

**February 9, 2023**

**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.

Agenda Item 6: Appointment of Loren Mueller to fill the vacancy for 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman due to the resignation of Robert Talbot. Mueller will serve until the April 2024 election if appointed.

Motion by Earney seconded by Champeny to approve the appointment of Loren Mueller to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman until the April 2024 election. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Clerk Linda Torgerson took roll call with the following members present: Mayor Robert Gross, Richard Champeny, Gary Ruff, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Loren Mueller, Gary Jepsen and David Earney.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff to approve the January 12, 2023 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the January 2023 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Moham to approve the January 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

No citizens were present.

**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 recommended approval of a mobile home park permit to Lorena Hungerford.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve a mobile home park permit to Lorena Hungerford. All members voting yes.

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

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairman David Earney went over the minutes from the February 6, 2023 meeting.

One of the items discussed was the property owned by David Schams at 102 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

Schams had indicated he felt there was another five to ten years of habitable use of the property.

Attorney Seifert commented that since the County department condemned the property, before the City would allow occupancy again, an inspection would need to be done to prove the building is habitable and safe.

Larry Farl stated that the City should review the report, if available, of the condemnation of the property by the County.

Earney stated that another property owned by Matt Olson at 318 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street was also discussed. Olson was present at the committee and presented photos of why he felt he should not have received the citations.

Attorney Seifert informed the Council that Matt Olson had requested a court date to present his case to the judge. Matt Olson did not show up for the court date. Seifert stated that when someone does not appear, they are in default. Olson has approximately \$2,400 accumulated citations, Seifert commented. Seifert informed the Council that he had spoken to Matt Olson and told him that it is not the City's intent to collect the fine money and that the City would rather see him spend the money for fixing his property.

Seifert stated that the citations should not be reconsidered by the City unless he satisfactory fixes his property and brings it in compliance. He further commented that Olson should have a solid plan to fix the property and to bring the yard into compliance in the spring. Currently there are no further citations being issued for the yard.

Seifert stated he has not paid the citations and Olson could be held in contempt of court and the two remedies for the contempt could be set up a payment plan or jail which would be unlikely.

Attorney Seifert stated that the City was justified in issuing the citations. Seifert presented photos of the property that he had for the court date. Seifert commented that the garage is in violation of the City's minimum property maintenance ordinance along with the home and yard.

Earney commented that he informed Olson that the committee had a job to do and requested Olson come in with a plan at the March committee meeting.

Earney informed the Council that the committee met regarding the requests from Bill Wilcott, Castlerock Museum, for the Fire in the Shire event. Wilcott asked the same of the City as it had done in the past and the committee approved the closing of a portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> St from CTH E and the courthouse parking lot, use of the vacant lot across the street from City Hall and to have a walking parade from the West Side of Main, up Orange Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to the Castle. The committee approved the request.

The committee discussed the purchase of a broom attachment for the skid steer. Foreman Joe Wick was present for Council and went over the broom attachment he felt was the best fit for the City.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to approve the purchase of an Erskine Heavy-Duty HDXL Power Angle Broom 96” from LF George in the amount of \$9,175.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Earney stated that the committee went over sewer and water concerns and sidewalk concerns.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to approve the February 6<sup>th</sup> Utilities Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Larry Farl reported on the February 3<sup>rd</sup> committee minutes.

Farl stated the committee approved 3 fishing tournaments for South Landing. The tournaments are held on a yearly basis, and all has went well in the past during the tournaments.

Farl stated that Jarrad Fluekiger was present to inquire if South Landing and/or the city dock could be used for transporting people to and from the Fishing Float. The committee informed Jarrad that grants were obtained for the boat landing and the dock and no commercial business can be conducted from the government funded projects.

Farl stated that the committee is looking into park enhancements. Tree/shrub plantings, playground equipment, etc. are being discussed. Donation boxes will be placed at the beach and Rieck’s Lake Park to help fund some of the enhancement projects.

Motion by Moham seconded by Earney 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 met on February 3, 2023. Present were: Fire Chief Tom Brakke and Police Chief Aarik Lackershire.

Chip floor for the fire station was tabled until the next budget cycle. Brakke informed the committee that the cost for a replacement tanker is \$240,000.00.

Police Chief Aarik Lackershire gave an activities report for the committee and answered any and all questions.

Gary Jepsen commented that the purchase of LIDAR was a good idea for the police department.

Monica Moham commented that Police Chief, Aarik Lackershire’s, report was nicely done and very informative.

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

Mayor Gross announced that Agenda Item 10-appointment of Library Board member. Gross explained that Sarah Langhorst, citizen, is resigning from the Library Board. Gary Jepsen, Library Liaison, commented that this item has to be tabled since the proposed member is not a citizen of the City of Alma. Jepsen will notify Library Board President, Cindy Duley, and inform her of the situation. Gary Jepsen stated that it is hard for him to attend the Library Board meetings due to other meetings being held on that same evening. Monica commented that she would be willing to serve as a Library Liaison.

Upcoming meetings:

Council-----Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Finance-----Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Utilities-----Monday, March 6, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Jepsen commented to Police Chief Aarik Lackershire that Lexipo is the way to go for developing policies. Jepsen stated that there are always up to date. There is a cost and Chief Lackershire will be presenting this to the Finance committee in March.

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