

**April 8, 2021**

**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 (zoom), Gary Ruff, Monica Moham (zoom), Larry Farl, Larry Grisen, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the March 11, 2021 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to approve the March 2021 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to approve the March 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Citizen comments. Citizens were present, however, wish to speak on an agenda item.

**FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE**

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met this morning and approved all vouchers, bills, and receipts.

The committee discussed TIF#1 and the extension that is needed. The Joint Review Board will need to meet and approve a resolution for the extension.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve Mobile Home/Park permits to: Keith Mississippi Properties, Lewis & Lori Schultz, David Schultz, and Jason Steinke. All members voting yes.

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

Mayor Wilkie presented Resolution #21-01 International Migratory Bird Day.

Motion by Farl seconded by Ruff to suspend the reading of Resolution #21-01 since all members have received a copy. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve Resolution #21-01 International Migratory Bird Day. All members voting yes.

Mayor Wilkie informed the council and public that Resolution #21-02 Opting out of Buffalo County ATV/UTV ordinance was not drafted at this time. Mayor Wilkie stated that he felt County Rd E in the City should not be included for ATV & UTV traffic due to safety concerns.

Josh Reed, resident at Alma Hills Subdivision, stated that in examples from Chippewa County there have been no safety concerns due to ATV/UTV use on county highways. Reed further stated that 60% of the voters from Alma voted in favor of the county's ordinance.

Mayor Wilkie commented that the wording of the ordinance would allow 12-year-olds with supervision to drive on the county highways.

Gary Jepsen stated that 12- to 15-year-olds would have to have passed a certification course and would require adult supervision.

Heidi Stewart, resident on Sunset Drive, stated she was relieved that the City didn't have a resolution for adoption to opt completely out of the county's ordinance and thanked for the Council wanted to get citizen input before making a decision. Heidi stated that she had received a letter regarding ATV/UTV rules of the road from Police Chief Johnson and thanked him for that.

Police Chief Mike Johnson informed the Council that the City would have to apply to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for ATV/UTV on Hwy 35 in the City of Alma where the speed limit is less than 35 mph.

In order for the County Ordinance to be in effect, signage has to be done.

Discussion was held regarding opening up some or all of the city streets for ATV/UTV use.

Evan Mercer from Pepin County worked with the Village of Pepin in producing their ATV/UTV ordinance. Mercer stated that it gave a safe activity to do during COVID and helped the businesses thrive. Highway 35 is not used in the Village of Pepin; however, it can be crossed.

Police Chief Johnson stated that in Jackson County where he worked previously, ATV and UTVs were allowed, however, there were some safety factors, and the land is flat.

Attorney Jon Seifert commented that in the Village of Pepin when you cross Hwy 35 there's something to go to. In the City of Alma, however, if at the bottom of E and you cross Hwy 35 there is nothing to go to. Under the County Ordinance ATVs and UTVs would just come to dead ends, Seifert stated.

Rob Stewart, resident, suggested that the Council do serious research regarding this issue and open it up to the public.

Donny Ganz III, resident on CTH I, was concerned if the City opted out of the County ATV/UTV ordinance it would mean he would have to trailer his ATV approximately 100' to the Town of Nelson line on CTH I. That didn't make sense to him.

Heidi Stewart asked what the vote was for the ATV Co. referendum at the November election. Clerk Linda Torgerson reported that 278 voters voted for the referendum and 186 voted against the referendum in the City of Alma.

Gary Jepsen stated that the County Ordinance is clear that it allows suspension of the ordinance at any time and if the City adopts an ordinance, the same verbiage should be used.

Motion by Farl seconded by Jepsen to table the ATV/UTV issue at this time and assign it to the Utilities Committee with Larry Grisen heading up this topic. All members voting yes

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to allow the Mayor to sign the HydroCorp contract for business cross connection control inspections for a 2-year period. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to authorize Payment Request #2 to Jurowski Construction in the amount of \$17902.75. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Farl seconded by Jepsen to authorize the Utilities Committee to approve up to \$22,000.00 for a new skid loader. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

April 9, 2021-- Utilities Committee at 2:30 p.m.

April 14, 2021--Parks & Recreation at 10 a.m.

April 20, 2021--Re-organization at 5:00 p.m.

April 26, 2021--Tourism at 10:00 a.m.

April 28, 2021--Utilities Committee at 9 a.m.

April 30, 2021--Utilities Special Meeting regarding ATV/UTVs

May 6, 2021 – Board of Review – 1p.m. to 3p.m.

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