

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 11, 2019

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:31 PM.

Present was Mayor Greg Hitchcock and council members Mr. Reindal, Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Wichmann, and Mr. Duncan. City Staff present were Jim Thunstedt, Jerome Wuerflein, Jeanne Meyer, and Shirley Newman. Also in attendance were Faron Bremseth and Scott Hemingsen.

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

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the November 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, along with the November Treasurer's Report and transfers, Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and the Public Works Report.

Chief Thunstedt presented the Fire Report. The county meeting was in Alden, with around 40 people in attendance. He updated the council on new and existing equipment for the department.

A FEMA grant for Fire Department equipment needs should be open soon. Also, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant for turn-out equipment. It was requested that if FEMA approves a grant, grants recipients are requested to pay part, 5% - 10%. Chief requested that would the council approve covering 5 or 10% payment? Council approved 10%. Motion by Wichmann, second by Reindal, and carried. Council also pre-approved equipment purchases for the remainder of 2019, not exceeding the 2019 budgeted amount for the fire department. Thunstedt also acknowledged a generous donation of \$500. to the Alden Fire Dept., from Clothes Closet of Wells, MN.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Hitchcock acknowledged and thanked the United Methodist Church Women of Alden, for the \$400. donation, to the Alden cemetery.

Council discussed yearly donations to Senior Resources of Freeborn County and Southern MN Initiative Foundation. Council decided to table, until "Bills" is reviewed, and approved later in meeting.

### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

City Staff Newman discussed the subject of two last due utility/water bills, and what process should be pursued? Council decided to request Newman, to keep attempting requests of payment, of past due accounts, even if by collection methods, if necessary.

### CITY BUSINESS

The council discussed water bill disputes; from 170 Wilson , 171 N Broadway, and 207 Hemmingsen. Mr. Bremseth and Mr. Hemmingsen each addressed the council, respectfully,

their individual concerns. Council reviewed information at hand, and came to conclusion, that water /utility bills disputes and/or concerns, needed to be paid, by respective owners.

Closing of The Alden City office on December 24<sup>th</sup> was approved by the council. Motion by Reindal, second by VanEngelenburg, and passed.

Council accepted and approved the Alden City Water Plant project. Motion by VanEngelenberg, second by Wichmann, and carried.

Following a discussion of the proposed 2020 Budget and Tax Levy, motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann and carried with none opposed, to approve the 2020 Budget. Motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann and carried, to adopt and certify the 2020 Tax Levy as follows:

<u>LEVY PURPOSE</u>	<u>LEVY AFTER AIDS</u>
GENERAL FUND	161,240
FIRE PROTECTION	13,200
BONDS- 2017	<u>49560</u>
TOTALS	224,000

The council discussed current water rates. The council decided in view of the Water Plant Improvement Project, increasing water rates for residential and commercial water services, in 2020. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann, and carried with none opposed, to raise water rates for residential and commercial water services, to \$9.99 per 1000 gallons, minimum \$39.96/4000 gal., and water surcharge to \$27.92, starting in 2020.

Also raise bulk water rates to \$20.00 per 1000 gallons of bulk water usage, with a \$40.00/ 2000 gallon minimum, beginning with 2020. Council passed Resolution, regarding new 2020 water rates. The full resolution will be on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Snow removal policy regarding Hwy 109 was reviewed and approved, resolution passed. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Reindal. and carried. The full resolution will be on file in the City Clerk's Office.

The 2020 wage 3 % wage increase-cost of living, for city staff was reviewed, and approved by the council. Steps to be reviewed at a future council meeting. Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan. Motion carried.

Council was notified by City Attorney, Abbey Leach, that property - 350 Euclid has been transferred to the City of Alden.

Mayor Hitchcock noted also a check from Ulland Brothers, of \$6,954.44, from sealcoat for construction project, and check from MnDOT, for approx.- \$9,500. , to go to street sealcoat work, repairs, and/or street maintenance projects. Motion by Reindal, second by VanEngelenburg. Motion carried.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann, and carried with none opposed, to approve the bills as follows:

## BILLS – December 11, 2019

Adams, Bryce - November cell phone allowance	30.00
Airgas USA - welding gas	57.59
-welding gas	86.95
Albert Lea Steel - new snow pusher box for loader	1,279.26
-snow pusher box-loader	496.16
Alden Advance - Oct. special meeting & Nov. council minutes	153.78
Arnold's Companies - Tax Increment Financing - Dec. tax settlement	8,452.43
Bolton & Menk - 2017 Morin Rd/Downtown Alleys Improvement Project	435.00
Bomgaars - water plant supplies	16.27
Card member Services - shop tool, water plant, City web page, mail water samples	207.29
Core & Main - curb box lids, freight	354.85
DPC Industries - chemicals	426.50
EFTPS – November Federal payroll tax deposit	2,379.74
Fastenal - gloves, drill bit	49.95
Freeborn County Coop Oil - November fuel purchases	11.39
Freeborn Mower Cooperative - 11/1- 12/1/19/19 electric services	2,596.98
Frontier - December phone service	215.01
Gopher State One Call - November line locates	4.05
Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - shop supplies, pickup repair	188.01
Midcontinent Communications - 11/17 - 12/16/19 shop office internet service	105.00
- 11/13 - 12/12/19 emergency phone at water plant	36.12
MN Dept. of Health - 4th quarter state water testing fee	508.00
MN Energy - 10/14 - 11/13/19 gas service	749.96
MN Revenue - November state withholding tax	448.37
Northern Country Coop - softener salt for city hall	21.45
PERA – 11/4 - 12/1/19 employee retirement contributions	1,566.90
- Annual employee retirement contribution	36.76
Raleigh's Ace Hardware - snow box pusher for loader	35.18
- water pump, snow pusher paint, freight	397.34
- water testing	4.48
- filters for city hall & water plant	50.25
-hall supplies, water testing supplies	85.02
Reindal Electric - locate wire for irrigation install & outfield fence install @ N. Pk (A-C)	177.50
Sanco Equipment - Toro mower repair	146.65
Senior Resources of Freeborn County - support of senior programs	500.00
Southern MN Initiative Foundation - contribution	250.00
Staples Enterprises - November fuel purchases	370.77
Thompson Sanitation - November garbage service	3,230.30
TransWorld Network - Nov. & Dec. long distance service - office	9.87
Ulland's Bros. - Pay Estimate #5 & FINAL for 2017 Morin Rd/Downtown Alleys	31,170.79
USable Life - December premium & Oct/Nov. premiums for Jeanne	122.70
Utility Consultants - sewer testing, shipping	611.00
Wuerflein, Jerome - November cell phone allowance	30.00
 Wages, less ded:	
Bryce Adams	2,200.54
Jeanne Meyer	2,347.22

Shirley Newman	938.86
Jerome Wuerflein	3,011.68
Mayor - Greg Hitchcock	1,847.00
Council - Jon Duncan	1,385.25
- Heath Reindal	1,385.25
- Janelle VanEngelenburg	1,385.25
- Jeff Wichmann	1,385.25
City Treasurer - Alexis Scholten	214.63
- Jeanne Meyer	128.78
Cemetery - Alexis Scholten - actuary	40.25
- treasurer	13.42
- Jeanne Meyer - actuary	24.14
- treasurer	8.04
- Jerome Wuerflein - actuary	64.38

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Safety USA - Trucks #927, #928, #929 maintenance	1,865.00
Fire Safety USA - butterfly valve hand wheel, shipping	1,030.00
Freeborn County Coop Oil - November fuel purchases	160.20
Ignaszewski, Kyle - food purchased for county meeting	23.76
Midcontinent Communications - 11/17 - 12/16/19 internet service	105.00
S & H Diesel-annual inspection-maint.	393.60
SASCS - AHA cards - training	130.00
Thunstedt, Jim - retirement awards, shipping	269.00
- 2019 mileage	228.52
Tomschin, Brad - food purchased for county meeting	108.41
Wages, less ded:	
Fire Chief - Jim Thunstedt	1,385.25
Asst. Fire Chiefs - Joe Bolinger	461.75
- Paul Weigel	461.75
Fire Captains - Dan Erickson	230.87
- Ross Skov	230.87
Secretary - Rick Loock	92.35

Council approved motion by Duncan, second by VanEngelenburg, and carried, to adjourn at 8:33 PM.

Greg Hitchcock  
Mayor

Jeanne Meyer  
Clerk-Treasurer

