

May 11, 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.

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

Motion by Champeny seconded by Moham to approve the Council proceeding minutes from April 13, 2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Mueller to approve the April 2023 Financial Report as presented. All the members voting yes by roll call.

Motion by Farl seconded by Earney to approve the April 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

No citizens were present for comments.

Motion by Moham seconded by Jepsen to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 Special council meeting as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Moham to approve the April 18, 2023 Re-organization minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to approve the April 26, 2023 WUTA meeting minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to accept the lawn mower purchase. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

No discussion was held on the flood agenda item.

Motion by Moham seconded by Earney to appoint John Hadley as alternate for the Board of Appeals. All members voting yes.

No Operator License applications were submitted for the month.

Mayor Gross brought up that he received a call from Rob Stewart from the Alma School. Stewart wanted to know if the City would pay for swim lessons this summer school year. The lessons would be over at the Wabasha, MN pool. The school will bus the kids to and from lessons.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairman Gary Jepsen went over the committee meeting minutes from this morning.

Jepsen touched on Gary Heim 106 N. STH 35 property. Chief Lackershire to pay Mr. Heim a visit & take pictures to address the failure to return to City Hall with proper building plans & additional fees.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Farl to approve Combination Class B Beer & Liquor License to: Danzinger Vineyards, LLC-David Danzinger, agent. All members voting yes.

Jepsen touched on the background of the reasoning for the City paying Chief Lackershire's tuition. The library has a similar situation where Librarian Laura Toone was going thru some schooling.

Jepsen said that the total incurred costs would be about \$3,000 for classes for Lackershire. Once classes are completed the 3 ½ year retention would start.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Champeny to approve the tuition schedule. All members voting yes.

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

TOURISM COMMISSION

Chairman Larry Farl went over the committee minutes of April 19th.

Farl discussed getting down to one central website & not having separate for Chamber, etc.

Champeny asked Farl about being able to do anything about addressing the train noise with the tourism committee.

Moham brought up electric car charging stations. Jepsen said they are in need here. Possibly a grant process to be looked into.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny to approve the Tourism committee minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Jepsen questioned the taxation on the shed that Collins Plumbing, Inc. is erecting, to find out if there would be tax on it.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to approve the Board of Appeals minutes from May 2, 2023. All members voting yes.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to approve the Board of Review minutes from May 4, 2023. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman Larry Grisen went over the committee minutes of May 8th.

Grisen went over the street bid from Monarch Paving. Laue Street will be excluded from the project to stay under budget. West Cedar & Wall Street total \$48,190.67. Jepsen asked Foreman Wick for clarification that the bid would remain the same without Laue Street in it & that is correct.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to accept the Monarch Paving bid for West Cedar & Wall Street totaling \$48,190.67. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Backflow update – Wick commented that tomorrow they would be checking St. John’s Church. The courthouse is not ruled out yet, may do another inspection.

Mayor Gross brought up the street sweeping bill & let the committee know that Clerk Torgerson called & was able to get it lowered by \$1,200.00

Mayor Gross commented that the jake brake signs were not approved.

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

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman Richard Champeny informed the Council that the committee met on May 10, 2023.

One of the items discussed was the animal complaints. A dog is at large and has been defecating on the sidewalks.

Pigeons were also discussed as being a nuisance to Dave Becker.

Moham brought up Matt Olson’s property as there are trees growing between the house & garage. Atty Seifert commented that it is now Spring so property should be cleaned up. If this is not the case, he recommends tickets start being written.

Wick informed the committee that the fishing dock is now back in place.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Jepsen to send a thank you letter of appreciation for the fishing dock to the Rod & Gun Club. Champeny to draft the letter. All members voting yes.

Champeny addressed the parked train noise. Letters to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the WI DNR are being sent out. Jepsen asked Atty Seifert if our ordinance has enough merit to be upheld in court on trains. He is not sure. He liked the route of other committees addressing the issue first.

Chief Lackershire informed the committee that counterfeit \$100 bills have been circulating.

Earney touched on the new process for the fire department handling burn permits.

Motion by Farl seconded by Grisen to approve the Services Committee report for May 10, 2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

May 22, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.-----Parks & Rec.
June 8, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.-----Finance
June 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.-----Council
June 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.-----Utilities

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