

MINUTES OF THE ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 8, 2020

The Alden City Council met in regular session, on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Mayor Greg Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present besides the city mayor, also in attendance, were council members Mr. Reindal, Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Wichmann, and Mr. Duncan. City Staff present was Ms. Jeanne Meyer. Also in attendance was Ms. Donna Schmidt.

Mayor Hitchcock led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the March 11th Council Meeting, along with the March 2020 Treasurer's Report and transfers, the Hours Report, Fire Department Report and Public Works Report.

Mayor Hitchcock reported that the city old, unused police car was sold, and the process of concluding this transaction is almost complete.

Council members Reindal and Duncan reported attending a public works meeting, at the city shop, regarding the new city water plant, with company representatives of Bolton & Menk, and Beemer. The new water treatment plant is near completion, and there are some final items that need to be completed, and final payments made. Steps are in place, to finish the project.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Hitchcock read some correspondence, from city resident, Mr. Douglas Sauke, regarding the lake quality and on- going improvements of Morin Lake. The council discussed some possible options, for the care and maintenance of Morin Lake.

CITY BUSINESS

Morin Lake Days Celebration Committee representative, Donna Schmidt was present, and spoke about the Lake Morin Days celebration, coming up in June, 2020. The council discussed the celebration, and decided to cancel all events, in view of pandemic, COVID-19.

Council discussed the recommendation, from our auditors, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, that the city can no longer keep Festival (Lake Morin Days celebration) funds in a city fiduciary account, per GASB stmt84. Mayor Hitchcock said he will look into the matter, with the League of MN Cities, and report at a later date, when he has more information, on how to move forward in this matter.

Quarterly Budget Review was reviewed by council, and the budget is on track. They will plan to review next quarter, and discuss any concerns regarding the budget.

Council agreed to move the November 11th, 2020 council meeting (Veteran's Day) to Nov 18th, 2020. Motion by Wichmann, and 2nd by Reindal, and passed.

Mayor Hitchcock discussed a recent proposal, he received from American Towers. The council discussed the proposal, and made the decision to defer, decline the proposal-offer from American Towers, at this time. Motion by Reindal, 2nd by Wichmann, and carried.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA

Mayor Hitchcock discussed two variance requests given to him, by City Public Works Superintendent, Mr. Jerome Wuerflein. One from Mr. Duane Thomas, and the other, from Mr. Rich Morales. Both were approved, in so far as to move ahead with these two requests.

The council discussed conducting the next council meeting by Web-X, or Zoom. Clerk Meyer will look into setting up and planning a Web-X meeting, for the next council meeting on May 13th, 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Hitchcock discussed city staff working at home, as there is the COVID-19 pandemic happening presently. There needs to be more research, before possibly finalizing city staff working from home. Currently, City office closed to public. Staff can be reached by E-mail, cityofalden.mn@frontiernet.net; phone 507-874-3620; mail City of Alden, 174 Water Street, Alden, Mn 56009; and encourage the public to use the city drop mail box, located on the wall next to the city office, at 174 Water Street.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, 2nd by Duncan, and carried with none opposed, to approve the bills as follows:

BILLS – APRIL 8, 2020

Adams, Bryce - February cell phone allowance	30.00
Alden Advance - March council minutes	201.32
Alden-Conger Public Schools - lease, 2019 filters, & RTU#3 maintenance	892.17
- 2019 electricity, heat, & internet	1,652.13
Bolton & Menk - Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project - 2/8 - 3/20/20	1,935.00
Cardmember Service - shelving @ cold storage bldg., PNP election food,	415.90
MN AWWA SE District Water Operator School - Jerome	-
CliftonLarsonAllen - professional services for 2019 audit, client support fee	1,575.00
EFTPS – March Federal payroll tax deposit	2,606.56
Frontier - March phone services	213.47
Gopher State One Call - March line locates	5.40
Midcontinent Communications - 3/17 - 4/16/20 shop office internet service	105.00

- 3/13 - 4/12/20 emergency phone at water plant	35.75
Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - shop supplies	67.24
- filters, hand cleaner, v-belt	312.96
Leach Law - attorney services associated with purchase of 350 Euclid	1,703.86
Metro Sales - Ricoh IM C2000 Color Copier	3,093.00
- contract base rate for 3/25 - 6/24/20 billing period	23.10
MN Energy - 2/11 - 3/11/20 gas service	1,002.17
MN Revenue - March state withholding tax	451.63
- March sales tax	145.00
PERA - 3/9 - 3/22/20 employee retirement contribution	850.58
- 3/23 - 4/5/20 employee retirement contribution	837.46
Postmaster - 100 \$.55 postage stamps	55.00
Raleigh's Ace Hardware - hall supplies, water testing supplies	10.94
Schmidt Farms - snow blower repairs	1,446.90
Southern Lock & Glass - loader windshield repair	352.33
Staples Enterprises - March fuel purchases	277.11
Thermo King - Toro mower repair	40.87
Thompson Sanitation - March garbage service	3,230.30
TransWorld Network - Feb. & March long distance service - office	5.44
USABLE Life - April premium	69.30
Utility Consultants - sewer testing, shipping	506.00
Wuerflein, Jerome - March cell phone allowance	30.00
Xerox Corporation - copier service contract	53.40

Wages:

Election judge (see attached sheet)	15.00
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Wages, less ded:

Bryce Adams	2303.12
Jeanne Meyer	2520.39
Shirley Newman	1,224.12
Jerome Wuerflein	3,111.64

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Midcontinent Communications - 3/17 - 4/16/20 internet service	105.00
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Council approved motion by Reindal, 2nd by VanEngelenburg, and carried, to adjourn at 7:41p.m.

Greg Hitchcock
Mayor

Jeanne Meyer
Clerk-Treasurer

