

February 8, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING

5:45 p.m.

Mayor Robert Gross opened the public hearing to the public regarding Ordinance #24-01 which amends Chapter 52: Sewers of the Code of Ordinances revising the sewer user charges.

Jon Wisneski, owner of Homestyle Laundry in Alma, stated he was not in favor or against the ordinance, however, he would have liked the increase to have been less over a greater period of time instead of such a large percentage increase all at once.

No other testimony was received either for or against the ordinance, Mayor Gross closed the public hearing.

February 8, 2024

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, Monica Moham, Larry Farl, Loren Mueller, Gary Jepsen (via zoom) and David Earney.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Mueller to approve the Jan. 11, 2024 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Moham to approve the January 2024 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny to approve the January 2024 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Citizens comments. None.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Utilities committee member, Dave Earney, stated that the Council had to act on Ordinance #24-01 amends Chapter 52: Sewers of the Code of Ordinances revising the sewer user charges. A public hearing was held this evening prior to the meeting hearing no comments for or against the ordinance. Earney re-stated the sewer user charges.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to adopt Ordinance #24-01 amending Chapter 52: Sewers of the Code of Ordinances revising the sewer user charges. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SEWER USER CHARGES

The Common Council of the City of Alma, Wisconsin amends CHAPTER 52: SEWERS of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Alma as follows:

Section 52.10: SEWER USER CHARGE SYSTEM

Section 52.10 (E) SERVICE CHARGE. The Service Charge shall be billed by the size of water meter installed and payable quarterly.

1. APPENDIX A: USER CHARGES is amended to read as follows:

(A) *Service charge.* Each customer will be charged a quarterly service charge based on the water meter size as follows:

5/8",3/4"-----	\$74.60
1"-----	\$116.04
1.5"-----	\$198.93
2"-----	\$290.11
>=4"-----	\$770.87
Unmetered-----	\$74.60

(B) *Unit charge.* The unit charge for operation, maintenance, and replacement shall be as follows:

- (1) The unit charge for metered users shall be \$14.20 per 100 cubic ft.
- (2) The unit charge for non-metered residential users shall be \$192.25 per

quarter.

2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance applies to all sewer billings after passage and publication of this Ordinance.

3. All other provisions of the sewer user charge ordinance remain in effect.

Duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Alma this 8th day of February, 2024.

/s/

Linda M. Torgerson

City Clerk

/s/

Robert Gross

Mayor

Dave Earney stated that Council agenda Item 6: Badland Road had been discussed by Chairperson Larry Grisen and Town of Nelson Chairperson Brad Mikelson. Grisen had listed the agreed upon conditions for a written contract and this was sent to City Attorney Seifert to be drafted and acted upon in March.

Gary Jepsen inquired if a cost analysis was done between the snow plowing the City of Alma was doing versus the Town of Nelson's roadside mowing and plowing of Spooner Road.

Joe Wick, foreman, present at Council stated that the cost analysis was done. Dave Earney quoted the difference of being slightly over \$300.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Larry Farl, committee member, informed the Council that the committee had met on January 30, 2024. Larry Grisen had presented to the committee for the City of Alma to apply for the RAISE grant for repair/replacement of the city's staircases. Sarah Sippl, USDA, was present along with community organizations and citizens for input.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Moham to approve the January 30, 2024 Finance/Tax & License/Zoning committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had met this morning regarding several issues.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Mueller to grant Operator Licenses to: Charlotte Semling and Kaden Litchfield. All members voting yes.

Motion by Moham seconded by Mueller to grant Mobile Home Park permits to: Lorena Hungerford and Steven Radsek. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Farl to renew the City of Alma's Liability, Worker's Compensation and Property Insurance with the League of WI Municipalities' insurance not to exceed \$44,791.00. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Moham seconded by Champeny to adopt Resolution #24-01 World Migratory Bird Day Resolution. All members voting yes.

Farl informed the Council that the committee had discussed the deterioration of the City Hall/Library building and the committee felt that the Riverland Energy Cooperative building would be the city's best option. Committee member Richard Champeny drafted a letter he shared with the Council to Riverland Energy expressing the City's interest in the building. Discussion was held.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Moham to approve the letter to Riverland Energy Cooperative drafted by Richard Champeny and to send the letter to Riverland Energy Cooperative. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Champeny to approve the February 8, 2024 Finance/Tax & License/Zoning committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Richard Champeny informed the Council that the committee had met on February 1, 2024.

The letter of interest in working with the Buffalo County Sheriff's office for City police protection was sent to the Law Enforcement committee. The Law Enforcement committee will be meeting Feb. 19, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Champeny reported that the Ordinance Control Officer, Ken Passow, had contacted him regarding training for animal handling and that he was not interested in the training in Madison. This matter will be brought back to the committee for resolution.

Tom Brakke and Ben Schams were present from the Alma Fire Department and would like to have built an exterior stairway from the south bay to the basement level, so they do not have to drive around. The committee will be getting pricing from Chief Brakke for the next meeting.

Champeny stated that the City advertised for a landfill assistant. Foreman Joe Wick announced that he and Mayor Gross interviewed two of the applicants and hired Sarah Buehler from the City of Alma and she will start next Friday.

Champeny stated that the committee discussed a request to sell cemetery lots in Blocks B & C, which are the hillside upper lots. The City had received a request in the past and under advisement of the City Attorney reaffirmed the unwritten policy of not selling cemetery lots in Blocks B & C until all cemetery lots in Blocks A & D (lower part of cemetery) were sold. The committee reaffirmed the motion reaffirming this policy.

City Attorney commented at Council that this is still his recommendation.

Champeny stated that there had been some issues with the collection of garbage bags from the hauler, however, that issue has been resolved. The committee will be reviewing the request to have rolling dumpsters in some of the residential areas at the next meeting.

AED's have been installed in all locations except the landfill. The landfill needs a heating system before the AED can be installed. Justin Sass, Western Buffalo County Ambulance Service will be training the city employees on the AEDs operation.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee had not met, however, received notice that the City of Alma will be receiving \$36,224 from the ARPA Parks grant fund in total for the 3 city parks. The committee had worked on wish lists for Buena Vista Park, Beach Island Park, and Rieck's Lake Park. The grant review committee approved specific items that need to be purchased and/or done at each park and the City has to expend the monies and then request reimbursement.

The used playground equipment purchased from the City of Mondovi is being installed at the Beach Island Park with the good weather.

AMBULANCE BOARD

Monica Moham attended the Ambulance Board meeting on January 29, 2024. Monica provided the Council with minutes she had received from Justin Sass at the meeting. Moham stated that this meeting was their budget meeting.

Gary Jepsen thanked Monica for attending the meeting in his absence.

Mayor Robert Gross commended the dedication of the ambulance service.

LIBRARY LIAISON

Jepsen stated no report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Dave Earney reported that he had not attended the Feb. 7, 2024 meeting, however, acknowledged their attendance at the Services Committee meeting. Earney stated that the decals for the garage doors will be done when the weather permits, and they would like exterior stairs down to the lower level on the south end.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Law Enforcement committee meeting on February 19, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference room of the Courthouse. David Earney and Gary Jepsen will attend.

Finance/Tax & License/Zoning Committee will meet Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Jepsen stated that Food trucks will be an item for discussion.

Council will be Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.