

July 14, 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, Robert Talbot, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney. Absent: Larry Farl.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the June 9, 2022 Council Proceeding minutes as presented.

Gary Jepsen noted a correction to be made on Page 5 stating that he had inquired about an engineering study on the boat landing, however, it was regarding the stop signs on Riverview Drive.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Talbot to approve the June 9, 2022 Council Proceeding minutes as amended. All members voting yes.

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

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

Citizen's comments.

Sheriff candidate, Mike Osmond, introduced himself and the plans he has if he is elected Sheriff for Buffalo County. Osmond stated that he would like to visit Town, Village and City boards and share with the communities what's going on in the County. Osmond further stated he will self-evaluate the Sheriff's Department and develop the department to represent what the citizens needs are.

Gary Jepsen inquired Osmond if he is receptive to the Nixle program. (Nixle provides an open communication forum that connect public safety, municipalities, schools, businesses, and the communities they serve. Nixle enables real-time, two-way communication through text, email, voice messages, social media, and the Nixle mobile app). Osmond stated that yes, he would support this program.

Lee Salisbury inquired about the police blotter that's published in the paper. Osmond stated that this is a computer-generated report that gets published.

The Mayor and Council thanked Mike Osmond for his attendance.

Richard Champeny read a letter from Paul Schultz, resident at 109 N. 2nd Street, which stated that the angle parking across the street from the Catholic Church should go back to angle parking on Sundays only for safety reasons.

Chris Krueger, resident at 103 N. 2nd Street who was present at council, concurred with Paul Schultz's concerns regarding the angle parking.

Lee Salisbury, resident, stated he agreed with the safety concern regarding the angle parking.

Champeny stated that the Services Committee will have this as an agenda item at their next meeting.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman David Earney went over the following highlights from the Utilities meeting on June 22, 2022, which was held at the wastewater treatment plant:

- Shawn Welte, Davy Engineer, went over the final payment and punch list for the Clarifier Project
- Phosphorus reduction using tertiary treatment
- New equipment for measuring sludge
- Lift Station #4 proposal from Davy Engineering and Facility Plan
- Lift Station #4 Facility Plan submittal to WI DNR

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to authorize the Mayor to sign the proposal from Davy Engineering for the Lift Station #4 project for their services in the amount of \$11,000.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to authorize the submittal of the Facility Plan for Lift Station #4 to the WI DNR. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to approve the Utilities Committee report for June 22, 2022. All members voting yes.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the council that the committee had met this morning and reviewed and approved all vouchers, bills, and receipts for June 2022.

Ruff informed the Council that the committee discussed advertising for two full-time crew, one part-time landfill attendance and the Chief of Police position.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Talbot to approve the following Operator Licenses: Heather Semling, Mike Feuling, Ed Rebelskey, Felicia Decker, and Tabitha Blank. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve a Cigarette License to Walker's Silvermoon. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Talbot to advertise for two full-time city crew at a rate of \$20.45/hour. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to advertise for one part-time landfill attendant at a rate of \$15.55 per hours. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to advertise for the Chief of Police position at a salary range of \$56,000.00 to \$61,000.

Discussion was held. Talbot questioned if the city should look into if the County could provide the same services that they provide Fountain City. Mayor Robert Gross commented that he had felt the same way, however, he spoke with City Attorney Jon Seifert who explained local ordinances would not be able to be enforced and it would not be a cost saving for the city.

Further discussion was held.

Dave Earney thanked Mike Johnson, who will be retiring, for the good job he has done as Chief of Police for the City of Alma.

All members voting yes by roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

In the absence of Larry Farl, chairperson, Richard Champeny reported on the Park and Recreation minutes of July 1, 2022.

Champeny informed the council that the committee met with Jeff Sedlmayr and Samantha Rolbiecki from the Alma Little League regarding the parking situation at the marina and ballfield area. Champeny stated that the committee suggested getting volunteers, possibly from the American Legion, to help direct parking on the tournament weekends. Gary Jepsen commented that the Legion members are older and could not stand for long periods of time directing the parking. Mayor Gross suggested that there be a booth or chair that the Legion person could sit from time to time.

Champeny informed the council that the committee recommended setting up a beautification fund account for Rieck's Lake Park and campground.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Moham to set up an account in the name of Rieck's Lake Park Beautification Fund. All members voting yes.

Police Chief Mike Johnson informed the Council that the lock box at Rieck's Lake Park was recently broken into by cutting the lock off of the payment box. Johnson estimated \$40.00 was taken.

Other items discussed were tree removal and replacement at Rieck's Lake Park and updates at the tennis/pickle ball courts.

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

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman Richard Champeny informed the council that the committee had met on July 11, 2022.

First item on the agenda was the parking north of the Kwik Trip on the east side of Hwy 35. The committee recommended drafting an ordinance restricting the height of 6' in the two parking stalls from the north entrance/exit at Kwik Trip to Walnut Street.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Earney to draft an ordinance restricting the height of vehicles to 6' that park in the two parking stalls north of the entrance/exit at the Kwik Trip to Walnut Street. All members voting yes.

Champeny stated the committee looked into additional parking on the west side of Main Street north of Pier 4. Discussion was held. This item was tabled until the WI DOT project is done for Hwy 35.

Champeny informed the council that the committee received the police report from Feb. 13th thru July 7th and the retirement notice from Police Chief Mike Johnson and how to proceed. The committee requested this item be placed on the council agenda and action has been taken regarding this matter earlier in the meeting to advertise for a chief of police.

Champeny stated that he will speak with departments at the courthouse that have vehicles in the annex parking lot that are parked or stored there for long periods of time and, if removed, the parking could be used for county employees and free up the on-street parking so that the angle parking could be changed in that area, possibly.

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

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to adopt Resolution #22-05 – Adopting the Buffalo County Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan 2022-2026. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

Utilities-----July 18, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Finance-----July 26, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Finance -----August 11, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Council-----August 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

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