

MINUTES OF THE ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING – March 12, 2025

The Public Hearing for input regarding an Ordinance Establishing a Fee Schedule was called to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was read. Members present were Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, Ms. Pederson, and Mayor Reyerson. City staff present were City Clerk-Treasurer Knutson, Chief of Police Strom, Fire Chief Thunstedt, Superintendent Riedl, and Maintenance worker Burris. Others present were County commissioner Nikki Eckstrom, Jean Eaton, Bart Berven, Rachel Christensen, Troy Newman, and Ryan and Sage Wallin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Clerk Knutson explained the reason for the new Ordinance. The city has had a fee schedule for several years, but when the Minnesota Basic Code was adopted, an additional ordinance to provide the ability to make changes to the fee schedule was needed. Mayor Reyerson called for questions regarding the ordinance. There was some discussion on the fee schedule, but no changes were recommended or made. There were no questions regarding the ordinance itself. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to approve Ordinance 2025.01 – Ordinance Establishing a Schedule of Fees and Charges for various services, licenses, and permits. Carried unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 6:06

Mayor Reyerson called the regular meeting of the Alden City Council to order at 6:06.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the minutes of February 12, 2025, regular council meeting as presented. Carried unanimously.

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

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

Fire Chief Thunstedt reported that the department had 0 fire calls, 1 CO detector assistance call and 2 medical calls in the month of February 2025. The county meeting was held in Freeborn. The topic of the training was Firefighting in a Hoarder House. Medical Consortium training was on February 19th, and the topic was psychological emergencies and other neurological emergencies. They participated in an ice water rescue training with Freeborn Fire Department on February 22nd. The truck committee went to Eagan to look at the new fire truck again. They met with Fire Safety USA about upgrades to meet our department's needs. The truck is currently in Rochester, so the upgrades will begin. There is about \$32,000 in upgrades to be made, with the bulk of that being paid by the Relief Association, but some will also come from the Fire Department budget. The fire department will be hosting the Water Wars on Sunday of Morin Lake Days, June 22nd, along with assisting in the parade set up, no parking signs, and manning the fireworks that Saturday, June 21st. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Pedersen to approve the fire report as presented. Carried unanimously.

Public Works Superintendent Reidl reported that they repaired another watermain break behind the school last month. Bill Guggisberg has caught up with all the city's water and sewer reports and the paperwork is current. The aerator has been turned off for the season. The shop has been cleaned up and organized. Some equipment repairs have been taken care of. They have implemented a weekly task board to help track the projects needing completion, and their statuses. Ponds are up to date with chemicals and are ready for spring. There is no update on a second vehicle, but they when we do purchase one, we would like to have one with a dump box to help do our own street patching where necessary. There was some discussion on employee health insurance. The council will do more checking before we pay any reimbursements. Ray received a quote regarding the call out system at the water plant. The system would cost \$4860 per year. He is not recommending that we implement that at this time. Ray contacted the Sunset Saddle Club to see if they would participate in the Morin Lake Days Parade and will let the

committee know when he hears back from them. He would like to do another City-Wide clean-up day. The city will be adding more items to the list that we will accept. Alex will coordinate clean-up day, and has tentatively set a date of May 3rd, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The city truck 4-wheel drive is making noise. Ray will check to see if it's something he can fix, and if not, take it somewhere to be fixed. They are also working on having a sign made for the City Shop to help identify the building for deliveries, etc. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the Public Works report as presented. Carried unanimously.

Police Chief Strom reported that he had 11 calls for service. He also reported that he plans to educate community members about ordinances regarding junk vehicles and other debris in the yards. He would like to share resources with them on how to get rid of the vehicles and that they can utilize the city wide clean-up day to help dispose of other miscellaneous items. The A-C preschool is planning Trike-O-Rama event, and he is willing to help with that. He is also willing to be present and help with Morin Lake Days Events. Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Reindal to approve the Police Report as presented. Carried unanimously.

Jean Eaton, Bart Berven, and Rachel Christensen updated the council on the Age Friendly Freeborn County initiatives, and programs available to the aging in the county. There are many programs available to seniors, and they are hoping to get the word out. There may be a crew available to help seniors in our community on clean-up day, helping to get items to the dumpster site.

The A-C Preschool will be holding a Trike-O-Rama on May 20th from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm, with a rain date scheduled for May 22nd. They are requesting N. Broadway, from the alley to just north of the school, be closed during this time. They would like to have the Fire department and/or the Police Department help with the street closure. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to approve the street closure. Carried unanimously.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to update the Personnel Policy to state that employees are allowed to carry over 40 hours of vacation instead of the previously listed 24 hours. Carried unanimously.

A discussion was held regarding updating the assigned fund policy. There were many questions regarding the assigned funds, so it was decided that no funds would be moved to designated for 2024, and we will have the auditor review the information with us for next year.

Alex has been in touch with Sparkling Image to provide a map of the Disc Golf course. There will be signs made for each hole, and we will be selling sponsorships for \$100 to place advertisement on the signs.

There was a couple in attendance with questions about the city lots for sale. They are interested in purchasing a lot to build a new home. There are no assessments, and the cost would be \$1000 plus closing costs. There were other questions asked that the council would take into consideration, along with the covenants that were written for the lots. Hopefully there will be answers available at the next council meeting.

County commissioner Nicole Eckstrom recommended that the preschool reach out to Lana Howe at Public Health to see if there are any grants that might help with the Trike-O-Rama. Another grant to check into would be for the disc golf course updates, and we could try reaching out to the Freeborn County Community Foundation. She recommended that we reach out to Mark Goskeson at Environmental Services for disposing of Hazardous Waste and electronics if we opt to allow those for the Spring Clean-up Day. The Freeborn County Cannabis Zoning Ordinance has passed. This also includes regulations for the growing of cannabis, and where that will be allowed. The Office of Cannabis Management wants small cities and townships to go to their website and report who is responsible for the

licensing for their city. The Board of Commissioners is also watching the legislative session and changes at the Federal level closely for anything that will affect services or the budget in our county.

Troy Newman was present at the meeting to see if there were any updates on the issues on Powers Ave with the Sanitary Sewer. After some discussion, it was decided that we would reach out to Bolton & Menk to see where we are at with the project and if there is anything else we can do before the infrastructure project starts.

An update on 308 W. Main is that we are still waiting for Olson Excavating permits, and we believe the Creamery will be coming down at the same time.

Employee reviews have been handed out to the council, and they all agree with the findings. Jerry will discuss them with the employees. The council will consider raises and have that ready at the next meeting.

Motion by Pedersen and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the bills and Electronic Fund Transfers. Bills presented for payment \$62,882.14, EFT's of \$8,507.07, and Payroll of \$12,567.95. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Pedersen to adjourn at 7:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Knutson

Clerk-Treasurer