

July 14, 2025

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

8:30 a.m.

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

Also present: Rick Champeny, Mayor, Joe Wick, City Foreman, Sharaya Reed, Deputy Clerk, and Calvin Loewenhagen. Mike from Atlas Foundation and Mike Sorensen from Sorensen Restoration were present for bid opening.

Agenda Item III: Citizen comments on posted agenda items

Written complaint received from Brenda Gehl 1007 S Main St regarding sidewalk weeds being weed whipped into the road and left.

Agenda Item IV: Bid opening for retaining walls repairs

Atlas Foundation Co. submitted a bid in the amount of \$1,638,610.00. Completion of the project would be November 2025. Atlas proposed working together on the project to bring costs down. Atlas described what needs to be done in regard to the project. Earney asked if half of the figure would be doable. What would be the minimum that could be done going into winter. Atlas said the most important thing is to get the top of the wall graded.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Brommer to reject the bid. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Brommer to table to next month and have Atlas do some refiguring. All members voting yes.

The WISDOT Tap grant for ADA compliant stairway by the Alma Hotel to be looked into.

List of restrictive vs. nonrestrictive herbicides looked at. Nonrestrictive herbicides are purchased from any store by any person and do not require a permit to use.

Agenda Item V: Streets

Vista Drive has been completed for chip sealing. N 2nd Street and Laue Street still needs to be completed yet.

Weed mowing on road shoulders has been completed on Badlands Rd by Town of Nelson. Buena Vista still needs to be done by the County.

30'x40' tent to be put across the street on the City Hall lot for Best Dam Day in Alma. The Chamber is requesting that Vine Street be closed off from July 25-27. Mayor to reach out to Allyn Burt to ask about his driveway being closed off.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to approve closing of Vine Street for the event held July 25-27. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item VI: Sewer and wastewater

Shawn Welte appeared by phone to talk about the Lift Station #4 project schedule which is pushed back till August 1st week. A detour has been approved. He also discussed the chemical storage addition timeline. The plans submitted to the DNR would take about 60 days for approval.

Motion by Brommer seconded by Earney to approve the plans for the chemical storage and move forward with the project submitting to the DNR for review. All members voting yes.

John Schiefeld talked to Joe about water running off into his foundation. Joe shared pictures.

Motion by Brommer seconded by Earney to authorize Joe to repair the catch basin and flum on 2nd Street. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item VII: Water

Language need to be drafted for city responsibility for turning on/off water service for users.

Riverland Energy had a high water bill and there was a dispute on usage and amount of bill. There was a leaking toilet during the usage period.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to leave the bill as is. All members voting yes.

Grisen gave a statement in open session: An understanding of the hierarchy of the Council as opposed to the City crew. Sometimes there is a feeling that the Council is giving direction, but the crew is taking it upon themselves to decide in opposition to carry out their directions. The Council job is making sure that Joe's job is easier and Joe conveying their wishes to the crew. Focusing on improving communication between the Utilities committee and workforce. Anything they can do to make Joe's job better. They all want the same thing. Just need to improve how to get to the final goal. Two issues: directive to explore options on pigging, nothing has been done. Sediment flushing testing for several months, nothing has been done. A better job needs to be done to carry out directions.

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