

**April 13, 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.

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 Ruff seconded by Mueller to approve the Council proceeding minutes from March 16, 2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Champeny to approve the March 2023 Financial Report as presented. All the members voting yes by roll call.

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

No citizens were present for comments.

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

Chairman Gary Ruff informed the Council that the committee had met this morning and acted upon a building permit submitted by Gary Heim for 160 N. STH 35.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Jepsen to approve Operator Licenses to: Katherine Henry and James Keller. All members voting yes.

Gary Jepsen, committee member, informed the Council that the employee handbook needed to be updated and has presented the revised handbook to the Finance and Services committee and they recommended approval by the Council. Jepsen went over the major changes to the employee handbook.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Moham to approve the revised Employee Handbook after review of the city attorney. All members voting yes.

The council thanked Gary Jepsen for his work on the revisions to the handbook.

Chairman Ruff informed the Council that the TIF 1 loan has been paid and the TIF District will be closed this year.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to adopt Resolution #23-03 terminating TID 1. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Farl to approve the mobile home park permit applications submitted by Steven Radsek. All members voting yes.

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

Monica Moham addressed the Council as to the importance of purchasing and AED for the City Hall/Library. Police Chief Lackershire stated that there may be grant monies in June and to reach out to Justin Sass with the ambulance service.

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairman David Earney went over the committee minutes of April 10<sup>th</sup>. Earney went over the property maintenance issues and the status of each one. Street projects, sewer and water concerns were addressed.

Earney informed the council that the jake brake signage DOT permits have expired and will be reapplied for so that the State can put up the signs.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve the purchase of a grinder pump for Lift Station #4 from B & M Mechanical not to exceed \$14,000.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Ruff 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 met on March 22, 2023. The committee discussed Little League concerns. The city crew has completed the work on the bleachers.

Dave & Robin Becker were present to request pickle court painting on the basketball court to add another court when basketball isn't being played.

Foreman Joe Wick gave his summer updates to the committee, Farl stated.

Clean up day is scheduled for Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> with the 12<sup>th</sup> as a backup date in case of rain.

Motion by Farl seconded by Champeny to approve the International Bird Day Resolution as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny 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 March 22, 2023. One of the items discussed was the fire department's need for a new taker.

Fire Chief Thomas Brakke gave a presentation to the Council of the fire tanker that is needed for the department. He stated that the company will sit down with him and go over all the specs desired for the truck. Brakke stated that it will take two years to get the truck and no money has to be paid until the truck is delivered.

Motion by Ruff seconded by Earney to authorize the Alma Fire Department to order the tanker in the amount of \$279,082.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Farl to approve the Services Committee report for March 22, 2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

Chairman Richard Champeny went over the minutes of the April 11, 2023 minutes with the Council. The committee had recommended approval of the Employee Handbook which was approved this evening. The committee approved the train noise letter as drafted by Chairman Champeny and discussed flood preparations.

Flooding preparations are underway. The high school students will be coming tomorrow, April 14<sup>th</sup> to help with sandbags. The Alma South Landing dock has been pulled. Mayor Robert Gross has been in contact with Dave Ness from the Alma Rod & Gun Club regarding securing the new fishing float dock on Beach/Harbor Road.

Champeny informed the Council that he had prepared a letter to send to Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad regarding the noise created by the parked running trains. The letter was sent to Attorney Jon Seifert for review.

Attorney Seifert informed the Council that he felt the letter was appropriate. If there is no response from the railroad, then a letter from the attorney to backup the noise complaint would be in order, Seifert commented.

Champeny stated that he is concerned about the trains being parked and running in a refuge. He will address that at next month's meeting.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Ruff to approve the Services Committee report for April 11, 2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

Mayor Gross extended his gratification to Gary Ruff who has served on the Alma City Council for the past 26 years and wished him well. David Earney commented that throughout the years he has assisted many mayors as council president. The council and the City of Alma will miss Gary.

Gary Ruff stated that he will miss being on the Council and enjoyed serving the City of Alma and its residents.

Gary Jepsen informed the Council that he attended an emergency ambulance board meeting on March 20, 2023 to order the new ambulance. The ambulance service did receive a substantial grant and with the trade-in of the current ambulance was able to order the new ambulance. Jepsen reported that he had attended a Library Board meeting on March 20, 2023 as well. Jepsen commented that librarian, Laura Toone, has implemented a lot of new programs. The Library Board agreed to pay for her classes for certification with the stipulation that she remain librarian two years after receiving her certification.

Upcoming meetings:

April 18, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.-----Re-organization  
April 18, 2023 directly following Re-organization-----Special Council meeting  
May 4, 2023 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.-----Board of Review  
May 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.-----Utilities  
May 11, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.-----Finance  
May 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.-----Council

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