

MINUTES OF THE ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING – May 10, 2023

The Alden City Council met in its regular session, May 10, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Reyerson at 6:00pm, and he read roll call. Council members present were Mayor Reyerson, Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, and Ms. Pedersen. Members absent: None. City staff present were Fire Chief Thunstedt, Public Works Superintendent Wuerflein, and Clerk-Treasurer Knutson. Others present were Ben Rosal from Bolton-Menk, and Sarah Nelson from Intego Insurance joined a little later.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Reindal to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2023 meeting. Carried.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Carried.

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

Fire Chief Thunstedt reported that the Fire Department had 2 grass fire calls, 1 mutual aid, 1 MVA, and 4 medical calls in April. The county meeting was in Alden this month. 36 people from 10 departments attended, and the program was training from Northern Natural Gas Company. CPR refresher was held at Alden City Hall on April 11th at 6:00pm. 21 of 23 firefighters took the class. Medical Consortium training was held on April 19th. The fire department will be putting out flags in the cemetery for Memorial Day. Bills have been presented to the clerk for payment. There was some discussion on the fire truck that we are purchasing. It looks like it may not be available as soon as we would like. The city of Eagan will not be receiving their truck until possibly the beginning of next year now, pushing our purchase of their truck back a further. We will make sure this is still the truck we would like, and possibly renegotiate the price a little. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Pedersen to approve the Fire Report. Carried.

Public Works Superintendent Wuerflein reported that he has been working the gravel/alley areas of the city. He purchased a remote-control boat to help in treating the ponds, and used it to treat pond #3 for algae. He will be discharging pond 3 soon, and then will dye it to help with the algae. Team Lab has been to the ponds for our sludge judging, and we are waiting for the report on that. The last picnic table has been set up in North Park. Boat Docks will be going into the lake soon. Jerome spoke with Empire Pipe Services about televising and cleaning the entire system this year. They will work on it when they are available. We previously had approved to have the whole city done over a period of 4 years, but would like to change that to do the whole city this year due to the potential infrastructure project. Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Wichmann to accept that Empire Pipe services bid for telescoping and cleaning of the entire sewer system this year, not to exceed a cost of \$75,000. Carried. Bolton-Menk has scanned some of our old street drawings so they have the history of our systems. They will also give us a digital copy. Reindal mentioned that the alleys are looking good. VanEngelenburg mentioned that there is a hole from erosion by the big rock near the pavilion by the lake. They will check into fixing that. Clerk Knutson reported that an insurance check has been received from the accident with the City truck. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to repair the truck. Carried. Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Public Works Report. Carried.

Clerk Knutson reported that we received a phone call and email from Northern Natural Gas that they will be working on a project outside of town, and will need to close the portion of the street in front of

the substation for 1 day. This should occur sometime between June 7th and the 14th, depending on the weather.

We received a call and email from MNDOT regarding a project scheduled for 2024 that will be happening on I-90. They will be resurfacing the west bound lanes from Hwy 13 to Alden, and traffic will be crossed over to the Eastbound lanes.

Midco notified us that they have agreed to sell their communication towers to K2 Tower I, LLC, which includes the tower in Alden. Midco plans to assign the land lease contract to K2 Towers upon closing, and K2 Towers will ask us to sign an estoppel certificate within the next 4 weeks.

We received a request for the city to Proclaim October 15th as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. The Council will take this into consideration, but no action has been taken at this time.

Ben Rosal from Bolton-Menk presented their Qualifications for the possible infrastructure project. They were the only engineering firm that responded to the RFQ. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Pedersen to accept the Qualifications of Bolton-Menk. Carried. There was some discussion on how the preliminary process of the project will proceed. Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Reindal to accept the agreement with Bolton-Menk to complete the preliminary engineering reports following USDA RD. Carried.

Sarah Nelson from Intego Insurance presented the Renewal for the Insurance Policy for the upcoming year. There was a significant increase in the premium. Most of that came from the increase in property value and replacement costs of the property. There was 1 item that looked like it could have been a duplicate – Highway 109 lighting, and Sarah will check into that to be sure before completing the policy. She did have a few questions for the Council on possible changes. The council decided not to change the Excess Liability Coverage, and also not to increase the First Party Cyber coverage. Motion by Reindal and seconded by VanEngelenburg to increase the Deductible to \$5000. Carried.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Liquor License Renewal for the Alden American Legion. The cost of the On Premise license will not be changed at this time. Carried. We would also like to receive a report from the Legion on Gambling proceeds and if 10% is going back to the community for projects. Will be added to the June Agenda.

Council member Pedersen presented a request to change to the current Key Policy and Agreement. We would like to leave Paragraph 1 as is, but change the 2nd paragraph. Pedersen will rewrite the agreement and present at the next council meeting.

There was discussion regarding dogs in the community, and the need of the property owners to clean up after their dogs. Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Wichmann to purchase up to 4 Dog Waste Stations. Carried.

Motion by Pedersen and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the Credit Card policy as presented with the corrections made from last month. Carried.

A Policy/procedure was presented by Clerk Knutson regarding the process for sending reminders of past due Utility bills and water shut off. After some discussion, it was decided that we will follow the ordinance stating that a reminder will be sent 10 days after the bill is past due, and if not paid within the next 10 days the water will be shut off.

An update was given on the zoning map update process. Even though nothing technically changed, there were a few classifications that were combined into one, so we need to follow the process to approve the new map.

Mayor Reyerson presented a possible project with the Lions Club. The project would be to clean up and re-landscape the Welcome to Alden signs on each side of town. The council thought this would be a good idea, and would like to see a proposal before any project begins, and would like something that doesn't require a lot of maintenance for the city.

Mayor Reyerson asked if there would be any interest in a Citywide clean-up day. This would involve making dumpsters available to residents for getting rid of items that are not normally allowed in the regular garbage. There would be a list of what is acceptable and what is not. The council liked the idea and thinks late summer would be a good time.

Pedersen brought forward that she would like the City to purchase the updated MN Basic Code that was presented at the last meeting in order to stay up to date on the Ordinances. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to purchase the updated MN Basic Code. Carried.

Pedersen brought up an idea for the planters around the lake. The last several years people have volunteered to take care of individual planters. We would like to thank those that have taken care of this over the years, and would like to track who is taking care of which planters so that we can make sure they are all covered. Pedersen will come up with a flyer for Adopt a Planter program, and people can sign up in the city office for which planter they would like to take care of.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to approve the bills totaling \$42,172.74, and EFT payments totaling \$8,800.05. Carried.

Discussion was had on complaints filed with the city, and the processes. Letters have been sent out to the residents affected.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to Adjourn at 8:12. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Knutson
Clerk-Treasurer