

December 9, 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 (zoom), Larry Grisen, Gary Jepsen and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the Public Hearing minutes of November 18, 2021 regarding the 2022 Budget as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve the November 18, 2021 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

Monica Moham commented that she was pleased to see a \$1,500 donation come in for Buena Vista Park improvements.

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

Citizen comments:

Larry Grisen introduced the new County Administrator, Ryan VanDeWalle. VanDeWalle stated that he began work last week. He further commented that his background is in public works as director, planning and zoning. He plans on obtaining his master's in public administration.

Agenda Item 6: Presentation of Mississippi River Trail.

John Rosenow, MRT representative, handed out a power point presentation on the Mississippi River Trail and went over the concept of the MRT.

Rosenow stated that the MRT is here and is only on paved trails. Signage needs to be done in each community and this would require adoption of a resolution. The signs would be placed on both ends of the City. Rosenow stated that it would require no money from the City of Alma.

Mayor Wilkie thanked him for his attendance and information and the resolution will be on the January 2022 council agenda for action.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Moham to refer the MRT resolution to the Parks and Recreation committee for council recommendation. All members voting yes.

Deborah Eisenhutt addressed the Council regarding Tree City USA. Deborah stated that it would be beneficial to the City of Alma to plant trees to beautify streets and staircases and even encourage it on private property. Trees help with cooling and heating as well, Eisenhutt stated. One area she said the city could plant trees is at the museum where two trees were removed this year.

Eisenhutt stated that she would like to see the City of Alma become a Tree City and in order to qualify the City would have to do the following:

- Maintain a tree department
- Adopt a tree ordinance
- Spend \$2/capita on forest management
- Proclaim and observe Arbor Day in April of each year

Rick Champeny suggested referring Deborah Eisenhutt's information to the Parks and Recreation committee for review, discussion and report back.

Mayor Wilkie thanked Deborah Eisenhutt for her attendance and information.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman Earney informed the Council that the committee did not meet, however, a second proposal came in for the repairs needed at Lift Station #2 from A-1 Excavating. Earney commented that the proposal, however, was considerably higher than Winona Mechanical's bid that the committee approved last month. Earney stated the only positive was that A-1 could do the work possibly yet this year. Earney stated that the committee will meet in December to discuss this matter.

Mayor Wilkie said he had spoken with engineer Shawn Welte to contact Winona Mechanical regarding Lift Station #2 repairs and the proposed timetable.

Monica Moham complimented the Utilities Committee on ordering the blinking amber lights on top of the speed limit signs. She stated that she felt they were greatly beneficial.

Rick Champeny commented that he wanted one of the blinking lights at Riverview heading north so that people knew they were still in a 25-mph speed zone. The DOT did not approve that location, Chief Johnson stated.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny to approve the Utilities 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. The committee reviewed and approved all vouchers, bills and receipts.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to approve an Operator License to Nicholas Kauten. All members voting yes.

Chairman Ruff informed the Council that the committee had discussed the offer to purchase two lots at Shawnee Estates from Shane Morgan. Shane is the only resident on Shawnee Drive and is interested in purchasing two adjoining lots. The committee recommends turning down the offer that the Morgans presented.

The committee further recommended that the Mayor negotiate with the Morgans regarding their offer.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Jepsen to turn down the offer submitted by the Morgans and authorize the Mayor to pursue further negotiations with them. All members voting yes.

Gary Ruff, WUTA representative, stated he attended the WUTA meeting by zoom and that discussion was held regarding placing the land where the old Dairyland Power Plant stood on the tax roll. More investigation into this possibility will be done and he will report back.

Agenda Item 7: Dairyland Power Easements.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that he has been in contact with Dairyland Power and discussed the easements. Wilkie stated that he feels that they are in order and that the only real change is that the easements have legal descriptions and locations.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Dairyland Power Easements after review of the City Attorney. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to approve the Finance/Tax & License/Zoning and WUTA committee reports as presented. All members voting yes.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had not met, however, on the agenda there are a couple items for action.

One of the items is the flagpole at Buena Vista Park and Farl reported that the committee is recommending declining the offer for a flagpole because of negative comments regarding this issue.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the fishing dock is part of the Parks and Recreation Committee report.

Farl informed the Council that an application was submitted from CapX2020 funds to assist in the funding of the construction of the fishing dock on Beach/Harbor Road.

Motion by Farl seconded by Champeny to approve the application from the CapX2020 fund in the amount of \$10,000 to assist in the construction of the fishing dock on Beach/Harbor Road. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Farl thanked the anonymous donator of \$15,000.00 for the fishing dock and that it will be an asset to the City of Alma.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that it was the Alma Rod & Gun Club that came to him with this project. The Club removed the existing dock and prepared the plans for a new aluminum dock. They are donating their labor and \$5,000 towards the project. Wilkie stated that the Alma Marina assisted the Alma Rod and Club in choosing a dock that would last for years.

Rick Champeny commented that this project is good for the City and the Rod & Gun Club.

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

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Dave Earney informed the Council that the commission had met and approved two building permit applications. Earney stated that one was for John Elliott at 601 S. Main for windows and the other was for an egress stairway behind 125 N. Main St. owned by 12 Mile Bluff company.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve the Historical Preservation Advisory Commission report as presented. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item #12: Election officials for 2022-2023.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny to approve the list of Election Officials for 2022-2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Utilities-----Dec. 20th at 9:00 a.m.

Finance-----Jan. 6th at 8:30 a.m.

Council-----Jan. 6th at 6:00 p.m.

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