

November 16, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING

5:30 p.m.

Mayor Robert Gross opened the public hearing to the public regarding the 2024 Proposed budget for the City of Alma.

No public was present to give testimony for or against the proposed 2024 Budget for the City of Alma.

Mayor Robert Gross closed the public hearing.

November 16, 2023

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Robert Gross called the regular monthly meeting of the Common Council 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 Champeny seconded by Mueller to approve the October 12, 2023 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

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

Motion by Earney seconded by Champeny to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 23, 2023. All members voting yes.

Citizens comments. None present

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Farl went over the committee minutes of October 16, 2023. The majority of the meeting was working on projects to submit with the ARPA funding grants throughout the County. Buena Vista Park, Rieck's Lake Park and Beach Island Park projects were submitted for a possibility of receiving funding for each park in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Farl informed the Council that the City did receive the bid for the playground equipment from the City of Mondovi and is being placed at the Beach Island Park.

Moton by Moham seconded by Jepsen to approve the Parks & Recreation committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Grisen informed the Council that the committee had met on Oct. 16, 2023 to prepare the Utilities budgets for 2024.

Motion by Farl seconded by Champeny to approve the Utilities committee report for Oct. 16, 2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

Chairperson Larry Grisen informed the Council that the committee met on Nov. 3, 2023 to discuss projects to submit for the Local Road Improvement Program. Grisen stated that the committee submitted finishing of the blacktop on Shawnee Drive from the cemetery to the landfill gates.

Grisen further commented that Services will be looking into tying into this project by blacktopping inside the landfill gates around the recycling building.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Mueller to approve the Utilities report for Nov. 3, 2023 as presented. All members voting yes.

Chairperson Larry Grisen informed the Council that the committee had met on Nov. 14, 2023. Grisen stated that Rick Champeny, Services Committee chairman, also attended the meeting.

Sarah Sippl, USDA, was present at the committee meeting and went over the various grants and/or loans the City of Alma could apply for. Sarah stated that the City of Alma belongs to the Rural Partners Network which is a group of counties that assist with technical assistance and research into the community's needs.

Updates on the Lift Station 2 & 4 projects were given along with street project updates, Grisen commented. Water and sewer concerns were addressed.

Grisen inquired of City Attorney Seifert regarding any recourse the City could take regarding Monarch Paving contractors.

Attorney Seifert stated that the City could in the future put into the contract a performance clause, however, there are pros and cons to doing so. A contractor could decide not to submit a bid at all if a performance clause is put into the construction contract. Grisen inquired if the city would reject a bid, could they then contract with the county. Seifert stated yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Champeny to designate the Lift Station #2 project for ARPA funding. All members voting yes.

Lift Station #4 project has been submitted for Clean Water Fund loan.

Foreman Joe Wick informed the Council that the valve by the Post Office ended up being a project that took until 10 p.m. Monday evening. Joe commented that the flows should improve

since the new valve has been installed. The old valve allowed 2” of flow and the new one allows the full 8” of flow.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Moham to approve the Nov. 14, 2023 Utilities committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

AMBULANCE LIAISON

Gary Jepsen reported that he had attended the quarterly meeting. Discussion was held regarding obtaining a new location for an ambulance garage, Jepsen stated.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

David Earney reported that the fire department has obtained some new members. Dave commented that he will talk to the department regarding Firehouse Subs (a grant program that Sarah Sippl-USDA recommended).

Motion by Champeny seconded by Earney to approve the Fire Department liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairperson Gary Jepsen informed the Council that the committee had recommended approval of the easement to the Richard Dienger estate as presented. Jepsen stated that Attorney Seifert reviewed the easement and recommended amendments to the easement. Attorney Seifert stated that he has reviewed the amended easement, and it is in order.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Mueller to grant the easement to the Richard Dienger estate to grant access to the property. All members voting yes.

Jepsen then informed the Council that he was contacted by Kathy Kosidowski, daughter of Ruth Breitung regarding the existing easement Ruth has with the City for encroaching on Vine Street. Jepsen stated that they would like the clause in the easement stating that if the house no longer existed the easement would cease. Jepsen will speak with Kathy Kosidowski regarding this matter and will report back.

Jepsen stated that the committee went over the city crew’s compensation for certifications that they are required to have with both sewer and water.

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to increase the compensation for certifications required for the city crew from .25/hr. per certification to .50/hr. per hour per certification effective January 1, 2024. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Jepsen informed the Council that the committee will be conducting interviews for Chief of Police on November 29, 2023 at 10 and 11 a.m.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Champeny to adopt the 2024 Budget for the City of Alma as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Jepsen informed the Council that loans had to be obtained from the Bank of Alma for the Lift Station #4 project, Lift Station #2 Project, and a modification for the Operational Loan.

Motion by Farl seconded by Mueller to approve the interim financing of \$1,060,000.00 from the Bank of Alma for the Lift Station #4 Project. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Earney seconded by Champeny to approve the borrowing of \$105,000.00 from the Bank of Alma for the Lift Station #2 Project. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to approve the modification of the Operational Loan by increasing the borrowing capacity by \$100,000.00. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Mueller to approve an Operator License to Kyle Nelson. All members voting yes.

The people interested in buying lots at Shawnee Estates have not contacted the City. Jepsen stated that when they do then the committee will bring it before the Council.

Jepsen stated that he has a draft of the food truck vendor ordinance. Larry Grisen suggested some changes to the ordinance. Discussion was held and Jepsen stated that the ordinance will come before the Council in January.

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

Dave Earney commented that he felt it would be a good idea for Chairman of all committees to meet with the city crew once a month so that they don't necessarily need to be at the committee meetings.

Foreman Joe Wick stated that they don't mind attending the meetings, however, it depends on the day and the work that is planned for the day. Joe stated that he is always available by phone.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Park & Recreation-----November 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
Services-----November 27, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.
Utilities-----December 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
Finance-----December 14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
Council-----December 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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