

May 13, 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, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Grisen, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney. Absent: Larry Farl.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the April 8, 2021 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Moham to approve the April 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

No citizen comments.

Council agenda item 10: David Dale Easement.

Mayor Jim Wilkie informed the Council that when David Dale came to apply for a building permit for his deck on the backside of the garage, it was determined that the existing garage is 30" onto Vine Street. Wilkie commented that it's tradition that if a structure has existed for a very long time and there is an encroachment it is grandfathered in. All Council had copies of the easement documents.

Gary Jepsen asked for clarification as to the correct measurement so that the Council grants the proper easement.

David Dale stated that after the most recent survey the garage is 30" on Vine Street. The proposed deck will be the same width as the garage (12'3") and extend 10' to the west. Discussion was held.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to grant an easement onto Vine Street for 12'3" to allow David Dale, 400 N. 2nd Street, to construct a deck on the backside of his garage (10' x 12'3"). All members voting yes.

Mayor Wilkie introduced the Council Resolution 21-02-Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of up to \$357,838 sewerage system revenue bonds, Series 2021, and providing for other details and covenants with respect thereto. All Council members had received a copy of the Resolution prior to this evening.

Dave Earney inquired about what a municipal bond really is. Attorney Jon Seifert explained that a municipal bond is backed by the taxing authority. This particular bond will be backed by sewer revenue. The bond will not be resold by the State and the State has interest in investments, Seifert commented.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to adopt Resolution #21-02 - Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of up to \$357,838 sewerage system revenue bonds, Series 2021, and providing for other details and covenants with respect thereto and authorizing Deputy Clerk Terry Peterson to provide the information needed to bond counsel regarding the bond closing. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman David Earney informed the Council that the committee had met on April 9th, April 28th, and May 6th.

On April 9th, the committee discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Bobcat trade options. Committee approved the purchase of a John Deere 320G skid loader in the amount of \$18,825.00 with trade.
- 2021 Blacktop projects. Projects are scheduled within the next two weeks.
- Update on Vicki Schultz reimbursement request. Cal will look at the city responsibility for the driveway and sidewalk and will report back.
- Dip area guardrail update. None.
- Street sweeping. On schedule.
- Finley earth moving project. Has been canceled until further notice.
- Parking stall painting. Foreman Wick stated that they are scheduled.
- George Everson – Townhouse parking concerns. Work will be done to correct the water retention in the parking stall.
- Dairyland Power water meter. Has been installed.
- Spring hydrant flushing. Completed.
- Cross Connection control for businesses. Approved by Council for a 2-year contract with HydroCorp.
- Update on clarifier loan process and grant. Closing is scheduled for May 26th.
- Jurowski billing update. None at this time.
- Jurowski clarifier project update. None at this time.
- River Street-lining of sewer and manholes. No discussion held.
- Reduction on sewer bill requests. Committee approved to offer a reduction on the Brandon Rud property (506 S. 2nd St) equal to the dollar amount of the water charged for the March bill. Joe Walker (carwash) will be presenting documentation of water usage in the near future, no action taken.

On April 28th, the committee discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Committee discussion on ATV/UTV issue. The committee made a motion to draft an ordinance using the same guidelines as the County ordinance and to postpone the April 30th public meeting until May 6th.
- 2021 blacktop projects. Sunset Drive would begin next week and Alley Street the first part of May.
- Update on Vicki Schultz request for reimbursement. No update.
- Parking stall painting. All parking stalls and crosswalks will be repainted.
- Jurowski billing update. None.
- Clarifier update. Cement floor for the clarifier will be going in Friday. Grisen requested pictures be taken of the project so that the city could explain it to the citizens.
- Grant update. Closing of Clean Water Fund Loan will be May 26th. A change order came in to use river sand resulting in a cost savings of \$13,000.00.
- Discussion of sewer billing. No update from Joe Walker at the carwash.
- Dairyland Power meter update. Will get a reading June 1st.
- Projects anticipated with water system for summer attention. Testing of the iron filters will be done, Cal stated.

May 6th, 2021, special meeting for public input on ATV/UTV use in the City of Alma.

The committee listened to the public input regarding the use of ATVs and UTVs in the City of Alma. The consensus was to open up the city streets and Hwy 35 for ATV and UTV use where feasible.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to accept the Utilities Committee report for April 9th, April 28th and May 6th as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to pre-approve Pay Request #3 – Jurowski for the clarifier project after the loan closing in the amount of \$176,875.75. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Heidi Stewart, citizen present, wanted to express her support for trying the ATV/UTV use in the City of Alma and thanked the Council for their hard work on this matter.

Gary Jepsen commented that there are good things in the County ordinance, and he felt it was well thought out.

Police Chief Mike Johnson stated that he felt the County ordinance was written well and that the City's ordinance should mirror the County ordinance so that ATV and UTV operators don't have different rules to follow.

Mayor Wilkie expressed his concerns regarding including all city streets in the ordinance. Streets he felt particularly concerned about and would like to see excluded are: Swift Street and Alley Street. He further stated he did not like the use on CTH E, however, that is a county road.

Jepsen commented that the trail riders will be picking up the cost for the signage. The ordinance is not into effect until the signs are installed.

Attorney Seifert stated that he felt the Utilities Committee should work on an ordinance using the County Ordinance as the framework and then exclude certain city streets, if necessary, and work from there.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Moham to refer the ATV/UTV issue back to the Utilities Committee to review the County's ATV/UTV ordinance and establish matters pertaining just to the City of Alma. All members voting yes.

Grisen stated he will have a draft ATV/UTV ordinance before the next Utilities Committee for review and recommendation.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

In the absence of Chairman Larry Farl, committee member Richard Champeny gave the Parks and Recreation committee report of April 14, 2021.

Champeny reported that the committee discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Shoreline degradation. The shoreline is eroding away due to beaver and muskrat activity. Linda will be contacting the Corps of Engineers and Ron Kind's office for assistance.
- Tennis court approval/pickle ball. The committee made a motion to approve the tennis court resurfacing proposal and an additional \$1500.00 for adjustable poles and pickle ball marking.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to approve the proposal from Midwest Sealcoat, LLC for the tennis and pickle ball court resurfacing in the amount of \$21,900.00 plus an additional \$1500 for adjustable poles. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

- Flag donation for Buena Vista Park update. The committee will go on-site at a later date, weather permitting.
- Playground equipment. To clarify, no playground equipment is leaving Rieck's Lake Park. More may be added there and at the beach island park.
- Beach shelter. Discussion tabled at this time.
- Discuss involvement with Enhance Alma Community Group. Enhance Alma is looking for projects and fundraisers to do improvements throughout the city.
- South Landing dock placement. The committee discussed the need for a railing on the dock and parking for the area.

Chief Johnson informed the Council that the South Landing parking lot has been fixed and looks good.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING AND BOARD OF REVIEW

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met this morning and discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Building permit applications. A building permit application was approved for Randy & Kim Brommer for an open front porch with roof.
- There were no building permit violations.
- Alma American Legion Beer & Liquor License. It was clarified that the Alma American Legion was required to pay the same for a Combination Class B Beer & Liquor License just like the taverns.
- Shawnee Estates. Glenn Kemp, property owner at Shawnee Estates, was present to express his concerns regarding restricting hunting if the bike trail is installed. Kemp was informed that hunting would not be restricted and that the bike trail is in its early stages of discussion at this point.
- No operator license applications were presented for action.
- Vouchers/bills/receipts. All vouchers, bills and receipts were approved for the month of April 2021.

Board of Review was held May 6th with one taxpayer appearing before the Board of Review. The Board retained the assessor's assessment for John Hadley's property at Alma Hills – tax parcel #201-00006-4180 in the amount of \$393,100.00.

Motion by Moham seconded by Jepsen to approve the Board of Review minutes as presented. All members present.

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

BOARD OF APPEALS

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve the Board of Appeals minutes of May 10, 2021, as presented. All members voting yes.

TOURISM COMMISSION

Mayor Wilkie stated that in the minutes his name is spelled incorrectly. Wilke should be Wilkie throughout the minutes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve the Tourism Commission minutes of April 26, 2021, as corrected. All members voting yes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Fire Department Liaison David Earney informed the Council that the Alma Volunteer Fire Department met on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. Earney informed the Council that the Fire Department is working on updating the By-Laws. Earney further stated that if a fireperson misses more than 3 meetings, could be cause for removal.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he had spoken with the Fire Chief regarding a failed oil piston into the air tanks. Some of the firemen had oil fumes coming out of their air packs which later made them ill. The department is shopping around to have this problem fixed.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to approve the Fire Department Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he will be having hip surgery on May 20th and will not be in attendance for meetings for a few weeks.

Next Council will be Thursday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Finance will be held Thursday, June 10th at 8:30 a.m.

Utilities will be held Friday, June 4th at 9:00 a.m.

Services will be held Friday, June 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Motion by Moham seconded by Jepsen to adjourn. All members voting yes.