

**November 17, 2022**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**5:30 p.m.**

Mayor Robert Gross opened the public hearing to the public regarding the proposed 2023 Budget for the City of Alma.

Jerri Schreiber, business owner in Alma, questioned the need to spend \$78,915.00 for the library budget and the need for an 8.2% increase for the city employees.

It was explained to Jerri Schreiber that the Library Board sets the budget for the Library and the City approves or disapproves the amount submitted. The library receives funds from the County for library services was noted.

Gary Jepsen explained that the 8.2% increase was only for the full-time employees that were here last year that only realized a 3% raise increase. So, to bring them current the two percentages were combined for 2023.

Jerri Schreiber commented that the marina lease should be reviewed, and the City should be capturing more money. Since this public hearing was for the budget, she was asked to attend a Parks & Rec committee to express her thoughts on the marina.

Hearing no testimony for or against the proposed 2023 budget, Mayor Robert Gross closed the public hearing.

**November 17, 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 (zoom), Robert Talbot, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney (zoom).

Also present: City attorney Jon Seifert.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Moham to approve the public hearing minutes of October 13, 2022 regarding angle parking on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Ruff to approve the Council Proceeding minutes of October 13, 2022 as presented. All members voting yes.

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

Motion by Moham seconded by Talbot to approve the Treasurer's report for October 2022 as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizens comments: None.

### **FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE**

Chairman Gary Ruff reported that the committee had met on October 18th 2022 to review health insurance proposals from various agencies.

The committee met again today November 17, 2022 and made a recommendation to approve the Quartz Platinum P503 POS plan beginning December 1, 2022.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the health insurance plan Quartz Platinum P503 POS beginning December 1, 2022. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Gary Jepsen informed the Council that with electing the December 1, 2022 date the City will realize a savings of 8% per month instead of waiting until January 1, 2023. The December start date reflects a 13% increase over last years' premium; however, the January 1, 2023 start date would have meant a 21% increase from last year.

Chairman Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met regarding the proposed 2023 budget and recommends adoption.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to adopt the 2023 Budget for the City of Alma as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that Dwight Ruff was present at the meeting and requested that signs be placed on his property line next to the landfill. Dwight Ruff stated that if the signs are purchased by the City, he will install them and not hold the City to the fencing agreement. Dwight Ruff stated his main concern is safety.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to purchase 20 "no trespass" signs for Dwight Ruff to install and to obtain a statement from him that the signs are in lieu of the City maintaining the property line fence. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Talbot to approve Operator Licenses to: Lori Glass and Raeann Kurtzweg. All members voting yes.

Chairman Ruff stated that Clerk Linda Torgerson informed the committee that the City was served a claim from Timothy Paul stating he was injured at the deer dumpster located on the Countryside Coop. property on or about Dec. 3, 2019.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to deny the Claim submitted by Timothy Paul. All members voting yes.

Committee report for October 18, 2022 as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the Finance/Tax & License/Zoning Committee report for November 17, 2022 as presented. All members voting yes.

### **JOINT REVIEW BOARD**

The Joint Review Board meets annually for the Tax Increment Finance District. Representatives from the County, School, Vo-Tech, City, and a member from the public compose the Joint Review Board.

Chairman Ruff informed the Council that 2023 should be the last year of the TIF District.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the minutes of October 20, 2022 for the Joint Review Board as presented. All members voting yes.

### **WUTA LIAISON**

Gary Ruff informed the committee that there still is legislature out there to try to eliminate coal power plants. WUTA will meet next in January 2023.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the WUTA minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

### **BOARD OF APPEALS**

Linda informed the Council that the Board of Appeals met on Oct. 24, 2022 for a variance submitted by Jeremy Fernholz, 503 N Main Street. The Board approved his variance to raise his existing garage.

Motion by Moham seconded by Ruff to approve the Board of Appeals minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Robert Talbot, committee member, informed the Council that the committee met on October 31, 2022. Talbot stated that the committee had members of the city crew present to gain knowledge on how the meetings ran, which he felt was valuable.

Talbot stated that an actuator for the pinch valve not to exceed \$8,000 was approved by the committee along with an approval for a sampler not to exceed \$12,000.00.

Other items were property maintenance letters to be sent again to property owners who have not complied and/or responded to the previous letters.

David Earney asked Attorney Jon Seifert for guidance regarding the properties at 102 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 260 N STH 35.

Attorney Seifert stated that since both of these properties are uninhabitable, they could be declared a nuisance and the City could ask that the property be razed in 60 days. If they do not raze the building, the City could raze it and place the costs on the property owner's taxes.

David Earney stated that he would like to wait until after the first of the year to send out these letters.

Attorney Seifert commented on the property at 318 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. It was brought to his attention that the property owner is ignoring the citations that are being issued for the unkept lawn and the condition of the home and garage.

Seifert stated that if the property owner does not pay the citations the following can/will happen:

- Tax intercept will occur where his income taxes are intercepted.
- A motion can be made from the clerk of courts office to the judge and the property owner could go to jail.

It was determined that this property owner is aware of the citations and the amounts as he was sent them last year as well.

Seifert recommended sending the property owner a citation every Monday to get his attention. Since the lawn issue can't be addressed this time of year, the citation would be for the building conditions.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Talbot to instruct the Chief of Police to send citations every Monday to the property owner of 318 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Matt Olson) for the building conditions and to suspend the citations for the weeds and grass and to instruct Attorney Seifert to draft Matt Olson a letter letting him know the consequences of his action/non-action on the ordinance violations. All members voting yes.

Attorney Jon Seifert stated that he was contact regarding Lift Station #2 and the situation of a pole needing to be moved by TDS. TDS had informed the city engineer that they would not move the pole so that the sewer line from Lift Station #2 could be replaced. Joe Wick, foreman, stated that he had spoken with the local TDS repairman, and he felt that the line could be dropped so the work could be done. Seifert recommended allowing the foreman to work with the local TDS repairman.

Attorney Jon Seifert informed the Council that Linda had notified him of a situation with the property owner where the City's reservoir is locating and requesting possible removal of the reservoir. Seifert reviewed the recorded 1912 agreement that stated that the city could have the reservoir on this land for as long as it used it for the reservoir. Seifert stated that this is a matter where litigation may occur and suggested that the utilities committee meet in closed session with him to discuss this issue further.

In regard to the property at 504 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St that was mentioned that property owner has received a citation regarding the cleanup of his property. Earney stated he has made some progress.

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

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON**

Earney stated that nothing major is to be reported. Tom Brakke, fire chief, will be attending a services meeting to discuss the labels for the doors and the floor in the fire station.

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

### **AMBULANCE BOARD LIAISON**

Gary Jepsen reported that the ambulance crew as of a month ago has 100% on-call coverage.

Jepsen announced that the Ambulance applied for a state allocation with the largest award being \$200,000. The Alma Ambulance received a \$126,000 allocation from the state. Jepsen stated that the ambulance service will be looking at the purchase of a new ambulance, which will take an estimated two and a half years to get. They feel the resale of the current ambulance should be \$80,000 and that the current ambulance is in very good condition and the two-and-a-half-year wait won't impact service.

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

### **SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Chairman Richard Champeny informed the Council that no ordinance is needed to implement the parallel parking (Sunday only parking) on that portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from 201 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> to 307 S. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Signs are the only thing needed to be done.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Moham to purchase the signs, "Angle Parking Sundays Only" for this portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Six members voting yes. 1 nay (Earney).

Agenda Item 7: Jake braking concerns.

Mayor Robert Gross stated that he has received numerous complaints from a resident on Vista Drive regarding the jake braking he hears. Mayor Gross stated that the signs the city ordered for by the Silver Moon and Rieck's Lake bridge are not up. This matter will be looked into for resolution.

Police Chief Aarik Lackershire said that there is no safe place to pull over the trucks for jake braking in the areas near the Hwy 37 intersection. Lackershire commented that he has no problem enforcing the issue, however, the signs need to be in place.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Dec. 6, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. -----Utilities

Dec. 8, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. -----Finance

Dec. 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. -----Council

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