

Sept. 8, 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, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney. Absent: Robert Talbot.

Jamie Duvall, Alma Music, and Art Fest committee, addressed the Council to say thank you for all the City of Alma and its city crew do so that the Music and Art Fest is a success. Duvall stated that over 900 people attended, there were local merchants, and 16 vendors. Duvall commented that the additional parking made out of the former volleyball courts was appreciated and the parking went well with the help of the Lions' members.

Duvall also thanked the City for the improvements made to the tennis/pickle ball courts and stated they are heavily used.

Mayor Gross thanked Jamie Duvall for his comments.

Motion by Earney seconded by Farl to approve the Public Hearing minutes of August 11, 2022 regarding the Tall Vehicle Parking Ordinance north of Kwik Trip to Walnut Street as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to approve the Public Hearing minutes of August 11, 2022 regarding the sewer rate increase. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the Council Proceeding minutes from August 11, 2022 as presented. All members voting yes.

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

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

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Champeny informed the Council that the committee met on September 7, 2022.

Chairman Richard Champeny informed the council that there will be a public hearing regarding the angle parking by the Catholic Church fifteen minutes prior to the October council meeting.

Resident Paul Schultz addressed the Council regarding the bottleneck situation that exists by the Catholic Church with the angle parking. Schultz stated that it should go back to angle parking on Sundays only to alleviate the narrow street during the week.

Linda informed the committee regarding a driveway request. She is working with the WI DOT regarding this matter and will report back to the committee.

Champeny informed the Council that Waste Management contacted Linda at City Hall and informed her that as of 12-31-2022 they will no longer provide the City of Alma with garbage bag service. The City will be advertising for bids for garbage bag service. Bids will be due into the city hall by Friday September 30, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. The Services committee will meet Monday, October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. to open the bids.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

David Earney reported that he attended the fire meeting on September 7th. Items discussed were:

- Graphics for the garage doors for fire, ambulance, and police. The fire department is getting bids for all 5 doors.
- Floor improvements with a sealer is being looked into.
- The department is looking at replacing the 1990 truck. If they would order today, it would take two years until they would receive it, Earney commented.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

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

The committee then recommended using the ARPA funds for sewer projects.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to use the ARPA funds for the Lift Station #2 project and the replacement of lift station pumps. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve a mobile home park permit to Steve Radsek. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve an Operator License to Janet Baum. All members voting yes.

The committee approved the hiring of Kenny Passow and Jane Langenfeld for the watering of the planters and the urns in the cemeteries at \$15.55 per hour.

The committee approved the hiring of Lee Salisbury for landfill assistant for 10 hours at \$15.55 per hour.

The committee met August 12, 2022 regarding the Chief of Police position. Mike Johnson agreed to work two days per week until a new chief is hired.

On August 26th the committee conducted interviews for the city crew positions. The committee hired John Halling at \$20.45/hour (has CDL) and David Zastrow at \$19.50/hour. Both began work on Monday, August 29th.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Moham to approve the Finance/Tax & License/Zoning committee reports for August 12th, August 26th and September 8th as presented. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman David Earney informed the Council that the committee met on August 29, 2022 and discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Tree concerns – Dead tree behind 809 N. Main St.

Richard Michel and Sandra Thompson expressed their concerns of the dead elm tree that is growing out of the open storm drain along their property. It was their understanding that the tree belonged to their neighbor, Jennifer Griffith. Sandra Thompson stated that she is concerned that the tree will fall onto their home and damage the storm drain that she thought was the City of Almas.

Jennifer Griffith stated that the tree is not on her property.

Cal Loewenhagen brought up the Buffalo County GIS Map of the parcels. According to the map, the tree is on Sandra Thompson's property. Sandra Thompson and Richard Michel stated that they will take care of the tree.

Cal stated that the only involvement that the City has with the drain is when debris is in it and near Hwy 35. The crew will clean out the drain.

- City lot – 401 N. Main St.

David Earney to clarify the members of the 401 N. Main lot committee are: Mayor Robert Gross, Robert Talbot, and Jennifer Griffiths.

David Earney commented that he would like one of two things for the lot for consideration:

- Playground
- Electric car charging station

Jennifer Griffith commented that she has been approached by others for a town square in the vacant lot.

The committee will meet in the near future to discuss some proposals of uses for the lot.

And, a reminder that the lot was purchased for a future city hall and library.

- Street sealing projects.

Joe informed the committee that the Buena Vista Road work should be done in September. Joe stated that the crew will do the sweeping of the rocks from the chip sealing work that was not included in Scott's contract.

- City sidewalk concerns.

David Earney commented that sidewalk work has been done in various places and looks good.

The Utilities committee will discuss the Tom Kennedy driveway on next month's agenda.

- 710 N. 2nd Street drain installation.

Joe informed the committee that he is waiting for Reglin & Hesch to do the work.

- Run-off concerns at 711 N. Main Street.

Joe will look into this matter when the storm drains are put in and observe the water run-off situation.

- Next year improvement projects.

David Earney requested that members think about projects needing to be done for budgeting. Earney commented that he felt Wall Street should be fixed and Cedar Street west.

- Plow truck purchase.

Joe informed the committee that the current plow truck, the 1997 International, may not pass DOT specifications for use this winter.

The committee instructed Joe to bring to committee prices of both used and new, if possible, for the next meeting for a plow truck.

Gary Jepsen suggested Joe look on the WI Surplus auction sites.

- Riverview Drive – moving out guardrail on south end to allow two-way traffic.

Linda received a quote from the County for moving the guardrail out on Riverview Drive to allow two-way traffic. The quote from the County is \$2,264.75.

Motion by Earney seconded by Ruff to take to approve of the moving of the guardrails on south Riverview Drive to allow for two-way traffic and to approve the quote from the County for doing the work in the amount of \$2,264.75. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

- Ordinance #22-04 Tall vehicle parking restricted from north driveway of Kwik Trip to Walnut Street.

Linda informed the committee that the ordinance was published, and the signs have been ordered.

- Sewer user charge ordinance.

Linda informed the committee that the new rate will be in effect for the September sewer and water billings.

- Shawn Welte report.

David Earney went over the report Shawn Welte provided.

- Any other wastewater concerns.

Cal informed the committee that the pinch valve should be done September 12th.

Rob Talbot left the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Lift Station #2 is waiting for TDS to remove a pole that is in the way of the work being done.

- Property at 504 S. 2nd St.

David Earney commented that the property owner had done some work, however, should not have been told at the last meeting that what he had done was sufficient. Committee members have received complaints regarding his property's condition.

Linda was instructed to talk to Mike Johnson, Police Chief, and send out 2nd notice violations letters to those Mike feels should receive them.

- Water system concerns.

Linda stated that the water in her neighborhood (south 2nd St.) has smelled and tasted bad with iron. Cal will flush hydrants to improve the situation he stated.

David Earney inquired about DNR Water Licensing. Cal stated that Bernie has some of the tests taken.

Cal stated that municipalities can share licensed employees for temporary purposes, if needed.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had met on September 7, 2022 and discussed and/or acted upon the following:

- Beach area concerns.
 - a. Parking. Chairman Larry Farl suggested meeting with the Little League regarding the parking for the tournaments this fall and again in spring, so everyone is on board with the parking. Mayor Gross suggested sending Seldmayr and Samantha Rolbiecki a letter finding out what days and times work for them.
 - b. Tennis courts. Larry Farl informed the committee that John Ambuehl, avid tennis and pickleball player, contacted him regarding the cracks in the tennis courts. John has been weeding the cracks since spring. Larry Farl contacted the company that resurfaced the tennis courts, and the cracks were to be filled. Larry stated that the company will come and repair the cracks under warranty.
 - c. Beach bathhouse improvements. Linda informed the committee that some of the toilets have been replaced and a new softener has been installed. Foreman Wick commented that the new softener is more efficient and takes up less space.
 - d. Larry Farl stated that the Music and Arts Fest was well attended. Linda shared an email she received from Jamie Duvall, coordinator of the Music and Arts Fest, stating their thank you to the City for all their assistance for the fest. Jamie will come to council and talk under citizen comments.

Mayor Gross stated that the beach is heavily used as it is and weeds accumulate before the water. Foreman Wick has cleared the weeds out and Mayor Gross commented it is much better now.

- Handicap fishing dock on Beach Harbor Road.

Farl informed the committee that he has spoken with Dave Ness from the Rod & Gun, and they are still thinking of ways to remove the dock for the winter months.

- City docks, courtesy dock, south landing, and Breckow's Landing.

No update on the docks.

- City parks and trails.

Mayor Gross stated that someone had contacted him regarding atv use on the Buena Vista Hiking Trail causing ruts and washout. Gross further stated that the Chief of Police checked out the situation and there was no evidence of atv travel on the trail causing the damage. Joe Wick stated that the natural slope causes washouts and Reglin and Hesch has repaired washouts in the past.

Joe informed the committee that Mann's will be grinding the stumps at Rieck's Park in the near future. He further informed the committee that 15 trees were cut down at the beach. This work was done by the city crew.

Discussion was held regarding updates needed for Rieck's Park.

The committee approved installation of new milk board in the bathrooms at Rieck's Lake park.

- Discuss donation funds.

The committee discussed having a standard of items that donations will be used for at the various parks and the possibility of having a plaque with donator names (\$100 or over) to be placed in the shelters out of the weather. The committee will keep working on developing a list of items.

Larry Farl suggested having Sarah Gailey, who works with the Tourism commission, develop a brochure showing where the donated money goes showing benches, tables, etc.

Rick Champeny suggested to add "buy a tree" to the brochure. No further action taken.

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

Motion by Moham seconded by Ruff to approve Resolution #22-06 Recognition of Curt Witynski and Gail Sumi for their service with the League of WI Municipalities. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

September 16, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.-----Finance
October 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m-----Services
October 13, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.-----Finance
October 13, 2022 at 5:45 p.m.-----Public hearing – angle parking
October 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.-----Council

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.