

February 13, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

5:00 p.m.

Mayor Richard Champeny opened the Public Hearing to the public regarding the re-zoning of the Industrial Lots off of Shawnee Drive from Industrial to Business/Commercial.

No comments were received for or against the re-zoning of the industrial lots.

Mayor Champeny closed the public hearing.

February 13, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

5:05 p.m.

Mayor Richard Champeny opened the Public Hearing to the public regarding Ordinance #25-01 sewer ordinance amendment regarding laterals in the R2 district.

No comments were received for or against Ordinance #25-01 sewer ordinance amendment regarding laterals in the R2 district.

Mayor Champeny closed the public hearing.

February 13, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

5:07 p.m.

Mayor Richard Champeny opened the Public Hearing to the public regarding the Offer to Purchase the Riverland Energy Property.

No comments were received for or against the Offer to Purchase the Riverland Energy Property.

Mayor Champeny closed the public hearing.

February 13, 2025

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, Larry Farl, Loren Mueller, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney.

Randy Brommer informed the Council that he was not at the January 16, 2025 Council meeting as stated in the minutes. Clerk Linda Torgerson will amend the minutes.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Mueller to approve the January 16, 2025 Council Proceeding minutes as corrected. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve the Financial Report for January 2025 as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Farl seconded by Earney to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2025 as presented. All members voting yes.

No citizen comments were received.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Grisen informed the Council that the committee met on February 10, 2025 and that one of the agenda items were for crack filling/chip sealing bids. The committee reviewed the two bids that were received and the committee recommended awarding the Laue St and North 2nd Street projects to Scott Construction in the amount of \$41,792.00 and awarding the Vista Drive project from Riverview Drive to Secrist Hill in the amount of \$34,015.00 with the sweeping/vacuuming up of the excess chips.

Jack Dittmar, Scott Construction, was present at Council to go over his bid.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to award the Laue St. and North 2nd St. crack filling/chip seal bid to Scott Construction in the amount of \$41,792.00 with an additional amount for the vacuuming of excess chips. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to award the Vista Drive crack filling/chip seal bid to Fahrner Asphalt in the amount of \$34,015.00 with an additional amount for the removal of the excess chips. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Loren Mueller went over the committee minutes of February 4, 2025. Items discussed were:

- Other cemetery concerns. The possibility of opening up Blocks B & C for sale in the Memorial Cemetery. This matter was tabled.
- Other animal concerns. Stacy Lewellyn of Animal Friends of Alma gave the committee an update on the feral cats and the trap, neuter, and release program. She looked for guidance on how to notify residents and visitors of the animal regulations. She will work on a brochure with Linda
- Pigeon ordinance. The committee recommends approval of the Council of the ordinance drafted by Gary Jepsen with a public hearing prior to the March council meeting.
- New fire truck tender has arrived. The 1990 Kodiak tanker will be sold on the WI Surplus site with the monies from the sale to be paid on the new tanker loan at the bank.
- The new ambulance has been delayed for one year; however, the new chassis will be a 2026.
- Cemetery rules and signage/ordinance. Gary Jepsen will be drafting an ordinance with the rules for the next meeting.

- Dairyland Power has marked the property where the city can dump snow south of the city limits.
Motion by Jepsen seconded by Meier to approve the Services Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Davie Meier went over the committee minutes of February 6, 2025. Items discussed and/or acted upon included:

- Tree removal update. Davie Meier reported to the Council that the Corps of Engineers has given their blessing to remove the tree at Rieck's Lake Park. The state will be flagging for Xcel who will be removing the tree.
- Corps of Engineers-Lease for Rieck's Lake Park. Davie Meier completed a 5 year plan regarding the City's plans for Rieck's Lake Park. This is a condition of the lease from the Corps.
- The Little League program was discussed. Mayor Champeny will be contacting Jeff Sedlmayr regarding advertising. Porta pots will be ordered for by the ballfield area during the season.
- Joe Wick went over the conditions of the parks, docks, beach, etc.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to approve the Parks and Recreation committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE CONT'D

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Mueller to adopt Ordinance #25-01 sewer ordinance amendment regarding laterals in the R2 district. All members voting yes.

Grisen stated that the streets that will be chip sealed will be double chip seal which will last approximately 5 years.

Grisen informed the council that the pre-construction meeting was held yesterday, February 12, 2025 for the Lift Station #4 project. The project will begin this spring if there is no flooding.

Randy Brommer will be heading a sub-committee for the viewing platform at the bottom of the Bluff Street steps which are to be removed during the Lift Station #4 project.

The survey is complete for the retaining wall project from 501 N. 2nd to Walnut Street on the East side of 2nd Street. Property owners will be notified of the required tree removal for the project.

Grisen further stated that there are no FEMA funds for the retaining wall project since there was no disaster declaration declared, and maintenance has not been done over the years.

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

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairperson Gary Jepsen went over the committee minutes of February 10, 2025.

The following items were discussed/acted upon.

- Building permit applications. The building permit application submitted by Dylan Fluekiger, 1116 Riverview Drive for a 40' x 50' garage/shed with 12' sidewalls was sent back to the applicant to provide the committee with a complete application.
- The committee recommended approval of the re-zoning of the Industrial lots off of Shawnee Drive to business/commercial.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Brommer to re-zone the industrial lots off of Shawnee Drive to business/commercial. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

- There were no known building permit violations.
- Frequently asked questions for library open house. Committee recommended approval.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Brommer to approve the frequently asked questions for the library open house as drafted by library director Laura Toone. All members voting yes.

Jepsen presented an operating cost comparison from the existing library to the new library.

Grisen commented it would be nice to know how many attended the library open house. Jepsen stated that positive comments were received.

- The committee recommended approval of the Offer to Purchase of the Riverland Energy property.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve the Offer to Purchase of the Riverland Energy property with the deletion of item #12 in the offer. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Larry Grisen stated that the cost of \$600,000.00 to repair 1500 square feet compared to the purchase of a property three times larger for \$325,000.00 is a no brainer.

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

Motion by Mueller seconded by Farl to approve Resolution #25-01 World Migratory Bird Day. All members voting yes.

TOURISM COMMISSION

Chairperson Davie Meier went over the minutes of January 14, 2025 and February 11, 2025 of the tourism commission.

Banners are being discussed for the street light poles to replace the old ones; including metal ones.

Advertising to promote tourists coming to the City and spending overnight stays in Alma was discussed.

Davie Meier informed the council that there will be a tourism meeting at the Great River Theater on February 24th to hear Andrew Nussbaum with Travel Wisconsin on promoting tourism and the public is invited.

Mayor Champeny informed the Council that he had spoken with what was formerly WI Indianhead Country regarding having another Governor’s Fishing Opener held in Alma. There are 12 Counties that have to rotate the opener and would be at least 10 years for it to come back to Alma.

Motion by Brommer seconded by Grisen to approve the February 11, 2025 Tourism Commission meeting minutes and report as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve the January 14, 2025 Tourism Commission meeting minutes and report as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Grisen to approve the Notice of Disallowance of Claim bearing the date of December 3, 2024 from claimant Dave Schams. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Motion by Meier seconded by Mueller to approve the February 12, 2025 Planning Commission minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Upcoming meetings:

Next Council will be Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with public hearings beginning at 5:30 p.m.

- Utilities-----March 10, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
- Finance-----March 10, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.
- Services-----March 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- Tourism-----March 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

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