

**September 10, 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, Richard Champeny, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Larry Grisen, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney. (Champeny, Moham and Farl appearing by Zoom).

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

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

Citizen comments: None.

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairman David Earney went over the committee minutes of August 28, 2020. Earney stated that on August 27<sup>th</sup> bids were opened for the clarifier with the following results:

1. R.J. Jurowski Construction, Inc. -- Whitehall, WI in the amount of \$642,280.00
2. Wapasha Construction Co. -- Winona, MN in the amount of \$643,977.77
3. Miron Construction Co, Inc. -- Neenah, WI in the amount of \$1,179,975.00
4. Market & Johnson -- Eau Claire, WI in the amount of \$965,000.00

Earney stated that the above bids were derived with approved Alternate Equipment Manufacturer deductions from the original bids.

Earney informed the Council that Davy Engineering recommended the City award the bid to R.J. Jurowski.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that Davy Engineering submitted two resolutions for passage to submit with the Clean Water Fund Loan application.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to approve Resolution #20-03 Resolution Declaring official intent to Reimburse Expenditures. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Jepsen to approve Resolution #20-04 Authorized Representative Resolution-Environmental Improvement Fund, authorizing Mayor Jim Wilkie to sign all paperwork involving the Clarifier Project. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to award the Clarifier Project bid to R.J. Jurowski, being low bidder, in the amount of \$642,280.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Chairman Earney stated that the wall behind 107 N. Main Street was discussed by the committee. William Haggerty, owner of the wall and the property, was present by Zoom and Earney asked Haggerty to address this agenda item.

William Haggerty, owner of 107 N. Main Street, informed the Council that he had received the Hazard letter from Abbot Consulting, Forensics & Design, L.L.C. from Chisago City, MN and licensed in WI.

After receiving the letter, Haggerty stated that he immediately closed his business for safety precautions. Haggerty stated he felt repair of the wall is an urgent situation. He stated that he had to move his LP tank onto his deck which will not be large enough for the winter season.

Haggerty stated that he has spoken with Mike Sorenson, contractor, who feels he can stabilize the bank/wall with shotcrete at a cost of \$15,000.00 and he has spoken with Atlas Construction regarding using soil nails that will support the curb above at a cost of \$10,000.00. Haggerty stated that these costs do not include removal of the curb nor the reinstallation of the curb.

Mayor Jim Wilkie stated that the City immediately responded to the hazard letter by installing fencing. Wilkie further stated that the City has diverted water from Orange Street away from going down Alley Street.

Mayor Wilkie questioned Haggerty why he closed the tavern. Haggerty stated that he was using an abundance of caution.

Barry Thorton, manager of the property/business, stated that Haggerty had spoken to an attorney that advised him to close the business.

Mike Kauten, Big River Valley Tile, addressed the Council with his overview of the property. Kauten stated that the area is unsafe to work in and that the failure of the alley caused the wall's failure in his opinion.

Merri Thorton, resident, stated that she observed the Bobcat during snow removal spreading snow onto the deck when they cleaned the snow and felt that did not help the wall or the property. She further stated that trucks on Alley Street are a problem.

Jerri Schreiber, property owner, stated to the Council that she felt the vehicles that go on Alley Street that are residents at 111 N. Main Street cause a weight problem for all the walls along Alley Street and especially the wall behind 107 N. Main in its current condition.

Mayor Wilkie stated that he felt these vehicles are a distance from the wall behind 107 N. Main and do not affect the wall. Jerri Schreiber stated that a determination should be made regarding these vehicles and the residents may have to park on Main or Second Streets until the wall and street are repaired.

William Haggerty stated that he did not feel pedestrians should be on Alley Street and wanted to know what is going to be done because of this urgent situation.

Mayor Wilkie requested Haggerty forward the proposals from Sorenson and Atlas so that the City can review them. Wilkie stated that we need something concrete to work with before we can remedy this situation.

Earney suggested lessening the traffic on Alley Street.

Foreman Joe Wick informed the Council and those present that they have sandbagged along Alley Street to prevent water from coming down Orange Street onto Alley Street and they have installed fencing and barricades so that no one coming down Orange Street can enter that portion of Alley Street. Joe informed everyone that there are "Road Closed" signs on each end of Alley Street.

Jerri Schreiber once again commented that she felt the daily traffic on Alley Street should be eliminated for the time being and that someone should determine, if traffic is allowed, how far can they travel on Alley Street without affecting this wall/street area that is hazardous.

Mayor Wilkie thanked all those present for their comments and encouraged Council meeting attendance.

Chairman Earney informed the Council that Foreman Joe Wick had brought up tree trimming/removal needed with costs; however, it was not on the committee agenda, so he is bringing it to Council this evening.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to approve tree trimming/cutting on the Alley behind 509 S. Main Street in the amount of \$3,000.00 and Sunset Drive in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Mann Tree Service. All members voting yes.

Gary Jepsen inquired if the tree trimming/cutting on Sunset Drive will be good through the construction process scheduled for Sunset Drive next year. Foreman Joe Wick stated, yes, the tree trimming will not grow back to the extent that it is right now.

Chairman David Earney informed the Council that the culvert inspection program is being done as roadwork is done and that Mayor Wilkie is working with the city crew with the GPS program that will tie into the culvert inspection program.

Foreman Joe Wick informed the Council that he had spoken with Jeff Reglin, contractor, regarding ditching along Riverview Drive and that culvert inspections will be done at that time along Riverview Drive.

Mayor Jim Wilkie informed the Council that there has been a water issue on South Second Street producing rust and a film in the water which caused some loss of revenue at a Bed & Breakfast. Wilkie stated that the city crew, today, manufactured a device to flush a large amount of water

out of the hydrants and that a great amount of rust was flushed out and hopefully helps resolve this issue.

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

### **BOARD OF REVIEW**

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the Board of Review met on August 13, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. until noon and one taxpayer appeared. Ruff stated that the Board retained the assessor's value of the property.

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

### **SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Chairman Monica Moham informed the Council that the committee met on August 26, 2020 and discussed property conditions. David Earney-Chairman of the Utilities and Police Chief Mike Johnson did an inspection of properties throughout the City and came up with a list for letters to be sent for improvements to properties. Monica stated that many on the list have been on the list for many years. Richard Champeny commented that the committee will be monitoring progress made at these properties and if progress is not made, residents will face repercussions.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that a notice was mailed out with water/sewer bills notifying property owners that the weeds in the sidewalks is their responsibility and if not addressed will be handled by the city using a chemical treatment.

Fireworks Ordinance. This will be completed for the next Council meeting, Clerk Linda Torgerson stated.

Chickens. Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that there has been a notice sent out in the water and sewer bills asking for written comments from residents regarding allowing or disallowing chickens in the City of Alma.

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

### **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee met August 26, 2020 at Rieck's Lake Park.

Farl informed the Council that Zack Kauten is working toward his Eagle Scout and that he spoke to the committee regarding a project he would like to do at Mossy Hollow with identification signing and bench placement. The committee gave Zack Kauten permission to begin his project

Farl informed the Council that he has received a proposal from a company to resurface the tennis courts at a little over \$20,000.00. He is expecting one more quote and he will be presenting the quotes at the next committee meeting for recommendation.

Farl informed the Council that Police Chief Mike Johnson presented the committee with a plan for a building (shelter type) that would go at the beach area and be used for activities and events. Approval from agencies such as the WI DNR, Corps of Engineers and Fish and Wildlife are possibly needed before this project could be finalized.

Mayor Jim Wilkie informed the council that he discussed this plan with former Mayor and Councilperson Lois Balk since she was involved in revitalizing the beach area. Mayor Wilkie stated that Lois Balk approved the proposed building plan for this area. Larry Farl stated that he will invite Lois to meetings that involve this project.

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

Mayor Wilkie stated that Agenda Item 12-Ordinance #20-01, Ordinance adopting the supplement to the Code of Ordinances needed to be acted upon.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to adopt Ordinance #20-01. 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 the month of August 2020.

Ruff announced that the committee will be meeting next Tuesday to work on salaries for 2021 so that other committees can begin their budget work.

Mayor Wilkie informed all committee chairs that budget work must begin this month.

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

Upcoming meeting meetings:

Finance/Tax & License/Zoning-----Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.  
Finance/Tax & License/Zoning-----Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.  
Council-----Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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