

August 5, 2025

SERVICES COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m.

Chairperson Loren Mueller called the meeting to order with the following members present: Loren Mueller, David Earney and Gary Jepsen.

Also present: Mayor Richard Champeny, Ben Schams-Fire Department, Police Officer Emily Rybarczyk, Code Enforcement Officer Ken Passow, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Torgerson.

Agenda Item 1: Cemetery concerns.

Loren Mueller discussed the Dairyland Power project that will be going through the cemetery. Loren stated that they will be doing a prairie restoration project.

Two signs are on order for the cemetery rules. Another sign needs to be ordered for the Alma Public Cemetery due to the two entrances into the cemetery.

Discussion was held regarding the cemetery ordinances saying only one cremation with a regular burial. Gary Jepsen will amend the cemetery ordinance to reflect the eight cremations with a regular burial which has already been approved.

Burning at the Alma Memorial Cemetery happened over the weekend. The City has a “no open burning” ordinance. The committee would like the violators to be sent a letter notifying them of the ordinance or citations that could be issued.

Agenda Item 2: Fire and ambulance concerns.

Ben Schams, First Chief with the Alma Fire Department, informed the committee that Jerri Schreiber, Alma Hotel, has not complied with the required fire inspection violations. The business fire inspections are done by a contracted company chosen by the Fire Department. Violations were noted and it has been two years, and she has not fixed the fire violations. Ben inquired what would be the next step. Since another inspection is forthcoming, the committee decided to wait until the next report is done. At the time of each inspection if there are violations a copy is handed to the business’ owner stating what must be done to come into compliance.

Agenda Item 3 (a): Police duties.

Both Officer Emily Rybarczyk and Code Enforcement Officer were present. Emily and Ken met prior to this meeting and went over who would be taking care of what in regard to ordinance violations.

Gary Jepsen will be finding a citation book that Ken can use to issue parking tickets and property maintenance violations.

Emily stated that if Ken can simply write down the name, address, and ordinance number violation she could take it from there.

Emily informed the committee that there is some equipment in the office that the department does not need and suggested selling on Wisconsin Surplus.

Emily stated that she will need a desk, chair, and an evidence area (for short term holding) at the new Riverland Energy building.

Agenda Item 4 (a): Property maintenance abatement.

Linda distributed to the committee members the ordinance regarding abatement of property due to lack of maintenance. Discussion was held and the committee did not want to make the sole decision, however, requested it be placed on the Council agenda for full Council discussion and action.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to move forward with the property maintenance enforcement with the guidance of City Attorney Jon Seifert and this item be placed on the next council meeting. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item 5: Solid waste and recycling.

The committee discussed having a large item/electronics drop off day at the Riverland Energy site for all residents. The previous drop off was only for Riverland Energy customers. Mayor Champeny will contact those needed to make the drop off happen.

The committee would like Joe Wick and Waste Transport to connect and decide how the garbage will be picked up for those residents in the road closure area.

Agenda Item 6: Solar-Gary update.

Gary Jepsen update the committee on the solar grant he is working on for the new library. A requirement of the library grant is that three bids must be received for the solar part of the construction. Winding Rivers Library System has CPAs and are doing all the paperwork, Jepsen commented. Mayor Champeny asked Jepsen to inquire if there would be grant money for the Riverland Energy building.

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