

February 4, 2025

SERVICES COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m.

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

Also present: Mayor Richard Champeny, Fire Chief Tom Brakke, First Fire Chief Ben Schams, Foreman Joe Wick, Stacy Lewellyn (Alma Friends of Animals), Jon Wisneski and Sherri Collins (Alma Public cemeteries support group), Justin Sass (Western Buffalo County Ambulance Service), Orlyn Hokscho-resident, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Torgerson.

Agenda item 4a: Other cemetery concerns.

Orlyn Hokscho, resident, requested that the committee consider opening Blocks B & C at Alma Memorial Cemetery for purchases.

The committee discussed the concern.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to table this matter until next month's meeting and to request foreman Joe Wick obtain information on the cost of mowing and maintenance if the upper cemetery at Memorial was open for purchases. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item 1b: Other animal concerns.

Stacy Lewellyn of Alma Friends of Animals gave a report to the committee regarding the work that has been done. Lewellyn stated that she held a meeting with members of the community that are interested in helping with the cat situation in Alma. Lewellyn and her husband have trapped cats and then have them neutered and/or spayed at their expense.

Stacy was looking for guidance on how to effectively notify residents where to go and what to do if they have a cat problem. Discussion was held. Stacy will for on an informational flyer and a Facebook page.

Stacy further recommended that a permit to trap cats be developed so that the person would have to fill out an application and would be given guidance on trapping a cat.

The public should be made aware not to have indoor/outdoor cats. Linda stated that there is an ordinance in place requiring cats to be leashed just like dogs when not on their own property.

Agenda item 1a: Pigeon ordinance.

Gary Jepsen presented the pigeon ordinance and other wild animal ordinance to the committee for their review.

Motion by Earney seconded by Mueller to present the ordinance to the Council for approval. All members voting yes.

The committee received an email from a business owner on the south end of Main Street regarding dog feces.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Earney to purchase a doggie station for the south end of Main Street and decide the location at a later date. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item 2: Fire department/ambulance concerns.

Fire Chief Thomas Brakke informed the committee that the new truck is in the garage. The old truck will be put on WI Surplus auction to be sold. Ben Schams will be placing the ad.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve placing the ad on WI Surplus auction for the old fire truck tender and that all proceeds from the sale of the truck go to the new fire truck loan. All members voting yes.

Tom informed the committee that the chili feed for the AFD will be coming up in March.

Justin Sass informed the committee that the new ambulance has a one-year delay, however, will then receive a 2026 chassis.

Agenda Item 3: Police update. None.

Agenda item 4: Cemetery rules and signage/ordinance.

The committee along with Jon Wisneski and Sherri Collins, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Torgerson went over suggested rules for the cemeteries and what else should be included in the ordinance. Linda went over some examples from other municipalities that our current ordinance does not provide.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Earney to authorize Gary Jepsen to draft a new cemetery ordinance and present it to the committee. All members voting yes.

Jon Wisneski informed the committee that the cemetery support group has ordered veteran flags, and they will do the work of placing the flags.

The committee thanked them for their involvement and assistance with the Alma cemeteries.

Joe informed the committee that at the cemetery support committee meeting discussion was held regarding the poor condition of the fence to the back of the cemetery. Joe stated that there is some chain link fence that could be used.

Jon Wisneski thanked the Mayor and Joe Wick for attending their last meeting.

Agenda item 5: Solid waste/recycling concerns.

Concerns were raised about the personnel at the landfill. No action was taken.

Agenda item 6: Snow removal at Dairyland Power property south of the city limits.

Mayor Champeny informed the committee that the site at the Dairyland Power property has been marked. Joe Wick will look at the amount of space that is available.

Joe Wick gave the information regarding the cost of mowing, trimming, etc. on the upper park of the Alma Memorial cemetery. Labor would cost \$4500.00 per year which would be three men @ 5 hrs. each and the mower costs, not including the trimming would be \$5,666 per year at \$32.50/hour x 3 hours per mowing and twelve times per year.

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