

August 11, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING

5:30 p.m.

Mayor Robert Gross opened the public hearing to the public regarding Ordinance #22-04 amending Chapter 72: Parking of the City of Alma -Tall Vehicle Parking – No vehicle over 6’ in the three stalls from Kwik Trip’s north entrance/exit, west side of Main to Walnut St.

No citizens were present to give testimony for or against the ordinance, Mayor Gross closed the public hearing.

August 11, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING

5:40 p.m.

Mayor Robert Gross opened the public hearing to the public regarding Ordinance #22-03 amending Chapter 52-Sewers in Section 52.10 Sewer user charges.

No citizens were present to give testimony for or against the ordinance, Mayor Gross closed the public hearing.

August 11, 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 Jepsen to approve the Council Proceeding minutes of July 14, 2022, as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the July 2022 Financial report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

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

Citizens comments. None were received.

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.

Ruff stated that the committee recommends approval of the 2023 Assessor’s contract to Kleven properties assessment, Eric Kleven-assessor.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to approve the 2023 Assessor's Contract to Kleven Properties Assessment with Eric Kleven, assessor. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to approve an Operator License to Tim Wallerich. All members voting yes.

The Finance committee met on July 26, 2022, to amend the Employee Handbook. Member Gary Jepsen explained that the current sick leave pays out, of \$15.00 per day, upon retirement was not an incentive for employees to not take sick leave days.

Jepsen explained that a Pep Plan would be a better option. The committee recommends sick leave to be paid out at 50% at the current salary of the accumulated sick leave upon retirement and this monies be placed in a Pep Plan (employee health benefit plan). The employee can use this money for medical or health expenses.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to amend the Employee Handbook regarding sick leave payout upon retirement to read that 50% at the current salary of the accumulated sick leave upon retirement and this monies be placed in a Pep Plan (employee health benefit plan). All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Ruff informed the Council that the committee recommends revising the vacation schedule in the Employee handbook to reflect the following:

- One year from anniversary date-----40 hours
- Two or more years, but less than 7-----80 hours (This was 10 before)
- Seven or more years, but less than 14-----120 hours (This was 10 and15 before)
- Fourteen or more years-----160 hours (This was 15 before)

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to amend the Employee Handbook regarding vacation to the following:

- One year from anniversary date-----40 hours
- Two or more years, but less than 7-----80 hours (This was 10 before)
- Seven or more years, but less than 14-----120 hours (This was 10 and15 before)
- Fourteen or more years-----160 hours (This was 15 before)

All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Mayor Gross informed the Council that probationary periods are added to each new hire and varies upon the job classification.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Talbot to approve the Finance/Tax & License/Zoning committee reports from July 26, 2022, and August 11, 2022, as presented. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman David Earney informed the Council that the committee had met on July 18, 2022, and discussed the following:

- Annual Property Inspections – Chris Settles presented his case about his property. He is remodeling his house and cleans up items out front as he can. Earney considered what Settles has done as satisfaction to the letter sent out.

- Property concerns:

- Cul-de-sac right-of-way – Dave & Sandy Ebert on Vista Drive. Foreman Joe Wick will be meeting with the Ebert's and the blacktop from the cul-de-sac will be removed from their property.
- Adjacent water runoff concerns near the Ebert property on Vista Drive. The committee decided not to take any action regarding this issue.

- Street concerns:

Street sealing project. School's project will be done either Friday or Monday. No schedule for the remaining projects.

- 710 N. 2nd St. drain installation. Wick is working with Reglin.
- 2nd St. wall – Schams. No update
- Brad LaDuke advice for sink hole in front of Alma Townhouse. Earney stated that this project is complete, and a good job was done.

- Wastewater concerns:

- Lift Station #2 Update. Winona Mechanical is still coming. The digger permit has been taken out.
- Lift Station #4 – sewer lining. Proceeding with bids
- Update on Headworks Building. Still waiting on pinch valve.
- Report on monitoring equipment – Controller \$4300. Earney stated the committee approved this purchase. Talbot commented that he is giving his funds from meetings back to the City to put towards the purchase.
- Earney further reported that the committee approved the purchase of the \$2200 piece that goes with the controller.
- Annual Property Inspections

Scott Noll 105 S. Main has been mowed per Deputy Reed, Taverna has been mowed per Gross, Settles is working on cleaning up, and A&B Schams has been taken care of. Featherstone – committee agreed that improvements have been made.

Gary Ruff inquired about the refrigerator on the Tim Lodermeier property on Second Street.

Talbot commented that he felt the Settles property on Second Street have not complied.

Moham stated that she felt the Featherston property needed more attention.

- City brushing, sign and dead tree concerns

Earney commented that the City Crew does a great job. Especially cleaning up Rieck's Park after the trees were removed. Monica concurred and that they only have a limited crew this year.

- Catholic church parking issue. Services committee will be taking care of this matter.

Earney stated that there is the agenda item of the sewer user charge ordinance that was presented a couple months ago by Mark Davy at Davy Engineering.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to adopt Ordinance #22-03 amending the sewer user charge in Chapter 52 of the City of Alma's code of ordinances.

Jerri Schreiber, property owner, commented that it shouldn't matter what size meter the person has since the sewer is based on the amount of water used. Jerri wanted to know what size meter her properties have. Linda went into the water and sewer computer and informed her that she has 5/8" meters. Jerri again stated that she doesn't think the size of meter should be charged differently.

Monica stated that the time for her to talk should have been at the public hearing.

Jerri Schreiber left the meeting.

All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Mayor Robert Gross informed the Council that he had attended a meeting with two individuals from the WI DOT and Kelly from Buffalo County Highway Department regarding the south end of Riverview Drive at the one-way area. The DOT representatives and Kelly reviewed the situation on Riverview Drive and stated that there is enough room to move the guardrails out to allow for two-way traffic. Kelly will be talking with Foreman Joe Wick regarding the cost of the County doing this project.

Linda stated that they will incorporate a cost for a wall along Riverview Drive with the next redo of Highway 35 that is tentatively scheduled for 2029 or 2030.

David Earney stated that he had attended the quarterly highway safety meeting at the Courthouse and Riverview Drive was discussed. Earney further stated that it would be a cost sharing with the WI DOT when the work is done.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Talbot to refer the Riverview Drive situation to the Utilities committee. All members voting yes.

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

Police Chief Mike Johnson stated that the engine braking signs are here and at the county shop for them to install.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee member Dave Earney stated the committee did not meet, however, there is an ordinance to be acted upon regarding parking.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to adopt Ordinance #22-04 amending Chapter 72: Parking of the City of Alma -Tall Vehicle Parking – No vehicle over 6’ in the three stalls from Kwik Trip’s north entrance/exit, west side of Main to Walnut St. All members voting yes.

Talbot inquired if the posts are set at 6’. Police Chief Mike Johnson responded yes; they are.

Chairman Rick Champeny commented that the Services Committee will meet the first week in September.

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

PARKS & RECREATION/TOURISM

Chairman Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had not met this month, however, there is an agenda item of appointing two members to the Tourism committee due to vacancies.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to approve the appointment of Pete Burckhard and Greg Scheeter to the tourism committee. All members voting yes.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Earney informed the Council that he attended the August 3, 2022, Fire Department meeting. The fire department discussed the motorcycle accident, parades attended, and their participation in the sidewalk insanity days planned for Sept. 10th. The department will be looking into purchasing graphics for the new garage doors that were installed. The department is seeking a Conagra grant, Earney stated.

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

AMBULANCE LIAISON

Liaison to the Ambulance Board, Gary Jepsen, informed the Council that he attended the meeting on July 25, 2022.

Jepsen stated that the service will be entering into a mutual aid agreement with the City of Wabasha.

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

Upcoming meetings:

August 12th at 11:30 a.m.-----Finance
September 8th at 8:30 a.m.-----Finance
September 8th at 6:00 p.m.-----Council

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.