

August 10, 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, Larry Grisen, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Loren Mueller, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney.

Motion by Farl seconded by Mueller to approve the July 13, 2023 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Moham to approve the July 2023 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Earney to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizens comments. No citizens were present.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairperson Gary Jepsen reported on the minutes of the August 10, 2023 committee meeting.

Jepsen stated that the committee had approved all vouchers, bills, and receipts.

He further stated that the committee, upon the advice from Foreman Joe Wick, approved summer crew worker, Jesse Peterson to full-time city crew at a rate of \$18.50/hr. with a raise to \$20.45/hr. upon completion of his CDL license.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Champeny to approve the addition of page 22 to the Employee Handbook, dealing with social media, and the revisions necessary to the Table of Contents and Index and adopting the Employee Handbook as a whole. All members voting yes.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Moham to approve the assessor's contract to Kleven Property Assessment for 2024 in the amount of \$6,900.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Jepsen stated that the committee discussed the lot prices for Shawnee Estates and will need the advice from the city attorney to entering into agreements with prospective buyers.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Farl to approve Operator Licenses to: Susan Miller and Kitt Patton. 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

Chairperson Larry Grisen inquired if the Council had any questions regarding the Utilities committee meeting minutes of August 8, 2023. None were presented.

Grisen informed the Council that representatives from Bill's Talk of the Town tavern and Riverside Bait and Tackle were present along with others from the community at the meeting to request a street dance on Saturday, September 16, 2023. They would like the portion of River Street from Orange Street north to Elm Street closed for the dance. They will be serving alcohol and need to have a sponsor to apply for the Class B Beer/Wine Picnic license.

Merri from Bill's Talk of the Town and Tess Erickson stated to the committee that they had contacted all the neighbors and stated they would be fine with the dance being held there. Larry Farl volunteered as a city liaison to monitor the street dance.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Farl to approve the closing of River Street from Orange Street to Elm Street for a street dance on September 16, 2023 pending notification of all neighbors. All members voting yes.

Grisen informed the Council that he had attended a USDA seminar regarding possible grants that the City of Alma could apply for. Grisen stated that the City of Osseo had obtained 7.2 million dollars from a USDA grant.

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

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Richard Champeny stated that the committee had not met, however, Ordinance Control Officer-Ken Passow, did meet and toured the City regarding properties not in compliance with the minimum property maintenance requirements ordinance. A list will be produced, and letters will be sent out after meeting with the full committee in the near future.

Champeny stated he felt Ken Passow was comfortable with his position and had no concerns.

Gary Jepsen informed the Council that the Finance Committee will be holding a special meeting on Monday, August 14th to develop an ad for a full-time police officer for the City.

Motion by Farl seconded by Jepsen to approve the Services Committee Chairperson's report as presented. All members voting yes.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had not met, however, will be coordinating the next meeting the same day as the Services committee meets.

AMBULANCE BOARD LIAISON

Gary Jepsen liaison reported that the ambulance board had met July 24, 2023. Jepsen reported that daytime coverage for the ambulance services is becoming more difficult. The board approved a per capita raise from \$19 to \$25 for municipalities for 2024.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Liaison David Earney reported that he attended the meeting late and they were eating so will not be charging for this meeting. Earney stated that he commends the Alma Volunteer Fire Department and all that they do.

The Council was presented with a map showing an easement that Richard Dienger would like from the City of Alma since they are interested in selling their property and currently is landlocked. This matter was referred to the Finance (Property) committee.

Upcoming meetings:

- Finance-----August 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- Services-----August 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
- Parks and Rec-----August 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- Finance-----September 14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
- Council-----September 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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