

March 5, 2020

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, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Grisen, Ron Geiselhart and David Earney. (David Earney appeared by phone). Absent: Richard Champeny and Larry Farl.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Geiselhart to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2020 Council meeting as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Geiselhart to approve the February 2020 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for February 2020. All members voting yes.

Larry Grisen inquired about how the CapX2020 money is received for the City of Alma. Mayor Wilkie stated that the initial amount is in a money market account and has special guidelines for its usage and is listed on the Treasurer's report and the City receives \$20,000 annually that is put in the general fund without restrictions.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman Ron Geiselhart went over the committee minutes of February 13, 2020.

Ron informed the Council that the committee met with Vicki Schultz, resident at 100 E. Cedar Street, and discussed her issues with street concerns and retaining wall concerns.

Chairman Geiselhart informed the committee that Victoria Schultz had contacted him regarding concerns with Cedar Street.

Geiselhart informed the Council that the committee discussed water quality trades with guest, Buffalo County Conservationist Carrie Olson. This option will help the City with phosphorus limits demanded by the DNR.

Water concerns were discussed at the meeting and Cal informed the committee that he missed a water sample last month for fluoride. He has contacted the DNR and they will let him know what he must do to bring the City into compliance, Geiselhart stated.

Ruff inquired about the Dairyland Power water meter. Joe Wick, Foreman, was present at the Council meeting and informed the Council that Cal is working with Dairyland Power and the meter company for a resolution to the meter issue.

Geiselhart informed the Council that action is needed under Agenda Item #8: Pump for Lift Station No. 3.

First, the Council needs to approve the invoice sent from Xylem for the lift station pump that was installed in lift station #3 in the amount of \$15,626.46.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Geiselhart to approve invoice from Xylem for the lift station pump that was installed in lift station #3 in the amount of \$15,626.46. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Mayor Jim Wilkie informed the Council that the cost for a new lift station versus the repairs is not that significant and stated that Xylem (the company for the lift station pumps) has presented a quote for the second pump needed at lift station #3 (Olive Street) in the amount of \$19,283.07. Wilkie stated that there is a chance that the impeller that was recently installed could be used and approximately \$3,000 reduced from the quote. Discussion was held.

Motion by Moham seconded by Ruff to approve the quote from Xylem for a new lift station pump for lift station #3 up to \$19,283.07. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Geiselhart informed the Council that the City will be seeking bids for the road projects soon with the help of Tim Huebner.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairperson Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met this morning and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts for February 2020.

Ruff asked Attorney Jon Seifert to give an overview to the Council of the City's unfunded liability for police retirement during the employment of Fred Glander Jr. The years involved are 1965-1985.

Seifert informed the Council that he has corresponded with the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds who administer the Wisconsin Retirement System regarding the unfunded liability claim.

The Council questioned Attorney Seifert regarding the City's options. Seifert stated the following:

1. Do nothing and see what happens. Seifert commented, however, the City would more than likely be sued.
2. Borrow the amount owed for the unfunded liability at a lower rate than 7% as offered by the WRS.
3. Negotiate a better repayment plan with the WRS.

Members of the Council wanted Attorney Seifert to obtain written confirmation from the WRS that if the City does pay off this liability that there will be no future claims made from 1985 to the present.

The Council addressed Attorney Seifert to obtain the listing and amounts of the other municipalities that were notified of their owing unfunded liability for state retirement. Attorney Seifert stated he would do so and report back.

Mayor Wilkie will be speaking with Bank of Alma President, William Bosshard, to obtain interest rates and terms for borrowing for the unfunded liability and will report back.

Police Chief Johnson addressed the Council regarding the request from Alma Area Schools for road closures during baseball events. Discussion was held.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to authorize Alma Area Schools to close that portion of High School Road (southernmost) as they deem necessary for baseball events. All members voting yes.

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

Mayor Jim Wilkie presented the Proclamation for the American Legion Auxiliary: One Hundred Years Alma Post #224.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Geiselhart to approve the Proclamation for the American Legion Auxiliary: One Hundred Years Alma Post #224 as presented. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

Next Council meeting will be April 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Utilities Committee will meet March 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Finance Committee will meet April 9, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

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