

May 9, 2024

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Richard Champeny 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 Richard Champeny, Davie Meier, Larry Grisen, Randy Brommer, Loren Mueller, Gary Jepsen and David Earney. Absent: Larry Farl.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to approve the April 11, 2024 Public Hearing minutes regarding the Mobile Food Vendor ordinance as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Mueller to approve the April 11, 2024 Council Proceedings minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Brommer to approve the April 16, 2024 Re-Organization Meeting minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to approve the April 16, 2024 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to approve the April 2024 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stacy Lewellyn, resident appearing by zoom, inquired about the animal account and situation. Loren Mueller, newly appointed chairman to the Services Committee, stated that he will be looking into the situation and reporting back to Lewellyn.

Shawn Squires, Chief Executive Officer of Cochrane Cooperative Telephone (CCT), stated that he will be speaking on broadband for Shawnee Estates under the Finance Committee report.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairperson Gary Jepsen informed the Council that the committee had met on Tuesday, May 7th. One of the items that was acted upon was a building permit application submitted by Xcel Energy for a proposed substation at 1300 S. Main, the former Countryside Cooperative property. The committee recommended Council approval of the substation pending approval by the Board of Appeals for an area variance.

Dawn Schultz and Bob Schultz of Xcel Energy explained the project for the substation at 1300 S. Main to the Council and answered any and all questions they had.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Mueller to approve Xcel Energy building a substation at 1300 S. Main St., pending approval of the Board of Appeals for an area variance. All members voting yes.

Mayor Richard Champeny read the statutes being used to convene into closed session.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Meier to convene into CLOSED SESSION under exemptions set under Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advise concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation to which it is or is likely to become involved and under exemptions set under Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. The council will reconvene into open session. All members voting yes.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Motion by Mueller seconded by Brommer to approve the Real Estate Purchase Agreement for Shawnee Estates. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

John Dusek III, purchaser of Shawnee Estates from Prescott, WI, and Mayor Richard Champeny signed the Agreement.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to establish a separate fund at the bank for rebates as stated in Addendum A once received. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Gary Jepsen informed the Council that an option to purchase contract will be coming in soon for the industrial lot off of Shawnee Drive.

Shawn Squires, Cochrane Cooperative Executive Officer, addressed the Council regarding bringing broadband into the industrial lots and the subdivision on Shawnee Drive.

Squires presented a handout to the Council showing the layout and costs of the project. Squires stated that Buffalo County does have funds available to assist and/or pay for the cost of this project. Squires stated that the Buffalo County Finance and Economic committee will be meeting, Thursday, May 16th at 8:30 a.m. in the County Board Room. Gary Jepsen stated he would attend the meeting.

Grisen inquired if the County allocated funds to cities. Shawn Squires stated that the City of Fountain City received \$110,000.00 from the County for a broadband access project.

The council thanked Shawn Squires for his attendance and input regarding the much needed broadband access in this area.

Council agenda Item 13: Library Grant

Library Director, Laura Toone, spoke to the Council regarding the library grant and presented handouts to the Council about the needs of the library. Cindy Duley, Library Board President, expressed to the Council the increase in use and attendance at the library.

Discussion was held regarding the grant. Toone stated that the City of Alma would be applying for the grant.

Toone and Duley stated that the Library Board chose the school land for the library because it is required to have off-street parking for the library building and there was no location in the City that could provide that.

Former Librarian, Linda Torgerson, stated that she had worked very hard to move the library from the 505 S. 2nd Street location to its present location to provide visibility and ease of access. Torgerson stated that circulation after the move went from 900 per year to over 11,000 per year and was not in favor of the school location.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Brommer to support the Alma Public Library applying for the grant for a new library to be located at the school property. Five members voting yes. One abstain (Grisen) by roll call vote.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to rescind the motion offering the city lot at 401 N. Main Street to the library for a new building. All members voting yes.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Motion by Mueller seconded by Meier to approve the Board of Review minutes of May 2, 2024 as presented. All members voting yes.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Loren Mueller, Chairperson, went over the minutes of the May 6th meeting. Mueller stated that the committee discussed the police situation. One of the items of additional cost to contracting with the county was flock cameras. Jepsen stated that one of the cameras will be built into the 80/20 costs and will inquire if a 2nd camera could be in on the 80/20 as well. Jepsen will inquire if the flock cameras in the Village of Nelson and elsewhere were funded by those municipalities and report back.

Council agenda item #9: Blacktop bid for landfill parking area inside the gates.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to approve the bid submitted by Monarch Paving for the landfill parking area inside the landfill gates for \$16,498.95. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Council agenda Item #Revised fire truck price.

Mueller informed the council that the fire department requested an additional \$10,000 for needed options for safety.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve the additional \$10,000 for safety needed options for the new fire tanker. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

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

Council Agenda Item 11: Approval of Alma Music and Art Festival for 2024.

All Council had received a letter from James Duvall with the Alma Music and Arts Fest. This is an annual letter that is presented to the City for approval to hold the festival at the beach location.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Earney to approve the Alma Music and Art Festival for 2024. All members voting yes.

Council Agenda Item 12: Appointment to Tourism Commission.

Mayor Richard Champeny tabled this agenda item until further information is received.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Council Agenda Item#14: Employee handbook changes.

Gary Jepsen explained that holiday for working a holiday was omitted from the employee handbook revision and needs to be corrected to reflect. Jepsen explained that if an employee works the holiday, the employee should get time and one-half pay.

Jepsen informed the Council that the committee approved the rate of \$19.75/hour for new employee, Robert Olson, who has special qualifications in concrete work.

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

AMBULANCE BOARD LIAISON

Davie Meier, Ambulance Board Liaison, informed that the Board had met and discussed the need for an increase of approximately \$5,000 per municipality to cover the funds needed for the new ambulance.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve the Ambulance Board Liaison report as presented. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

Utilities-----May 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Parks & Rec-----May 14, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Utilities-----June 10, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Finance-----June 10, 2024 at 10:30 a.m

Council June 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.