

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 13, 2020

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 13, 2020, at 6:00 PM. Present was Mayor Greg Hitchcock and council members Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, Mr. Duncan, and Ms. VanEngelenburg. City Staff present were Jim Thunstedt, Jerome Wuerflein, Spencer Wacholz, and Bryce Adams.

Mayor Hitchcock called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the July 8th Meeting, along with the July Treasurer's Report and transfers, and the Hours Report.

Fire Chief Thunstedt reported a meeting in Geneva about the response to COVID and calls. Chief Thunstedt also reported a previous conversation with a medical director in Rochester about a staying safe during these times. Shared Services Committee will have a Zoom meeting on Thursday August 13th. Chief Thunstedt also reported about repairs to a department truck. Chief Thunstedt reassured that even down a truck, it would have little to no impact on what the department can do. Through the LeVerne Carlson Foundation, the department was able to upgrade their thermal imaging camera. Saturday August 15th will be the Pork Chop Feed, Drive-Thru only from 8 AM to 10 PM. Drive-Thru is the alley behind the station, entrance from the South end and exit via the North. Motion by Wichmann 2nd by VanEngelenburg to close the alley for the pork chop feed, motion carried.

Public Works Superintendent, Jerome Wuerflein reported on water situation. Wuerflein reported that him and Mayor Hitchcock met with Rolling Green and presented a proposal that was \$2,000 less than originally anticipated. Discussion was had between the council and Wuerflein. Motion by VanEngelenburg, 2nd by Reindal to add a down payment to Rolling Green's proposal for fencing at North Park, motion carried. Wuerflein reported about the situation between Beemer Companies, Bolton-Menk, and the City. Reindal, Wuerflein, and Duncan were on a conference call with both companies to solve the situation. More deliberate discussion was had until a motion by Duncan, 2nd by Reindal to make an adjusted payment to Beemer Companies with accompanied letter, motion carried. Restroom renovation report on the Beach Restrooms are progressing as planned. The council and Wuerflein discussed prospective building by a resident and discussed variance and conditional use verbiage. Wuerflein recommended that variance was the correct term in this instance. Council discussed with Wuerflein and VanEngelenburg motioned with Wichmann/Reindal 2nd to allow resident, Dennis Petersen, to put up a building using the verbiage of variance, motion carried. Wuerflein also reported about locator equipment repairs. A lengthy discussion about the tiling happening with the school district was made. Duncan motioned to accept Public Works Report Reindal 2nd and motion carried.

Discussion about the employee time clock was discussed with Reindal reminding the council that he still had the information. Council ultimately decided to table the time clock.

North Park lease with the school district was discussed. Motion by Duncan to accept the lease 2nd by Reindal, motion carried. Mayor Hitchcock signed the original document to be delivered Mr. Shanks at the school district.

Training for the City Clerk, Wacholz, was postponed and tabled due to the current pandemic. Training for water and sewage for Bryce Adams was reported as starting to open back up but to only limited capacity. Wuerflein suggested that he could make some phone calls to get Adams to get the necessary training. Discussion about Adams training and testing was made, and directions were given to Public Works about possibly finishing Adams training, motion by Wichmann 2nd by Reindal, motion carried. Mayor Hitchcock asked Adams how soon he can take his written Commercial Drivers License and discussion followed.

Mayor Hitchcock requested information about a contract police officer through the Albert Lea Police Department. Discussion about the contract from Hartland was made and critiqued by the council as to how it would benefit the City of Alden. Further discussion was tabled for a future council meeting.

Mayor Hitchcock addressed the situation with the city credit cards. The mayor started the process to change city credit card from its current to US Bank, so the city is responsible instead of an individual.

Discussion about Security Bank in Alden and their process about accepting new signers for checks for the city.

Mayor Hitchcock reported to the council about finding a new city attorney. Clerk Wacholz provided Dan Kolker as a potential future attorney from Peterson, Kolker, Haedt and Benda from Albert Lea. The mayor also reported that the current attorney has not finished pending city work or reported to the city for a period of time. Discussion about city attorneys and professionalism was had. More information and discussion have been tabled for a future meeting.

Discussion about the situation with Waste Management recycling bins. Discussion about the amount of recycling and lack of respect of the recyclable material was discussed. Major points made were the lack of collapsed boxes, excess plastic materials, excess amounts of materials where bins will not close and large materials were discussed as well. Potential alternate locations were discussed by the council and Wuerflein.

Authorizations of Greg Hitchcock, Jeff Wichmann, and Spencer Wacholz to sign checks for the bank. Intense discussion ensued before motion was made by VanEnglenburg 2nd by Reindal, motion carried.

Clerk Wacholz provided details to upgrade the city clerk office, hardware and software. Wacholz also mentioned possibility of providing online billing for utilities depending on the software availability, compatibility, and accessibility. The council approved Wacholz to continue researching options for bringing the city to the 21st century.

Councilor VanEnglenburg brought a situation with Darrel Turvold, resident of Barbara Hensche's property at 200 Hemmingsen St. VanEnglenburg reported multiple correspondence

with other residents about their complaints about his chain-link fence and lawn maintenance issues. Discussion ensued about city ordinance and his agreement or promise about the pavers to surround chain-link fence.

The bills provided for the month have been accepted by motion from Wichmann 2nd by VanEnglenburg, motion carried. The following bills for the month are as follows:

Freeborn County Co-operative Oil Co.....	\$22.65
Frontier	\$212.80
Midwest AquaCare, Inc.....	\$1,925.00
Westrum Leak Detection Inc.....	\$900.00
Karl's Carquest Auto Parts, Inc.....	\$145.26
Freeborn County Shopper.....	\$720.00
Minnesota Energy Resources,	\$140.77
Team Lab.....	\$4,280.50
Freeborn Mower Coop Services.....	\$2,160.12
Reim Roofing & Metal Construction, Inc.	\$25,200.00
Fastenal Company.....	\$9.25
SE Minnesota EMS.....	\$400.00
USAble Life,	\$42.60
JaNelle VanEngelenburg,	\$38.67
Raleigh's Ace Hardware,	\$16.49
Southern Lock & Glass.....	\$112.19
Arnold's of Alden, Inc.....	\$289.24
Jerry Kroeger,	\$2,864.87
Pro Hydro-Testing.....	\$812.00
Ron's Plumbing HVAC & Electric, Inc.,	\$1,391.96
Jerome Wuerflein,	\$10.94
Sparkling Image,	\$25.00
Midcontinent Communications,	\$210.00
Sanco Equipment, LLC.....	\$195.45
Core & Main, LP.....	\$201.06
Staples Enterprises Inc.,	\$49.29
Greg Hitchcock,	\$8.90
South Central News,	\$40.00
Bernie Schultz,	\$250.00
Southeastern Minnesota League of Municipalities.....	\$40.00
MacQueen Equipment/Emergency,	\$228.56

Wages:

Bryce Adams.....	\$1592.80
Jerome Wuerflein.....	\$2041.60
PERA.....	\$508.81
Federal Withholding.....	\$2062.60

VanEnglenburg motioned to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Reindal.

Mayor Hitchcock adjourned meeting at 7:55 pm.

