

**June 9, 2022**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Robert Gross 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 Robert Gross, Richard Champeny, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Robert Talbot, Gary Jepsen and David Earney.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the May 12, 2022, Public Hearing minutes for Ordinance #22-01 regulating hunting structures and related activities on City of Alma property as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Ruff to approve the May 12, 2022, Public Informational Meeting minutes for Dairyland Power's presentation to the public to introduce their long-range site assessment and small modular reactor economic impact study as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Champeny to approve the May 12, 2022, Council Proceedings minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizen comments: None.

Agenda Item 7: Dairyland Power – Easement amendments.

Kelly King, Dairyland Power representative, addressed the council regarding the easement amendments needed to allow Dairyland Power to replace the top wire and ground wires on the existing poles to allow fiber optics to travel inside the wire. King stated that the main purpose of the wire is to allow communication between substations.

Larry Farl inquired if there would be a purpose to sell the excess fiber optics to other companies.

King commented that they may sell excess to Riverland Energy as a joint cooperative.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Talbot to grant easements #1.2 and #1.1/3 to Dairyland Power to add a top wire and ground wires to their existing poles that are located through the cemetery and Mossy Hollow properties. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item 12: Sewer Rates.

Mark Davy, Davy Engineering, presented the Council with two scenarios regarding the sewer rate increase. Davy explained that sewer rates are to cover operating and maintenance costs, existing debt and future repairs to the treatment plant.

One of the scenarios, Appendix A, follows PSC guidelines, although not required, but recommended. This would impose a base and usage fee to those customers having larger meters. Some of the accounts effected would be public authority, commercial and industrial. There would be no impact to residential users. As a matter of fact, the base fee for the residential user would actually go down.

The other scenario, Appendix B, would be what has been done in the past and the increase would be spread across all of the users and those with larger meters would only be required to pay the same base fee as a household.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Farl seconded by Talbot to instruct Mark Davy to proceed with the implementation of Appendix A – charging more for customers with larger meters in the calculation of the sewer rate increase. 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.

The committee then acted upon the beer and liquor licenses and operator licenses for the 2022-2023 year. Chairman Ruff read all the beer and liquor

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the following Combination Class A Beer & Liquor Licenses:

Alma General Store, LLC-William Allen Hedberg, 100 N. Main St.  
Kwik Trip, Inc., Brenda Loesel, Agent, 603 N. Main Street.  
Riverside Bait and Liquor, LLC – Jody Fluekiger, agent, 200/202 S. Main Street.

All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the following Combination Class “B” Beer & Liquor Licenses:

American Legion Post #224, David Danzinger, Agent, 501 N. Main St.  
Alfresco Pizzeria, Ethan Coey, Agent, 211 N. Main St.  
Gregory A. Stevens, Dam View Bar, 415 N. Main St.  
JLS Hospitality, LLC-Jerri L Schreiber, Agent, 201 N. Main St.

J E Walker, LLC- Elizabeth Walker, Agent, S1582 STH 35  
Burlington Hotel Bar Shop LLC - Jennifer Griffith, Agent, 809 N. Main St.  
Bill's Talk of the Town LLC – Drew Ibach, Agent, 107 N Main St.  
Empire Investments LLC – Ethan Coey, Agent, 215 N. Main St.  
Dylan Fluekiger, Red Ram Saloon, Agent, 207 N. Main St.  
WWBIG LLC-Diane Masters-Penegor, Agent, 121 S. Main St.  
Danzinger Vineyards LLC – Penny Danzinger, Agent, S2015 Grapeview Lane

All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to approve the following Class “B” Fermented Malt Licenses – On Premise Only:

Alma Rod & Gun Club, Travis Burce – Agent, 1562 CTH “I”  
J E Walker LLC – Elizabeth Walker - Agent, 600 N. Main St.

All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the following Class “C” Wine License – On Premise Only:

J E Walker LLC-Elizabeth Walker – Agent, 600 N. Main St.

All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the following Operator Licenses (1 – 68):

- 1 KORDIAK, DANIEL G.
- 2 BAUTCH, DAVID J
- 3 LANGHORST, VERNON J
- 4 MICHAELS, CHARLES H.
- 5 SCHULTZ, PAUL
- 6 GANZ, DONALD J.
  
- 7 GREEN, GREGORY S.
- 8 NUZUM, DALE L.
- 9 REDING, DONALD C
- 10 SCHULTZ, THOMAS H.
- 11 NESS, DAVE
- 12 BURCE, TRAVIS J.
- 13 WAHLBORG, STEVEN C.
- 14 SMITH, MAYA S.
- 15 CLAUSSEN, ANJA L.
- 16 GRANER, STEPHANIE, M.
- 17 GRIFFITH, JENNIFER J.G.
- 18 STEVENS, COLE
- 19 DANZINGER, DAVID J
- 20 PATTON, KITT S

- 21 ZASTROW, KYRIE A.
- 22 KLEMME, KARLA L.
- 23 HANSON, SANDRA A.
- 24 BOHNSACK, ELIZABETH R.  
BAUER-WIECZOREK,
- 25 CRYSTAL
- 26 BURCE, DANIEL J
- 27 CARSTENBROCK, LYNDA S
- 28 EBERSOLD, SONYA K.
- 29 GALVAN, JOYCE A.
- 30 GLEITER, BEATRICE M.
- 31 GRIFFITH, MELODY DAWN
- 32 KEELER, KAYLA K.
- 33 LA DUKE, JACOB L.  
34 LOESEL, BRENDA J.
- 35 MUELLER, SAMUEL L.
- 36 PALMER, ALDONA MARIE
- 37 REED, SHARAYA M.
- 38 RIECK, LANA M.
- 39 RIECK, SHARON M.  
SCHARMER LANGHORST,
- 40 SARAH
- 41 SOBOTTA, JOSHUA G.
- 42 WIECZOREK, LANE D.
- 43 DANCKWART, DEBRA A.
- 44 BAUER, ALY
- 45 LA DUKE, ZOE
- 46 KAUTEN, NICHOLAS D.
- 47 BAKER, TIM J.
- 48 STIEHL, RILEY D.
- 49 BAKER, DONNA
- 50 BROWNELL, JACKIE M.
- 51 HAGER, RICKY J
- 52 HANSON, KATI
- 53 IBACH, DREW H.
- 54 IBACH, ELISABET S.
- 55 OTTUM, BONNADINE
- 56 SALISBURY, LEE
- 57 MUELLER, LOREN
- 58 REIS, RYLIE JAMES
- 59 GUZMAN, CARISSA A
- 60 LINDSTROM, JULIE A
- 61 BABROS, WAYNE
- 62 WALKER, JOSEPH L.
- 63 WALKER, ELIZABETH
- 64 HANSON, MARION E
- 65 STEVENS, JANINE
- 66 WILDE, KARI J.
- 67 BURT, ALLYN L.
- 68 OTTUM, BONNIE L.

All members voting yes.

Ruff informed the Council that the committee discussed health insurance for the employees. The current company will no longer be available as of 12/31/2022.

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

### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had met on May 19<sup>th</sup>. One of the items discussed and acted upon was the purchase of a zero-turn lawn mower. The committee approved \$5,000 of the \$10,000 total. Farl then turned the discussion over to Joe Wick, foreman.

Joe informed the Council that the lawn mower is a 2018 Hustler. The mower was a demonstration model at Wabasha Implement in Plainview, MN. The lawn mower is a new mower, however, some of the paint is a little faded, Joe commented. Wabasha Implement will sell the city's existing zero-turn. Joe stated that he estimates the city will receive \$2500 or less for the mower due to its condition.

Joe further informed the Council that purchasing this mower versus a new mower somewhere else, would have cost an additional \$5,000.00.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Moham to approve the final payment of \$5,000 for the purchase of the zero-turn lawn mower. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had discussed changing the one-way at Breckow's Landing and installing stop signs. The committee discussed this request and recommended leaving the existing one-way for safety reasons as recommended by Chief of Police Johnson and committee members. Farl informed the Council that he had never heard any complaints from boaters regarding this matter.

Mayor Robert Gross commented that he had received complaints and felt that vehicles and boat and trailers could enter from either the south or north entrances and that the State DOT stated the city could do what they wanted.

Farl commented that the State DOT stated that the City could do what they wanted on their own property, which would put the stop signs considerable down each entrance and would not provide the visibility needed.

Gary Jepsen stated that he was unaware of any complaints, and it is a safety issue that the engineers did the study and designed and planned for a one-way roadway for the boat landing.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to leave the entrance/exits as is at Breckow's Landing. All members voting yes.

Farl stated that the committee discussed the removal and replacement of the trees for Rieck's Lake Park.

Joe informed the Council that the trees will begin to be removed at Rieck's Lake Park next week.

Farl informed the Council that the Enhance Alma group has purchased new city flower planters and the old planters were taken to the Sherman House vacant lot for a community garden.

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairman Earney went over the Utilities committee minutes of May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Earney informed the Council that a resident, Shawn Winkler, was present at the committee meeting asking for the City's assistance in the water run-off onto her garden. The committee will investigate anything that could be done from any water coming from Cedar Street.

Earney stated that the committee reviewed the information from Mark Davy regarding the sewer rate increase.

Earney informed the Council that the next Utilities committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the wastewater treatment plant.

The committee discussed seal coating projects and line painting. Earney stated he felt the parking stalls and crosswalks seem to be in good condition.

Line painting of the parking stalls at the marina need repainting. The parks and recreation committee will place this on their agenda for recommendations.

Rob Talbot talked with foreman Joe Wick regarding the grinding of the sidewalks. Rob Talbot spoke with the City of Mondovi and who they have do their sidewalks.

Earney informed the Council that the committee discussed the one-lane section on Riverview Drive and changing the signage from stop signs to a yield sign on the south end of the one-lane.

Gary Jepsen stated that if the signs were changed, it should be with a yield sign on the north end of the one-way because that is the end that is changing lanes.

Jepsen further commented that without a study to go against the engineer design that was done according to state guidelines, he would recommend leaving the stop signs. Jepsen stated that he will always vote on the side of safety.

Further discussion was held.

Heidi Stewart, resident on Sunset Drive, commented that she would like the road fixed, and something done with the embankment. She further commented that she would like equal enforcement of all the stop signs in the city. She had received a warning from the Chief of Police for doing a rolling stop in the one-lane section.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to leave the signage at the one-lane section on Riverview Drive as it is currently. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 11: Angle parking on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street across from the Catholic church.

Earney informed the Council that he has been on council for many years and this matter has been approached different times. Enforcement is difficult if changed to angle parking on Sunday only. Funerals, masses, etc. are not only held on Sundays and the church needs the parking.

Jepsen stated he felt that two vehicles could pass, however, he did not take measurements. He further commented that at all times a regular emergency vehicle should not be impeded by the parking situation.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to refer the parking situation near the Catholic Church back to the Utilities committee for study, review, and recommendation. Six members voting yes, one no-Earney.

Dave Earney introduced Resolution #22-04 the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report Resolution. Earney explained the low grade on the Phosphorus section of the report.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to approve Resolution #22-04 the CMAR resolution as presented. All members voting yes.

Foreman Wick informed the Council that the two-week pilot study using the chemicals has begun.

Earney informed the Council that he will be doing the annual property inspections with the Mayor and the Chief of Police that last week of June.

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

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON**

Dave Earney attended the fire department meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Earney reported that the department went over the house fire that occurred on north STH 35. The department went over training.

Earney stated that the new doors are in for the fire department and the reason they are white is because of the ordering. The doors would not have been available for an awfully lengthy period, if at all, if they were ordered in a color. Earney commented that as always, the fire department is doing a fantastic job.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

UTILITIES-----Wed. June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Wastewater Treatment Plant  
FINANCE-----Thurs. July 14, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall  
COUNCIL----- Thurs. July 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

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