an application from Major League Series, for May 19, 2019 at the Marina Landing for a fishing tournament.

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

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee had met on April 24, 2019 and discussed/and or acted upon the following items:

- Cemetery Perpetual Care Beautification concerns.

Chairman Moham informed the committee that the flowers for the pots will be the same as last year and that they will arrive in May prior to Memorial Day.

- Any other cemetery concerns.

Clerk Linda Torgerson informed the committee that she had received a complaint regarding Alma Memorial Cemetery. She stated she was informed that beavers were working on the large tree to the back of the cemetery. Joe Wick informed the Council that it was not a beaver problem with the tree, it was a woodpecker. The tree is stable, Joe commented.

- Police concerns.

Police Chief Mike Johnson informed the Council that new Tahoe squad has arrived, and it is in the garage. On May 16th it will be headed to Winona for the transfer of the equipment. Police Chief Johnson stated the new squad will be in service on May 25th.

- Fire Department concerns.

Monica Moham informed the Council that Fire Chief Brakke attended the committee meeting and stated to the committee that Buffalo County has informed him that they are reducing their assets and the two boats in the fire station basement (which belong to the County) are items the County wishes to dispose of. Brakke informed the committee that the City already insures the boats and does any repairs so it would just be acknowledging full ownership at this point. Brakke informed the committee there is a generator that the County would like the City to take ownership as well. Moham stated that the committee authorized Fire Chief Tom Brakke to notify the County that the City of Alma will take ownership of the two boat (v-bottom and flat bottom) and the generator.

Moham further stated that Fire Chief Tom Brakke spoke in great length about the Fire Department's upcoming purchase of a 3D side imaging – gps sonar for the v-bottom boat. Brakke stated that he was able to see this equipment in use when searching for bodies and/or vehicles in the river. Brakke stated that the Durand Fire Department has this equipment and the clarity and accuracy is amazing. The equipment has memory and video capabilities. Brakke

stated that with the sale of the van and the meat raffles, the Fire Department has the money to purchase this equipment.

The committee made a motion to acknowledge the Alma Fire Department's purchase of a 3D side imaging – gps sonar for the v-bottom boat through city funds with reimbursement from the Alma Fire Department fund raising account.

Fire Chief Brakke stated that the department is looking at replacing 5 air tanks per year since most of the tanks are over the 15-year life and certification levels. The cost of the tanks is approximately \$1,000 each. The department has 26 tanks.

Motion by Earney seconded by Champeny to authorize the Alma Volunteer Fire Department to purchase 5 air5 tanks per year for a cost of \$1,000 each. All members voting yes.

- Solid Waste concerns.

Monica informed the Council that Linda had to call Waste Management a few times due to missed bags. Waste Management had stated the missed collection was due to change of personnel.

Moham stated that Foreman Joe Wick no longer wishes to represent the City in attending the Buffalo County Recycling meetings. It makes a very long day and interferes with other work as well as Council meeting times. Joe stated that he felt someone, however, should attend these meetings. Mayor Wilkie will look into this matter.

Monica stated that Dave Earney commented to the committee that he felt the recycling area at the landfill should be blacktopped and marked so that it is a better flow of traffic. Monica stated that this will be on their upcoming agendas.

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

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Ron Geiselhart informed the Council that the Committee had met on April 18, 2019 and discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Water Concerns:

Calvin gave an update on Dairyland Power's water meter. He mentioned he has been in contact with Ferguson Waterworks and told them that it has been long enough for the meter not to be working. He requested a little more time and will be contacting them on a regular basis to try to get results on fixing it. If no progress is made, future action will be taken for the City Attorney to send a letter to help resolve this matter. Chairman Geiselhart stated that this meter will be checked more often.

- Sewer Concerns:

Chairman Geiselhart stated that discussion was held regarding the status on phosphorus clean-up and the schedule for various projects that need to be completed. Review of Amendment #1 To Owner-Engineer Agreement WWTP Improvements Project received by Shawn Welte from Davy Engineering Co., Inc. was reviewed and discussed. This Amendment #1 consists of description of modifications along with a fee and time summary. Funding from CWF did not turn out well, other funding such as grants, rural water programs, loans, etc. was briefly discussed. Total WWTP improvement Project cost totals \$177,600.00.

For 2019, the first improvement project is the WWTP Outfall. The WWTP Outfall improvements phase is to be completed by 12/31/2019.

Following projects required are:

WWTP Clarifier Improvements Design Phase - To be completed by 12/31/2019 with plan and specification submittal due to WDNR for review and approval. Construction to be completed by 12/31/2020.

WWTP Chemical Pilot Study- To be performed in the year 2021.

WWTP Chemical Feed System improvements: TBD

WWTP Sludge Handling improvements: TBD

Motion made by Farl seconded by Ron Geiselhart to approve Exhibit K-Amendment #1 submitted by Davy Engineering. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

David Earney expressed his concern regarding the spending of the money for engineering instead of fixing the current issue of the clarifier. Dave Earney informed the Council that clarifiers are needed 24/7 and most facilities have two clarifiers in case one breaks down.

Foreman Joe Wick stated that with phosphorus removal, more sludge is created, and storage will be needed.

Mayor Wilkie commented that Davy Engineering bought the City of Alma five years' worth of complying with the lowering of our phosphorus limit.

Larry Grisen stated that there should be notice to the public of when their sewer rates are going up because of the phosphorus limit requirement and an explanation of why the rates are increasing.

- Street concerns:
 - a. Block Corners Update: Mayor Wilkie stated that the block corners are not complete, but most of the work has been done.
 - b. High Water Damage or Repairs: Geiselhart informed the committee that damage to Badland Road occurred because of the high water. Rock was put in place two years ago and has now settled in the swamp after this spring high water situation. Larry Grisen talked to Buffalo County Highway Commissioner, Bob Platteter, who stated to him that springs are running and causing a lot of the problem. Platteter suggested drain tile, adding another culvert and landscaping. Foreman Joe Wick will talk to Bob Platteter regarding this matter.

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

Mayor Wilkie brought to the Utilities Committee's attention that there is a problem with a retaining wall on Cedar Street by Vicki Schultz' residence.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to adopt Ordinance amendment #19-03 amending Chapter 73: Traffic Schedules, Section II, One-way streets. All members voting yes.

(Pine Street from Hwy 35 to River Street would be one-way westerly and Orange Street from Hwy 35 to River Street will be one-way easterly. River Street between Pine and Orange will be two-way traffic. This ordinance also includes High School Road which would become one-way with entrance from the south off of Hwy 35 and exiting to the north onto Spring Street).

Motion by Farl seconded by Earney to adopt Ordinance amendment #19-04. This ordinance would amend Chapter 72: Parking as corrected. All members voting yes.

(Amendment to Section 72.22 (B)(1) and 72.22 (B)(2) -- No Parking shall be on River Street between Pine and Orange Street on the East side. This ordinance shall also amend Chapter 72.22 (A)(2) One-hour parking shall be repealed as the single parking space designated therein, in front of 200 S. Main Street, is hereby ordained to be restored to a regular Twenty-Four Hour Parking space and the description of which shall be added to Chapter 72.20 (A). In addition, the current parking space in front of 120 South Main Street shall be restored to a Twenty-Four-hour parking space and shall be removed from the "No-Parking" classification thereby amending section 72.22 (B)(2)).

BOARD OF REVIEW

Motion by Moham seconded by Ruff to approve the Board of Review minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

LIBRARY LIAISON

Gary Ruff informed the Council that the Alma Library has new additional hours. The Library is now open Tuesdays and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Utilities-----May 31, 2019 at 9 a.m.
Finance-----June 6, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.
Council-----June 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

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