

November 4, 2025

SERVICES COMMITTEE

4 p.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, Foreman Joe Wick, Jon Wisneski and Sherri Collins from Friends of the Alma Cemeteries, Tom Brakke and Ben Schams Alma Fire Department, Justin Sass Western Buffalo County Ambulance Service, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Torgerson.

Agenda item 2: Cemetery.

Jon Wisneski addressed the watering of the urns at the cemeteries. Jon stated it is very time consuming and inquired if one location with names of those contracted for urns could be done to save money for the flowers and the time for watering them. Only having flowers in the one location to water. This matter will be discussed at a future meeting after reviewing the contracts for the urns.

Sherri Collins brought to the committee's attention that when the paper published the new cemetery ordinance there was a misspelling of "no burning" in the cemeteries. The paper published "no burying."

Agenda Item 1: Fire and ambulance – Emergency vehicle response discussion.

Ben Schams informed the committee that the Fire Department UTV with trailer will be arriving in the next two weeks.

Justin Sass informed the committee that the ambulance service is short of a few people right now but is still covering shifts 100%.

Discussion was held regarding setting up a separate ambulance outlay account for the purchase of a new ambulance in ten years. The ambulance board recommended that each municipality served by the ambulance service set up an ambulance outlay account and budget \$5,000 each year for ten years to help pay for the next new ambulance needed. It was recommended that this matter be placed on the next Finance Committee agenda for action.

Mayor Champeny informed the committee that it was reported to him that someone responding to an EMS call was driving too fast and reckless and an accident almost occurred. Gary Jepsen stated that the incident happened at 4:10 p.m. Saturday, October 25, 2025. The vehicle involved was a newer silver pickup. Tom Brakke, Ben Schams, and Justin Sass stated that none of their members has such a vehicle and recommended that if this happens again to contact them right away. Flashers may be used by an EMS responding to a call but must follow speed limits set by state law.

Agenda Item 3: Police-Winter parking discussion and 5: Property concerns.

Officer Rybarczak provided the committee with the following report:

1. The certified mail receipt. I know the ordinance penalty section for weeds and grass etc. states the citations need to be mailed certified. Does this entail all citations or just ordinance? As that will be a hefty bill if we have multiple citations going out.

The committee requested that the certified mail be used. Discussion was held regarding the cost of paper service by an officer, no action taken.

2. Monthly Report- 299 calls in total we received for the city of Alma. I took care of the amount on the monthly review.

3. Schedule for Ken. Emily provides her schedule to Code Enforcement Officer.

4. November parking is around the corner. I printed off a stack of the parking advisory forms and plan on going around Main Street and placing them on vehicles as a reminder.

5. I'm slowly working on getting updated business owners and key holders. I'll update the city hall form as I go.

6. Mailed out (non-certified) ordinance warnings/working with Ken and complaints coming straight to the city hall. I have saved documents on PD desktop computer for future references.

7. Next spring, Sheriff Osmond wants me to take over Botvin for the Alma Area Schools. Botvin replaced DARE. I will have to be certified, so some training is needed.

Agenda Item 4: Garbage and recycling.

Discussion was held regarding maintaining the landfill. Foreman Wick stated that the landfill is filling up and a new cell will have to be opened. The cost to maintain the landfill supersedes any revenue collected. This matter was deferred until a later date.

Agenda Item 5: Property concerns.

Code Enforcement Officer Ken Passow inquired about the issuance of fines for those violating the property maintenance ordinance. Mayor Champeny informed the committee that he and city attorney Jon Seifert are working on the language for the fine forfeitures.

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