

**March 14, 2024**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**6:00 p.m.**

Acting Mayor Gary Jepsen called the regular monthly meeting of the Common Council of the City of Alma to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Council held a moment of silence for former Mayor, Robert Gross.

Clerk Linda Torgerson took roll call with the following members present: Acting Mayor Gary Jepsen, Richard Champeny, Larry Grisen, Monica Moham, Loren Mueller, and David Earney (Zoom).

Motion by Moham seconded Mueller to approve the Public Hearing minutes of February 8, 2024. All members voting yes.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to approve the Council Proceeding minutes of February 8, 2024. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Mueller to approve the Special Council meeting on February 13, 2024. All members voting yes.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to approve the Financial Report for February 2024. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded Mueller to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2024. All members voting yes.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Larry Farl informed the Council that the committee met on February 21, 2024.

The committee reviewed and approved all ARPA expenditures for the parks.

A fishing tournament was approved for Gregg Kizewski representing the Upper Midwest Challenge Series for fishing tournaments to be held at the Alma South Landing on June 9, 2024 and August 18, 2024.

Joe Wick informed the committee that the observation deck at Rieck's Lake Park could use some work.

The committee approved the purchase of a donation box to be placed by the observation deck at Rieck's Lake Park.

The committee discussed various things that the city's portion of the room tax funds could be used for and felt that the Welcome to Alma signs could be changed, however, still incorporating

the Step Into Living History theme. Loren Mueller will talk to Rob Stewart, Alma School Superintendent, regarding allowing students to come up with possible designs for the Welcome to Alma Signs and possibly making them.

Motion by Moham seconded by Mueller to approve the Parks and Recreation committee report for February 21, 2024 as presented. All members voting yes.

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

Chairperson Gary Jepsen informed the Council that the committee met on February 20, 2024 for the sole purpose of establishing prices for the industrial lots.

The committee approved setting the price of Lot #1 of the industrial lots at \$24,000 and \$36,000 for Lots #2 and #3 for industrial use.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Farl to approve the February 20, 2024 committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

Chairperson Gary Jepsen informed the Council that the Library Board had met March 11, 2024 to discuss pursuing the Library/Community building grant. Jepsen reported that the board approved moving ahead. In order for the grant to be obtained, the City would have to donate the city-owned property at 401 N. Main Street for the building.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Champeny to authorize Library Director, Laura Toone, and the Library Board to proceeding with the building grant. All members voting yes.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Grisen to designate the city-owned property at 401 N. Main Street (vacant lot), for the proposed Library and Community center for the building grant. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to approve the March 11, 2024 Library Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

Chairperson Gary Jepsen informed the Council that the committee met on March 12, 2024. The Mobile Food Ordinance was discussed. Business owners did attend the meeting.

Jerri Schreiber, business owner in attendance at the Council meeting felt the City should charge a fee for the mobile vendors. Jepsen stated that the mobile vendors have to pay fees to the state and the city felt that no fees should be assessed.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to approve the final draft of the proposed Mobile Food Vendor ordinance and to hold a public hearing prior to next month's Council meeting.

Jepsen reported that the committee discussed the City's law enforcement situation.

Gary Jepsen informed the committee that he had met with the Fountain City Mayor and City Clerk regarding sharing with the City of Alma's contracted officer at a much lower cost for them.

Jepsen suggested to Fountain City that the City of Alma would have the officer 3 days a week and Fountain City two days a week.

Jepsen stated that he had attended the Fountain City Council meeting and presented them with an officer for 18 hours per week at a much reduced cost than they are paying now. Jepsen has not heard from Fountain City.

Motion by Farl seconded by Champeny to approve the change of treasurer for Kwik Trip, Inc. to David Wagner replacing Jeffrey Wrobel on their liquor license application All members voting yes.

Motion by Farl seconded by Mueller to require Gary Jepsen, Acting Mayor's, signature for the city financials until a Mayor is elected and office is official. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Farl seconded by Jepsen to remove former deputy clerk Terry Peterson from the safety deposit signature card and authorizing the current deputy clerk, Sharaya Reed's name to be added to the signature card for the city's safety deposit boxes. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Champeny seconded Grisen to approve a mobile home park permit to Keith Mississippi Properties for 2024. All members voting yes.

Building permits for Danzinger Winery were approved and a building permit pending State approval for a new home by Paul Eppen was approved, Jepsen stated.

All bills, vouchers, and receipts were reviewed and approved by the committee.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to approve the March 12, 2024 Finance/Tax & License/Zoning committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Larry Grisen informed the Council that the committee met on March 12, 2024. Items discussed and acted upon were the following:

- a. Badland Road

The committee recommended Council rescinding the motion of the Common Council meeting of October 12, 2023 regarding the discontinuance of snow removal of the Town of Nelson's portion of Badland Road.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Farl to rescind the motion of the Common Council meeting of October 12, 2023 regarding the discontinuance of snow removal of the Town of Nelson’s portion of Badland Road. All members voting yes.

b. Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Nelson

The committee recommended approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Nelson describing work to be done by the City of Alma and the Town of Nelson for Badland Road and Spooner Road.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Moham to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Nelson describing work to be done by the City of Alma and the Town of Nelson for Badland Road and Spooner Road. All members voting yes.

c. Street projects for 2024

Grisen informed the Council that the committee will be opening bids for the street work for 2024 on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Grisen stated that the City will be applying for the BRICK grant in the fall when the grant cycle opens.

Motion by Champeny seconded by Farl to approve the Utilities Committee report as presented for March 12, 2024. All members voting yes.

Motion by Farl seconded by Champeny to enter into CLOSED SESSION under exemptions set under Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. The Council will reconvene into Open Session. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Farl seconded by Mueller to reconvene into Open Session. All members voting yes.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to accept the offer from the California developer of \$20,000 for Lot #1 of the Industrial lots. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Upcoming meetings:

Utilities-----April 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Finance/Tax & License/Zoning-----April 9, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Council-----April 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with Public Hearing prior at 5:30 p.m.

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

Motion by Moham seconded by Farl to recommend to the Council rescinding the motion of the Common Council meeting of October 12, 2023 regarding the discontinuance of snow removal of the Town of Nelson's portion of Badland Road. All members voting yes.

- i. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Nelson.

Motion by Farl seconded by Moham to recommend approval to the Council of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Nelson. All members voting yes.