

April 14, 2025

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

8:30 a.m.

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

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

Orlyn Hokscho, a citizen, was present.

Agenda IV (a): Street sweeping update.

Foreman Joe Wick stated that he ordered a gutter broom, and it will be here this week. The cost of the broom will offset the cost of the hired street sweeping.

(b) Alley brushing. Joe informed the committee that he has not heard from Chance McQuiston as to a start date.

Linda informed the committee that she contacted Xcel Energy to trim the trees in the alleys that are touching the power lines and to coordinate this with the brushing. Joe informed the committee that Xcel left a voicemail, however, when he returned the call no one seemed to know the contact person. Linda will contact Xcel again for an update.

David Earney mentioned that a resident would like an Elm tree removed from the alley. Joe will contact him.

Larry Grisen suggested developing a tree removal policy.

(c) Legion request for parking dates for events.

April 27 and 28, Thrift sale drop off

May 1 and 2, Thrift sale

June 7, Spaghetti dinner

July 19, Pulled pork dinner

July 26, Lock and Dam open house

August 9, Waffle Breakfast

September 6, Chicken BBQ

October 18, Spaghetti dinner

Motion by Earney seconded by Farl to approve the Legion parking dates for events request as presented. All members voting yes.

(d) Other street concerns.

Joe Wick informed the committee that patching is being done.

Larry Grisen reminded Joe about Swift Street repairs needed. Joe stated he will follow up with this.

Agenda Item V: Sewer and wastewater

- (a) Lift Station #4 change order approval. Change order #1 is to remove Joe Biden's name from the sign with a cost savings of \$400.00.
Motion by Farl seconded by Earney to recommend Council approval of Change Order #1 for the Lift Station #4 project. All members voting yes.
- (b) Davy Engineering amended owner agreement for Lift Station #4 project.
The new owner agreement is needed for the Clean Water Fund Project with the updated cost of the engineering. The increase in the engineering costs is \$7,400.00.
Motion by Farl seconded by Earney to recommend Council approval of the Davy Engineering amended owner agreement for the Lift Station #4 project. All members voting yes.
- (c) Storm drain issue on North Main.
Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to authorize Joe to conduct a televised inspection of the storm drain and come up with a solution. All members voting yes.
- (d) Lift Station #3 pump bearing failure.
Bernie Bartz informed the committee that one of the Lift Station #3's pumps is in need of repair due to the bearings. Bernie stated it will take approximately 3 weeks to be fixed and the cost will range from \$2,000 to \$4,000.00. There are two pumps in Lift Station #3 and the second pump is in good working order.
- (e) Other sewer and wastewater concerns.

Christine Thompson, resident on South Main, notified the City that the storm drain adjacent to her property is causing erosion in her yard. Joe Wick stated that he has met with Brad LaDuke, a concrete contractor, and the drain is on the list for repairs.

Agenda Item VI: Water

- (a) Update on Second Street water issue meeting with the County.
Joe updated the committee and informed them that there is no cross-connection at the Courthouse, and they are not required to have backflow preventers. The County is monitoring their water temperatures daily. Joe has made several trips to the Courthouse and is monitoring the situation as well.

Joe informed the committee that Cal and himself had attended a training last week and Joe mentioned the water problem. An engineer from ISG, who was the trainer for the class, stated that it could be an electrical issue with grounding being applied to a water line. The engineer offered to come to Alma and try to assist with the problem.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to authorize Joe Wick to contact the engineer from ISG and have him come to help with the water problem. All members voting yes.

If the cost from ISG Joe is to come back to the committee for approval.

- (b) Foreman Wick's meeting with the City of Eau Claire representative.
Joe stated he had not met with them. Wanted to attend the class in La Crosse for information first.
- (c) Discussion of testing sediment after water line flushing.
Larry Grisen informed the committee that the Village of Cleveland, another community with a similar water problem, started checking the sediment of the water from the hydrants and there were contaminants found such as arsenic. Larry forwarded this information to Shawn Welte of Davy Engineering.
- (d) Water line leak on S. Main.
Joe Wick informed the committee that TJ's will be coming today for the leak by Riverland Energy and will do the fire hydrant line dig on Tuesday.
- (e) Pump replacement for chlorine in the basement of fire station.
Bernie has ordered a new pump for the chlorine. Joe requested Bernie place a date on the new pump when it arrives.
- (f) Discussion of AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS to water quality problems at the end of lines on Sunset Drive and near Collins Plumbing.

Cal recommended that the lines are flushed once a month in the dead end water service areas. (Sunset Drive, City Shop, Nelson Road, Collins Plumbing, and North 2nd St.)

Motion by Earney seconded by Farl to have the dead end water service areas flushed once a month. All members voting yes.
- (g) Other water concerns.
Discussion was held regarding the continued addition of fluoride to the city's water system. All concurred fluoride should continue to be added to the water system.

Agenda Item VII: Sidewalks/stairs/retaining walls.

- (a) Retaining walls repairs
Sorensen plan. No update. Joe Wick and Larry Grisen will meet this week with Sorensen.
- (b) Begin bid process for retaining wall repairs.
A specification for bids will need to be developed for advertising.
- (c) Update on tree removal and brush/vine removal near retaining walls.
No update to report.
- (d) Update on Bluff Street viewing platform.

Randy Brommer will be working with architect, Bill Boettcher, regarding this matter and will check if any grants are available for this project.

(e) Discuss ADA compliant stairway renovation of Elm Street.

Larry Grisen will be looking into DOT grants for this project that may be available next month.

(f) Other sidewalk concerns.

Joe informed the committee that sidewalks to be done this year are by the Sarah Buehler residence on North 2nd St., driveway on 2nd Street at Walnut St., and the drain on Hill St.

No citizen comments were received regarding non-posted agenda items.

Next meeting will be Monday, May 12, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

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