

January 13, 2025

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

8:30 a.m.

Chairperson Larry Grisen called the meeting to order with the following members present: Larry Grisen and David Earney. Absent: Randy Brommer and alternate, Larry Farl.

Also present: Mayor Richard Champeny, Foreman Joe Wick, Sewer & Water Operator Bernie Bartz, Calvin Loewenhagen, and Clerk Linda Torgerson.

No citizens were present for comments on posted agenda items.

Agenda Item 4a: Streets-report from Foreman Wick on last snowfall removal.

Foreman Joe Wick reported to the committee that he felt the snow removal had gone well. He stated he received a couple of complaints from business owners in the morning while the snow was still coming down heavy and they wanted the snow removed from the business immediately since the snow removal hours for snow removal are between 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. for the west side of Main Street. Wick stated that since the snow fell after those hours, the roads were the priority and not the parking stalls. Grisen suggested that this information be placed as an announcement on the website.

Agenda item 4c: Streets- Other street concerns - Emergency hire for city crew. Foreman Joe Wick stated that in the case of the need to hire temporary city crew for emergencies such as snow removal, flood, etc. He has been given authority in the past to do so. He said currently the need is for snow shoveling workers during a heavy snowfall so that Jesse from the city crew could drive truck to plow roads. Wick stated that he has a few CDL drivers to draw from for truck hauling of the snow, however, since he is one city crew short, the skid steer operator had to drive truck.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to endorse Foreman Joe Wick to hire city crew applicants who have the requirements needed. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item 4b: Streets-Discuss bidding for summer 2025 road sealing.

Foreman Wick informed the committee he has the measurements for the roads for the sealcoating projects for 2025.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to begin the 2025 bidding process for the sealcoating projects with bid opening at the March committee meeting. All members voting yes.

Agenda 4c: Streets-Other Street concerns – discuss cleanup of alleys.

David Earney informed the committee that this request came out of Services committee. The Catholic church will be cleaning out the alley behind the church and wanted to coordinate cleanup with the City. The City has a fifteen' alley that runs behind the church. Cal Loewenhagen, city crew, stated years ago the City did clean out their portion of the alley and mow it, however, then they complained because the city did not do their portion. Discussion was

held. Earney inquired about the alley running between Main St. and 2nd Street at Bluff Street for the Lift Station 4 upcoming project.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to request Foreman Wick to contact Chance McQuiston, who did the stairway streets brushing and tree cutting for the City, to obtain cost estimates from brushing/tree removal of the alleys and report back to the committee. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item 5a: Sewer and wastewater-Water leak policy.

Linda presented the water leak policy to the committee that she prepared from recommendations from the League of WI Municipalities, Public Service Commission, and sample ordinance from other WI municipalities. The policy lists circumstances where sewer costs would be considered for a reduction due to unknown leaks and lists circumstances where sewer costs would not be considered for a cost reduction by the Utilities Committee. Discussion was held.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to approve the Leak Policy as presented. All members voting yes.

Grisen requested that the Leak Policy be included in the Council packets for information.

Agenda Item V b: Sewer and wastewater – Ordinance language for townhomes and multifamily dwellings.

The committee reviewed the proposed ordinance language that was presented by Clerk Linda Torgerson regarding sewer laterals.

The committee recommended that paragraph 2 be amended to read as follows: All building sewers, and or private interceptor main sewer shall be inspected by a City approved inspector, at the expense of the applicant pursuant to Wis. Admin Code §SPS 382.21 upon completion of placement of the pipe and before backfilling and shall be tested before or after backfilling.

The committee recommended that paragraph 4 be amended to read as follows: Beginning in 2025, separate sewer laterals are required for newly constructed twin homes townhouses, and duplexes, or modified single homes to multi-family dwellings in the R2 District of the City of Alma's zoning code.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to approve the amendments to paragraphs 2 and 4 to the proposed ordinance amendment regarding sewer laterals. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen to send the proposed sewer ordinance amendment regarding sewer laterals with the approved amendments to the Council at the February 2025 meeting. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item 4c: Sewer and wastewater – Lift Station #4 update.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to recommend to the Council authorization for the Mayor to sign the contract documents for the Lift Station #4 project. All members voting yes.

Grisen announced that the city did receive 50% principal forgiveness for the Lift Station #4 project which amounted to over \$400,000.00.

Agenda Item V d: Sewer and wastewater – Other sewer and wastewater concerns.

Sewer Operator Bernie Bartz informed the committee that the UV for disinfection will be installed on February 27th.

Agenda Item VI a: Water-Response from DNR.

Linda informed the committee that she did contact the water DNR representative regarding the water problem and has not heard back. She will email another reminder or call him.

Joe stated that they have reversed the direction of the water to see if there would be any improvement. Linda stated she felt her water was some better, however, the home she owns on south 2nd Street near Laue Street still has the problem. It was recommended that the homeowners fill a container and take pictures of the water when bad and date the sample.

Discussion was held regarding other resources to obtain assistance for the water problem. Cal suggested Kevin Rippi from Aquafix or Chris Growth since they are microbiologists.

Agenda Item VI b: Other water concerns.

Foreman Wick informed the committee that he has been having the crew watch the freeze levels and will notify the Alma Clinic, the Lock and Dam and one residence on 2nd Street that are subject to experience frozen pipes to run their water when needed. Currently they have not been asked to do so.

The water valve pipe below the iron filters has been fixed. Bernie reported that in 2024 there was a water loss of 216,000 gallons due to the broken pipe in 2024 and 19,600 gallons in 2025.

Agenda Item VII. Sidewalks/stairs/retaining walls.

- a. Survey of retaining walls property lines on 2nd Street. Survey has been completed.
- b. Repair plan for retaining walls. It was decided to invite contractor Sorenson to the February meeting to go over his recommendations.
Foreman Wick stated that step 1 will be to remove trees, brush, and vines. The committee recommended Joe Wick contact Chance McQuiston as to the cost of the tree removal and the number of trees to be removed and report back to the committee.
- c. Orange Street stairway revision update from Davy Engineering. No revision has been received from Davy engineering.

No citizens were present for comments on non-posted agenda items.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 10, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

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