

April 7, 2022

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5:00 p.m.

Mayor Jim Wilkie opened the public hearing to the public regarding the proposed parking ordinance amendment that would create a no parking zone in front of the Kwik Trip at 603 N. Main Street.

Mayor Wilkie asked for public comment for the ordinance amendment. None received.

Mayor Wilkie then asked for public comment against the ordinance amendment.

Speaking against the proposed ordinance amendment were the following:

Ron Geiselhart, resident, spoke against removing the three parking stalls. Geiselhart commented that the speed could possibly be reduced down to 20 mph instead of removing the parking and people should be cautious in that area. He further stated he was more concerned about someone getting hit when crossing the street there without the curbside parking stalls.

Bob Gross, resident, stated he did not want the change of parking in front of the Kwik Trip. The parking has been the way it is since Kwik Trip moved there and stated more caution could be used and that it was not a problem at this time.

Tom Schultz, former resident and ambulance driver, commented that he had been on one ambulance call at this location and felt that using the three parking stalls for cars and motorcycles should at least be considered instead of eliminating the parking stalls.

Hearing no further comment for or against the proposed ordinance, Mayor Wilkie closed the public hearing.

Mayor Wilkie opened the public hearing to the public regarding the proposed parking ordinance amendment to create a tall vehicle parking ordinance-no vehicle over 6' in the three stalls from Kwik Trip's north entrance/exit, east side of Main Street to Walnut Street.

Hearing no testimony for or against the parking ordinance amendment, Mayor Wilkie closed the public hearing.

Mayor Wilkie opened the public hearing to the public regarding the proposed parking ordinance amendment to create a 2-hour parking limit in (4) stalls in front of 600 N. Main St. (Pier 4), 7 days per week from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.

Hearing no testimony for or against the parking ordinance amendment, Mayor Wilkie closed the public hearing.

April 7, 2022

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 Moham to approve the March 7, 2022 Council proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizen comments:

Tom Schultz, former resident, commented to the city council that with the deficit dwindling, the city should look at harvesting some timber on the city property.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

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

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve Operator Licenses to: Maya Smith, Steven Wahlborg and Karla Klemme. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to approve a mobile home permit to Dave Schultz. All members voting yes.

Ruff informed the Council that the committee met on March 14th and approved the revised hunting on city property ordinance to go before the Council.

The committee reviewed the job descriptions for full-time and summer help.

The committee further recommended a raise for incentives for sewer and water licenses from \$.05 per sub-class per hour to \$.30 per sub-class per hour.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the recommended raise for sub-classes for water and sewer from \$.05/hr. to \$.30/hr. All members voting yes.

Jerri Schreiber questioned the need for the raise and the qualifications and training for the sub-classes.

Ruff stated that Clerk Torgerson had presented the committee with a list from the auditors of outstanding over-due personal property taxes for the City of Alma. The auditors recommended writing off some of them since they are no longer in business, have died, etc. All Council received a copy of the recommended write-off personal property taxes.

Motion by Farl seconded by Ruff to approve the uncollected Personal Property taxes from years 2013 through 2020 per the Finance Committee's recommendation in the amount of \$8,045.59. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Ruff to approve the minutes of the March 14th and April 7th Finance/Tax & License/Zoning committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Farl informed the council that the committee met April 6, 2022 and the large item was the tree removal bids.

The committee recommended Mann's tree service with their alternate bid of \$5,000 if they could keep the trees.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to approve Mann's Tree service in the amount of \$5,000 for the removal of the trees. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Farl announced that the city-wide cleanup day is May 11, 2022. Volunteers and approximately 60 students from school will be involved in the cleanup.

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

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman David Earney informed the Council that the committee met April 6, 2022.

Bid opening was held for the crack filling and sealcoating bids with one bid received from Scott Construction for the following:

Project 1: Buena Vista Road (CTH E to Buena Vista Parking Lot) and Buena Vista Parking Lot (end of Buena Vista Road).----\$43,218 with alternate Double chip seal for \$60,518.00.

(All chip sealing includes hand patching with a two-person crew)

Project 2: High School Road (STH 35 to Spooner Rd) & Spooner Rd (STH 35 to end of new pavement)----\$17,620.00.

Project 3: Vista Drive (Secrist Hill to cul-de-sac) & Secrist Hill (Vista Drive to STH 37)

SINGLE Chip sealing with 100% fractured 3/8" washed DARK Granite chips and PG 58-28 Hot Liquid Asphalt with 5% cutback and NO crack filling = \$10,063.00.

Due to numerous cracks SCI recommends: DOUBLE Chip sealing with 100% fractured 1/4" washed DARK granite chips and PG 58-28 Hot Liquid Asphalt with 5% cutback, EXCEPT only 45% of Vista Drive double chip sealed and top layer of Secrist Hill to use 3/8" chips = \$12,908.00.

(all chip sealing includes hand patching with a two-person crew).

The street resurfacing budget is \$16,000.00 and the Park & Recreation committee approved \$10,000 to come out of their outlay budget, Joe Wick commented.

It was stated that the Alma School will be doing their parking lot and some playground area and would like pea gravel used instead of the fractured chips.

The committee recommended approval of all three projects for a total of \$91,046.99.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to approve all three projects as bid by Scott Construction for a total of \$91,046.99. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Earney informed the council that street sweeping will be April 19, 20 and 21.

Earney informed the council that the committee recommended replacement of the pinch valve with installation in the amount of \$9,043.00.

Motion by Earney seconded by Earney to approve the replacement of the pinch valve with installation in the amount of \$9,043.00 to Dorner for the pinch valve and B & M for the installation. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Earney informed the council that the committee recommended approval of the degritting system to B & M in the amount of \$5,400.00.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to approve the quote from B & M for the degritting system for the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$5,400.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Earney stated the committee had approved a water meter for a customer that had an unusually large sewer and water bill and will review results at the next committee meeting.

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

Motion by Champeny seconded by Earney to approve the parking ordinance amendment to eliminate the three parking stalls in front of the Kwik Trip-603 N. Main Street. All members voting no.

Discussion:

Gary Jepsen stated that with the public comments that were received this evening that the city should look at an alternate solution such as compact cars and motorcycles.

Jerri Schreiber, business owner, stated that she felt the signs for the 6' limit vehicle height should be on taller posts, so they are more visible to the vehicles.

Attorney Seifert stated that it would be exceedingly difficult to come up with a legal definition of a compact car. It would need to be extremely specific to take to court, Seifert stated.

Larry Farl recommended reducing the three spots to two to allow more sight distance at the entrance/exits.

Gary Ruff suggested no trucks and no SUV's.

Liz Nuzum commented that it is the driver's responsibility to take caution when leaving the Kwik Trip and all the other intersections that have poor visibility when entering Hwy 35.

Police Chief Michael Johnson informed the council and those present that the safety matter came out of the Buffalo County Highway Safety Committee meeting. It was reported that the intersection at Hwy 35 and 25 and the Alma Kwik Trip were the most dangerous areas in the County. The County Highway safety committee stated they had received numerous complaints. The state recommended that the City of Alma produce some kind of solution to make this exit onto Hwy 35 more safe. The committee has studied this in the past and recently came up with the ordinance to remove the three parking spaces and is only for the side of safety. It's a possible solution, Johnson stated and to be proactive.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding signage needed to describe SUV's.

Bob Gross suggested No pickups and SUVs.

Jepsen stated not to use the work pickups and to use trucks instead.

Larry Grisen inquired if the proper space from the driveways are provided currently. Johnson stated yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Farl to adopt the parking ordinance amendment to install 2 six-foot maximum height stalls on the east side of Main Street from the Kwik Trip north entrance/exit to Walnut St. Six members voting no, one yes (Ruff) by roll call vote.

Motion by Farl seconded by Grisen to send the parking situation regarding safety when exiting the Kwik Trip back to the Services Committee for recommendation. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to adopt the parking ordinance creating a 2-hour limit for parking in (4) stalls in front of Pier 4 (600 N. Main Street). All members voting yes.

LIBRARY LIAISON

Gary Jepsen informed the Council that he attended the Library Board meeting, and the library is looking into the possibility of pickup lockers located outside of the library.

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to approve the Library Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

David Earney informed the council that he had attended the fire meeting. Earney complimented the fire department for their training and dedication.

Earney stated the department went over the barn fire, trailer home fire and the chili feed event.

Earney commented that the department welcomed Justin Sass to the Alma Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion by Farl seconded by Jepsen to approve the fire department liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

- Finance-----April 19, 2022 at 9 a.m.
- Re-Organization----April 19, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.
- Board of Review---May 5, 2022 from 1 to 3 p.m.
- Next Council-----May 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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