

February 7, 2022

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jim Wilkie called the regular monthly meeting 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 Moham seconded by Jepsen to approve the January 6, 2022 Council Proceedings as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the January 2022 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Moham to approve the January 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments. None.

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.

The committee recommended approval of the audit engagement letter for the year 2021 with W.J. Bauman Associates.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to approve the audit engagement letter for the year 2021 with W.J. Bauman Associates as presented. All members voting yes.

The committee recommended approval of the insurance quote for liability, property and worker's compensation with the League of WI Municipalities Insurance.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the insurance quote for liability, property and worker's compensation with the League of WI Municipalities Insurance Company in the amount of \$40,871.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

The committee recommended approval of the fire alarm system quote for the City Hall and Library from Per Mar.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the fire alarm system quote for the City Hall and Library from the Per Mar Company in the amount of \$2,950 and \$59/mo. for the monitoring of the system. All members voting yes.

Ruff reported that Police Chief Mike Johnson presented the committee with a policy for hunting structures and related activities on City of Alma property. This matter will be on the next committee agenda for recommendations.

Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that the property owners that wanted lots in Shawnee Estates have rejected the City's counteroffer at this time.

Chairman Ruff reported that the committee had met on January 21st regarding the deputy clerk position. The committee approved advertising for a 24-hour per work position that will work into additional hours at a starting rate of \$20 to \$22.50 per hour. Applications are due March 10th.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to approve the Finance/Tax & License/Zoning committee reports for January 21st and February 7th as presented. All members voting yes.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Dave Earney reported that the commission met on January 12, 2022 regarding an application submitted by 12-mile Bluff Co for door and window replacements, lighting, trim, boardwalk and privacy fence.

The Commission approved the application.

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

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had met on January 19, 2022 and discussed the following:

- Camera updates-Chief Johnson gave a breakdown of the 28 cameras that were replaced and their locations.
- Fishing dock on Beach/Harbor Road – Mayor Wilkie informed the Council that the dock company actually assembles the dock and that the Rod & Gun Club will do the foundations for the dock.
- Shelter at the beach – tabled at this time
- Restroom maintenance, repairs and upgrades. Joe Wick informed the committee that lighting at the beach buildings has been upgraded to LED and repairs at Rieck's Park restrooms were done.
- Tree removal in the parks will be on the next committee meeting agenda
- Shoreline management plan is waiting to be received from Land Conservation
- Signage at the landings, parks, beach will be checked to see if any need replacing, or new signs need to be ordered.

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

Larry Grisen informed Larry Farl that there will be a shoreline preservation hearing at the county and encouraged him to contact Joe Krumrie for details.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman Rick Champeny informed the Council that the committee had met on January 19, 2022.

Fire Chief Brakke had attended and reported on the house fire, Champeny stated. Brakke presented the committee with bids for garage door replacements for the fire/ambulance garage.

The committee recommended approval of the estimate for the fire department/ambulance garage door replacements from Overhead Door out of La Crosse, WI and not to exceed \$29,000.00.

Gary Jepsen inquired if the committee had looked at bi-fold doors. Champeny stated that there is not enough side clearance for that type of door. Champeny further stated that another bid from Overhead Door out of Chippewa Falls exceeded the quote from the Onalaska company.

Motion by Moham seconded by Jepsen to approve the estimate from LaCrosse Overhead Door for Fire/Ambulance garage door replacement in the amount of \$28,500.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Earney explained that partial funding for the garage door replacements comes from the fire station heating outlay account which was transferred to the building account in the amount of \$10,000.00. The remainder of the funds will come from the building outlay account.

Monica Moham stated that the garage doors have never been replaced since the building was built and they are in need of replacement.

Champeny stated that parking issues and snow removal was discussed, and the city crew has done a wonderful job.

Champeny informed the Council that a new grave digger was contracted after the former grave digger left this profession.

Landfill concerns will be discussed at the next committee meeting, Champeny commented.

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

Champeny introduced the Annual Police Department report prepared by Police Chief Mike Johnson. All council received a copy.

Police Chief Mike Johnson went over the annual report for the police department. The annual report listed citations and police department activities throughout the year along with the revenue

generated from the police department and the training he has taken. Chief Johnson explained how the revenue comes back to the City from the Circuit Court system and is reflected in the report. He further commented that he thanked the Council for the cooperation with the police department.

Monica Moham commented that the report is detailed, and Chief Johnson has done a wonderful job.

Dave Earney commented on the work Police Johnson had done in regard to the ordinances and thanked him for the good job done. Earney then inquired if Chief Johnson expects future ordinances that the City needs.

Chief Johnson commented that addressing the Highway Safety committee concerns regarding the Kwik Trip area and that a parking ordinance may be needed. Utilities and Services committees will need to meet regarding this issue.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to approve the Police Department Annual Report for 2021. All members voting yes.

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

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman David Earney informed the Council that the committee had met on January 31, 2022.

Earney went over the minutes of the meeting noting the following:

January 31, 2022

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

1:30 p.m.

- Snow removal concerns-payload-snow blower. Mayor Wilkie mentioned that the snow blower is operational and saved the City approximately \$70,000.00.
- City crew hours: schedules. Earney stated that the crew has been on a schedule when whoever from the crew works the weekend, they get the following Friday off.
- 2nd Street wall – Dave Schams. The property will be surveyed to determine the ownership of the wall.
- Reglin-mowing on Riverview Drive. Earney stated that they had done a beautiful job on Riverview Drive.
- Crosswalk lights – Dave Becker. Earney stated that one side of the street has been installed and the crew will be installing the lights on the other side in the near future.
- 710 N. 2nd Street drain installation. Earney stated that Foreman Joe Wick will be bringing cost estimates to the committee.
- 2022 Chip seal and crack filling projects were discussed. The committee decided to put out for bids the following streets: Buena Vista Road, Vista Drive (back half-Secrist Hill to turn around), High School Road and Spooner Road using hot oil with the chip seal.

- Any other street concerns. Police Chief Mike Johnson informed the committee that he had attended the traffic safety meeting and one of the two major concerns is the exits from Kwik Trip. Johnson stated that Kwik Trip has 12 off-street parking spaces and it had been discussed for safety, to remove the three parking spaces in front of Kwik Trip. Dave Earney suggested that this item be on the next agenda and invite someone from the Kwik Trip and Pier 4 for their input.
- Lift Station #2 update. Winona Mechanical will be doing the work as approved, however, not until spring.
- Lift Station #4 update. Cal informed the committee that PSI has done the geotechnical exploration and that a report will be forthcoming.
- Annual phosphorus progress report due Jan. 31, 2022. Dave Earney read an email from engineer Shawn Welte in which he stated he has received an extension to file the annual phosphorus report.
- Clarifier project update. Earney stated that the blacktopping will be done in the spring. Cal reported that the rehabilitated clarifier is moving suspended solids have gone from a 10 down to a 2 since the new clarifier has been up and running.
- Remaining Funds. Shawn Welte informed Earney that there really aren't any extra funds for the clarifier project as was stated by Charlie Cameron, DNR. The blacktopping and the pinch valve repair will take up the remaining funds.
- Heating system update. Cal presented a quote of \$5300 for the heating system for the Headworks building.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to approve the proposal from Altronex Control Systems for the Wastewater Headworks building upgrades, not to exceed \$6000.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

- Battery replacement program. It was decided that the crew battery records were sufficient.
- Engineer amendment #3 requesting an additional \$19,100.00. Components of the increase is construction of \$17,500.00 and then O & M Manual Preparation an additional \$1,600.00. The committee recommends approval.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to approve the Engineer Amendment #3 for Davy Engineering in the amount of \$19,100.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

- Sidewalk concerns-weed removal. No changes were made.
- Sidewalk repairs-Foreman Wick will assess the sidewalks and prioritize repair/replacement.
- City lot at 401 N. Main update. No action has been taken by the committee formed for study and recommendation.
- Water system concerns. Cal informed the committee that there are a few curb stops needing replacing in the spring.

Earney informed the Council that because the City received the Clean Water Fund Loan it is a requirement that the Sewer Department needs to be audited for the life of the loan.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to approve the audit engagement letter from W.J. Bauman Associates for the sewer department for the year 2021. All members voting yes.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Earney informed the Council that he attended the Fire Department meeting on February 2, 2022. The fire department talked in detail about the house fire and how the call system worked for that fire. Earney stated that Kwik Trip made sure the fire department had something to drink and eat during the fire and appreciated their assistance. Chili Feed is March 20th and tickets are \$10.00.

Earney stated that radios for reprogramming have been ordered along with new jackets. A grant for the radios was obtained by the fire department.

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

Mayor Wilkie announced that he has made the recommendation of Patricia Brovold to the Board of Appeals to replace member, Kevin Cassidy.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Ruff to approve the appointment of Patricia Brovold to the Board of Appeals as recommended by Mayor Wilkie. All members voting yes.

AMBULANCE BOARD LIAISON

Gary Jepsen, ambulance board liaison, informed the Council that he attended the annual meeting and reported the following: Jon Seifert was appointed the ambulance board's legal representative. The ambulance service has been short EMTs, however, 11 new EMS personnel will soon graduate and be added to the service. The ambulance service reported that between October and December the service provided 100% filled call time. The board approved raising the on-call to \$3/hr.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve the Ambulance Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

- Council-----Monday, March 7th at 6:00 p.m.
- Finance -----Monday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m.
- Utilities----- Monday, February 21st at 9:00 a.m.
- Finance----- Monday, March 7th at 8:30 a.m.

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