

## **MINUTES OF THE ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING – February 14, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Alden City council was called to order by Mayor Reyerson at 6:00pm. Roll call was read. Council Members present were Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, Ms. Pederson, and Mayor Reyerson. Absent: Ms. VanEngelenburg. City staff present were Jerome Wuerflein, Jim Thunstedt, and Kim Knutson. Others present were County Commissioner Nicole Eckstrom.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting as presented. Carried.

Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to approve the Hours report as presented. Carried.

Fire Chief Thunstedt reported that there was 1 false alarm vehicle fire call, 1 mutual aid fire call, 6 medical calls, and 1 mutual aid medical call in January 2024. The county meeting was held in Hayward where they discussed the county wide mutual aid fire call from the previous month. The discussion was on what went well and what could have been done differently. They also worked on the five-year fire contract renewal numbers and talked about increasing mil rates and fire call rates. They need to meet with the township board to approve. Zoll defibrillator pads have been replaced. The Overhead doors at the fire station have been installed, and they are waiting for the opener to be installed. Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Fire report as presented. Carried.

Public Works Superintendent Wuerflein reported that the Aerator has been turned off. He has spoken with Ben from Bolton Menk, and our RD application is still waiting to be processed and is unlikely that it will be done on time for this year's funding. This may cause an issue with the project, but we won't know anything until we get the final word from RD. Jerome got quotes for a new mower to be used at the ponds and to possibly use by the railroad tracks. The current mower has issues, and the larger size of a new mower will make mowing much faster, allowing time for other things. Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to purchase the 14-foot mower. Carried. Jerome has finished work on the 3-point sprayer and it is working well. They also built a jacking system for lifting and leveling gravestones at the cemetery. He has some potential volunteers to help with that where needed, and with filling in low spots and reseeding. Trees trimming was done along the railroad tracks. Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Wichmann to replant trees as needed at the Parks Department discretion. Carried. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to approve the Public Works report. Carried.

The variance request for 201 Euclid Street has been withdrawn. There is no longer a plan to put a fence in the front yard.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Pedersen to approve a vacation request for Clerk Knutson for the week of February 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Carried.

We will advertise for mowing bids for the 2024 and 2025 mowing seasons. The ad will be run in the Alden Advance, the Freeborn County Shopper, and the South Central News. We will have quotes due by end of day March 11<sup>th</sup> so we can review at the next council meeting.

Clerk Knutson requested approval to purchase a vacuum for the office, and 3 new chairs for the waiting area. Approved.

Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Reindal to approve Resolution 2024.04 Approving 2024 Election Judges for the Presidential Nomination Primary Election. The judges will be: Kim Knutson – Head Judge, Annette Bruns, Linda Bryson, Janelle VanEngelenburg, Donna Schmidt, Donald Bryson, and Carollee Smith. Carried. The full resolution will be on file in the Alden City Office.

Discussion was had on Ordinance Enforcement in the city. At this time, we will continue to enforce ordinances on a complaint basis. This will be reevaluated if the city brings back law enforcement.

Discussion was had on the city owned residential lots. We would like to get the language with the requirements ready for selling the lots. Commissioner Eckstrom will send a copy of what the city of Albert Lea has used in the past. Mayor Reyerson will contact a realtor for advice on selling properties. The council will do some research and come back to the next meeting with ideas.

Discussion was had on reinstating the police position in Alden. We have reached out to Riverland Community College for any information they can share on filling the police position.

Discussion was had on the city purchasing the Mayo Clinic Building. We have not purchased the building, but we have a few possible uses if the city were to purchase it. One of the options was the museum, and if the museum board wants the city to consider the building, they should do a walk through and put together a formal request.

Commissioner Eckstrom stated that there are grants available to fund turning green spaces into conservation areas if that is an interest. She also mentioned that if we had any cannabis issues that we are concerned about as the laws are implemented, please reach out to her as she is on a committee to review the issue.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Pedersen to approve the bills and EFT's as presented. Bills presented for payment \$42,059.85, EFT's of \$7,784.00, and Payroll of \$7,818.23.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Pedersen to adjourn at 7:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Knutson  
Clerk-Treasurer