

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: Appearing in person were Mayor Jim Wilkie, Gary Ruff, Larry Grisen, Gary Jepsen and David Earney. Appearing by Zoom were Richard Champeny, Monica Moham and Larry Farl.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the July 9, 2020 Council Proceeding minutes as corrected. All members voting yes.

In the July 9th minutes Linda had put Larry Jepsen instead of Gary Jepsen as being present.

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

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to approve the July 2020 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments:

Travis Burce, member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, addressed the Council regarding having a dumpster for deer carcasses during the gun deer hunting season. Burce stated that he knew there were some problems last year with too large of a dumpster and the dumpster not being placed in a level spot. He would like permission to have a dumpster again this year. This matter was turned over to the committee for review and recommendation to the Council. Travis Burce stated that this year he would see to it that everything would be done right.

Mayor Wilkie and the Council thanked Travis Burce for his attendance.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson David Earney informed the Council that this committee did not meet, however, there are two agenda items that fall in under the Utilities Committee.

Agenda Item 10: Update on wall behind 107 N. Main St. – William Haggerty, owner.

William Haggerty appeared before the Council on Zoom and informed the Council that the curb that was installed on Alley Street behind his property should not have been placed there and that it caused his wall to fail and strike his building. Haggerty inquired what the City's plan was to remedy this situation. Mayor Wilkie commented that his collapsed wall has caused damage to the road and other city infrastructure located on Alley Street.

Haggerty stated that he did not feel it is his entire responsibility to fix the wall since, in his opinion, the street caused his wall to fail. Haggerty stated that he may have to bring a lawsuit against the City since the road should not have been placed there. Haggerty commented that he had spoken to the engineer for the street project and she informed him that the street project (Alley) should not have been done.

Gary Ruff stated that the road has existed for many, many years.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the road was re-designed to divert water away from everyone's walls along Alley Street and directed to the upper side. Wilkie stated he has been on Alley Street during heavy rains and the water no longer runs over the retaining walls.

Attorney Jon Seifert stated that:

- 1) The City feels the failure of the wall has caused the damage and failure of the street;
- 2) Bill Haggerty feels the road has caused the failure of his wall.

Attorney Seifert commented that he doesn't know if an engineer can make a determination over whom is correct. Jon further commented that he felt the wall would have to be fixed prior to the fixing of the road because it serves as a foundation for the street.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the city crew has made efforts to make sure no further damage is done.

William Haggerty stated that he will send photos of the wall to all the Council for them to look over and that he would like to work with the City on this problem.

Sorenson, a contractor that was used on a wall for another resident in Alma, looked at the wall and estimated repair at \$175,000.00. Haggerty commented that his entire property isn't worth that and it wouldn't make sense for him to invest that kind of money into the wall.

Further discussion was held.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to select an outside engineer to make a determination as to the collapse of Alley Street and the wall behind 107 N. Main Street. All members voting yes.

Dave Earney commented that the engineers for the Alley Street project might not have carried out their duties.

Attorney Jon Seifert commented that an outside engineer was the way to go in inspecting the street and the wall.

Larry Grisen stated that this should be sent back to the Utilities Committee. Mayor Wilkie stated he will call a special council meeting if it is needed.

Agenda Item 9: Sunset Drive-Reglin & Hesch estimate.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that the original survey of Sunset Drive was located and there is an ordinance supporting the survey. Wilkie further commented that there is a 50' right-of-way, however, the road placement isn't determined as of yet. Wilkie stated that he has given the information to the surveyor to locate the pins and this will be done soon.

Mayor Wilkie stated he would like the bid from Reglin & Hesch for Sunset Drive pre-approved once the surveyor's information is obtained.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to conditionally approve the project on Sunset Drive and the bid from Reglin & Hesch in the amount of \$14,869.50 contingent on where the survey flags are placed and if there is room to do the project within the right-of-way. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Earney informed the Council that the outflow pipe for the sewer discharge will be done by Winona Mechanical for \$2,794.00 if the backhoe is not needed. If the backhoe work is needed the cost will be \$3,794.00.

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

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee had met on July 13, 2020 and acted upon the following:

- Property conditions—the committee continues to work on properties needing attention.
- Cemetery Beautification report—Monica informed the Council that next year a CD comes due and the interest obtained from that should lessen the amount the City will have to fund for the flowers under contract.
- Fireworks ordinance. Linda and Mike Johnson, Police Chief, are working on this for presentation to the committee.
- Public hearing regarding chickens is not advised during the COVID epidemic. Champeny stated that the committee may look at this on a case by case basis and the parameters are set and recommends tabling this issue until further input has been received. Public comments will be received prior to the committee's action. Linda commented to the Council that people have asked her to be able to submit written public comment regarding the chickens. Mayor Wilkie suggested submitting an article to the paper and putting it on Facebook.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Earney to solicit public comment regarding the chicken issue. All members voting yes.

Mayor Wilkie brought forward item 6: COVID 19 order regarding the use of facemasks. Mayor Wilkie summed up the order to make clear that violations of the facemask order are not police issue it is a department of health issue, however, if there is a disorderly conduct involving the use of the facemask order, then the police department gets involved. Mayor Wilkie

instructed Council that if they receive complaints regarding businesses not obeying the facemask order to instruct them that it is a health department issue.

Attorney Jon Seifert stated that the direction to the health department regarding the non-use of facemasks is to do nothing because it is unenforceable. Law enforcement cannot ask people if they have health issues, etc. and therefore, is unenforceable and is advisory only in its nature.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had met on July 13, 2020.

Farl stated that he is awaiting a couple quotes for resurfacing the tennis courts.

The use of the beach bathhouse was discussed by the committee and it was determined that the beach area park is being heavily used and people are cooperating, however, more trash receptacles may be needed.

Police Chief Johnson has implemented a new method of registering and payment for Rieck's Park campground and it is working well. Slips are placed on clips on the camping lot posts that Mike can easily see when he patrols the campground. The slips are removed either by Chief Johnson when he knows they have left or the city crew when doing garbage.

Champeny informed the Council and Chief Johnson of the U-turn situations downtown Alma that are illegal. Mike Johnson stated that the State DOT would have to approve the no U-turn signs on Highway 35. Champeny requested that this issue be placed on the next Services committee agenda.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee met this morning. The committee reviewed and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts for the month of July, 2020.

Ruff informed the Council that the City reviewed the applications for the Combination Class B Beer & Liquor License and with the conditions set by the Council in June, recommended approval of the Combination Class B Beer and Liquor License to the Red Ram LLC-Lee Fluekiger, agent.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to grant the Red Ram, LLC-Lee Fluekiger, agent a Combination Class B Beer & Liquor License. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the Operator License for the application submitted by Travis Burce. All members voting yes.

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

Mayor Wilkie announced that the August 11, 2020 election will be held in the break room as was done for the April election due to the COVID 19 still being active.

Upcoming meetings:

Board of Review-----August 13, 2020 from 10 a.m. to noon

Finance-----September 10, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Council-----September 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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