

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 Geiselhart to approve the January 9, 2020 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the January 2020 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Earney to approve the January 2020 Treasurer’s Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments. None.

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Larry Farl went over the committee minutes of January 15, 2020. Farl stated that the main topic was playground equipment and the possibility of developing a larger playground at the beach area. A possible shelter at the beach area was discussed and will be discussed further at future committee meetings.

Motion by Moham seconded by Geiselhart to approve the Park and Recreation Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

**SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Monica Moham went over the committee minutes of January 15, 2020.

Police policies regarding complaints against the police department were discussed and will be finalized for action for the March council meeting.

Moham commented to Chief Johnson that he is doing a wonderful job and that the City of Alma is thankful to have him as our Chief of Police.

Mayor Wilkie addressed the Council regarding a fire call at Dairyland Power where the coal storage tower spontaneously combusted and the Alma Fire Department was on site for three days. Mayor Wilkie stated that the Alma Fire Department coordinated with the neighboring fire department agencies and did a remarkable job.

Dave Earney questioned the “sliding scale” for fines that was in the Services committee minutes. Attorney Jon Seifert spoke on this issue and said that if additional court costs were added to the existing fine, it would go against a person’s constitutional right to challenge in court.

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

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairman Ron Geiselhart went over the committee meeting minutes of January 16, 2020.

Geiselhart stated that primary topics included repairs needed for Lift Station #2 & #5 and the hiring of a consultant to prepare bids for street resurfacing/reconstruction and onsite management of the project.

Larry Grisen informed the Council that the State does not plan to do any work near Lift Station #2 for at least the next six years.

Geiselhart stated that the next committee meeting will be Thursday February 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and that Carrie Olson-Buffalo County Conservationist, will be present to discuss water quality trading projects that will assist with phosphorus reduction.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff 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 at 8:30 a.m. and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.

Ruff informed the Council that the committee received two proposals for liability, property and worker’s compensation insurance with the following results:

- League of WI Municipalities-----\$42,210.00
- EMC Insurance-(current carrier)-----\$51,481.00

Dave Earney commented that he felt that this was thrown at the committee too quickly to do a thorough review. The League insurance didn’t cover events unless applied for and submitted to a Board. Our current carrier’s figure included this coverage. Dividends were not available through the LWM insurance, etc. so there was not time enough to compare apples to apples Earney commented and that is why the committee is recommending staying with the current carrier.

Mayor Wilkie inquired if the \$4,000,000 of Liability was excessive coverage. Attorney Jon Seifert stated it was not excessive.

Motion by Moham seconded by Grisen to approve the LWM insurance proposal for \$42,210.00 as presented. Three members voting yes (Moham, Grisen, Farl) and four members voting no (Geiselhart, Champeny, Earney and Ruff) by roll call vote. Motion failed.

Larry Grisen inquired the council why the current carrier, EMC, is better than the League Insurance.

Dave Earney commented that he didn't feel comfortable changing insurances at this time since the council wasn't given an appropriate amount of time to review the proposals and compare apples to apples. He felt this was thrown at the council too quickly.

Champeny inquired if our current carrier has paid claims timely. Clerk Torgerson stated yes.

Discussion was held regarding the LWM insurance not specifically covering events such as Fire in the Shire.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to approve the EMC Insurance Proposal for \$51,481.00 as presented. Four members voting yes (Moham, Champeny Earney and Ruff) and three members voting no (Geiselhart, Farl and Grisen) by roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

### **Tourism**

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that one of the businesses is behind in the room tax payments. This person was sent a letter previously and a payment plan was set up, however, if payments were missed, the total amount would become due immediately. Mayor Wilkie spoke with Attorney Seifert who suggested that the letter be sent one more time.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny to approve the Tourism report as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Geiselhart to approve Resolution #20-01 designating May 2, 2020 as International Migratory Bird Day in the City of Alma. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

Next Council will be Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Utilities will be Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Finance will be Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

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