

November 18, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING

5:30 p.m.

Mayor Jim Wilkie opened the public hearing to the public regarding the proposed 2022 Budget for the City of Alma.

No comments were received in favor of the proposed 2022 budget.

Jerri Schreiber, business owner, spoke against the proposed 2022 budget in the police department budgeted line items. Schreiber stated she had taken a poll of 100 person in the City of Alma and only 1 of the 100 stated they were in favor of a police department.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Wilkie closed the public hearing at 5:49 p.m.

November 18, 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 Farl, Larry Grisen, Gary Jepsen and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the public Hearing minutes of October 14, 2021 for Ordinance #21-10, establishing a 25-mph speed limit on Dunand and Spooner Road as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to approve the public hearing minutes of October 14, 2021 for Ordinance #21-11, establishing ward lines in the City of Alma as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny to approve the October 14, 2021 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizen's comments:

Shane Morgan, resident at S1518 Shawnee Drive, inquired about the status of the ATV/UTV use of city roads, specifically Shawnee Drive.

Allyn Burt, resident, stated that he had been present at previous council meetings and complained about the size of the garbage bags. Burt stated he was not satisfied that this situation hasn't been resolved.

Jerri Schreiber, business owner, expressed to the council that the City should sell lots at Shawnee Estates to get the lots on the tax roll.

Brenda Gehl, resident, just stated she was present to observe.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman David Earney went over the committee minutes of Nov. 3, 2021 with the Council.

Earney stated the following from the minutes:

- A used snow blower was purchased for the end loader.
- ATV/UTV update.
- Sidewalk repair methods – shaving vs. mud jacking.
- Payment #9 request for the clarifier project.
- Change Orders #5 & #6 for the clarifier project.
- Lift Station #4.
- City lot at 401 N. Main.

Discussion was held regarding the atv/utv use on Shawnee Drive. Police Chief Mike Johnson stated that once the signage is up and it's during the regular atv/utv season, Shawnee Drive will be open to atv/utv traffic.

Shane Morgan, resident on Shawnee Drive, was not sure about the usage and thanked the council for clarification on the issue.

Mayor Wilkie stated that he did not think Shawnee Drive, the unpaved area, was open to atv/utv use. However, at a previous meeting it was decided to try it to see if there were any problems and changes could be made, if necessary.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve pay request #9 to Jurowski Construction for the clarifier project in the amount of \$39,072.02. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Earney stated that a correction to the minutes in that it's change orders 5 & 6 for the clarifier project and not 3 & 4. This change was noted.

Change order #6 is for delaying the asphalt part of the project until next spring. No additional cost is involved.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve change order #6 for the clarifier project with an amendment to the completion dates. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Change Order #5 is for rehabilitation work on the existing primary clarifier with items not included in the base bid.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to approve change order #5 for the clarifier project in the amount of \$10,819.44. All members voting yes.

Earney stated that the committee approved the geotechnical exploration (soil boring) for Lift Station #4 to PSI as recommended by Davy engineer, Shawn Welte, in the amount of \$3,450.00.

Discussion was held regarding the city lot at 401 N. Main St. Larry Grisen stated that he felt it would be well served as a parking lot and that possible CapX2020 funds could be used to develop the lot.

Mayor Wilkie stated he did not feel we needed a parking lot at this location when it is directly across from the Lock & Dam's public parking lot.

Earney stated that the lot could be used to put snow this winter.

Larry Grisen commented that the committee wanted the opinion of the council of the idea of a parking lot before researching costs, etc. Further discussion was held.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Champeny to refer the lot at 401 N. Main St. back to the Utilities Committee for further review and study. All members voting yes.

Grisen had observed signage that stated, "by police chief order" or something to that affect and wondered if that would be possible to use on Riverview Drive when Xcel resumes their construction along Hwy 35.

Jon Seifert stated that in order for the signage to be enforceable, an ordinance would have to be drafted.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to instruct the city attorney and the chief of police to develop an ordinance for police chief powers to present to the Services Committee. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Champeny to approve the Utilities Committee report as amended. All members voting yes.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Larry Farl went over the committee minutes of November 17, 2021.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the amount to be requested from the CapX2020 funds is \$10,000 not the \$5,000 as listed in the minutes for the fishing dock on Beach/Harbor Road. Wilkie stated he may have misspoken to Farl when he explained the cost sharing.

Wilkie informed the Council that he has spoken with the Rod & Gun Club regarding co-sharing the fishing dock project off of Beach/Harbor Road. There has been an anonymous donation of \$15,000 paid to the City of Alma for this project, then \$10,000 will be requested from the CapX2020 funds and \$5,000 from the Rod and Club plus their labor in removing existing fishing dock and installing the new aluminum dock. Wilkie stated that the dock company is requiring 50% down and the donated monies would cover this amount. Discussion was held.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny to authorize the expenditure of the \$15,000 donated monies towards the fishing dock project. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Farl stated that Police Chief Johnson gave a demonstration of the new security cameras that replaced the existing camera system. Cameras are located at Buena Vista, South Landing, the beach area and Rieck's Lake Park.

Larry Farl informed the council that the committee had discussed getting pricing for a proposed 40' x 60' shelter for the beach area.

The committee further discussed tennis court poles and the committee made a motion to recommend denial of the flagpole request for Buena Vista Park.

Gary Jepsen inquired about the flagpole and the opinion of more citizens. Discussion was held. Mayor Wilkie stated that this will be an agenda item for the Council in December.

Farl informed the Council that there is a need to have a separate account for donations for Buena Vista Park. When donations come in there usually is a request for a bench or table and sometimes there is not a need for those items. If an account was established, then the money could go for things needed. Some recognition of larger donations should be displayed at the park. The committee will discuss this in the near future, Farl added. The committee recommended that the name for the account be Buena Vista Park Beautification Fund.

Motion by Farl seconded by Champeny to establish a separate fund for donations for Buena Vista Park and name the fund, Buena Vista Beautification Fund. All members voting yes.

Farl reported that Linda is in contact with the Land Conservation department regarding a shoreline management plan for Rieck's Lake Park.

Farl further reported that the well at Rieck's Lake Park is going to be inspected and possibly the well at the beach.

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

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 for the month of October.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Grisen to approve the Combination Class B Beer and Liquor license application to J E Walker, LLC-Elizabeth Walker, agent. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to approve Operator Licenses to: Joe Walker, Elizabeth Walker and Wayne Babros. All members voting yes.

Gary Jepsen explained that the insurance premium came in at 5.2%. This resulted in a salary increase for one employee if the averaging of the premiums, as voted to do in September, was not used. After reviewing the results, there would be no increase regardless of whether the averaging of the premiums was used so it was the committee's recommendation to go back to the original motion of giving any employee a 3% raise less their premium increase if there was any amount left over.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Farl to rescind the motion for averaging of the health insurance premiums to determine raises and go back to the original motion of 3% less the premium increase. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to adopt the proposed 2022 budget for the City of Alma as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Dave Earney reported that the firefighters were working on their annual wages. Earney stated that he feels the department does an excellent job and he admires them.

AMBULANCE BOARD LIAISON

Gary Jepsen reported that he attended the Ambulance Board meeting. Jepsen stated that the ambulance service has a 95% on-call time rate filled and continue to try to recruit new EMTs. The service has been in use a lot and have dedicated personnel.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Earney to approve the Fire and Ambulance Liaison reports as presented. All members voting yes.

Champeny commented on the speed of some of the members of the fire and ambulance departments.

Earney stated that Fire Chief Brakke announces to his members about respecting the speed limits.

Upcoming meetings:

Finance-----December 9, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Council-----December 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.