

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

13 January 2021

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, 13 January 2021, at 6:00 PM. Present was Mayor Greg Hitchcock and council members Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, *Ms. VanEnglenburg* and Mr. Duncan. ~~Ms. VanEngelenburg was absent.~~ City Staff present were Jim Thunstedt, Jerome Wuerflein, and Spencer Wacholz. Jason Schenneker, GM Of Northern County Coop, Brian Jacobs, Manager of Alden branch of Northern County Coop, and members of the community were also present at the meeting.

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

Clerk Wacholz swore in sitting Mayor Greg Hitchcock, *sitting council member Jeffrey Wichmann* and sitting council member Janelle VanEnglenburg.

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

Chief Thunstedt reported the department had one house fire, one assistance, and one medical call in December. The 1<sup>st</sup> round of Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations are complete with the 2<sup>nd</sup> round coming in February. 12 members of the department have received the vaccine. FEMA AFG grant for 2021 is now open with Dan working with the grant writer and Wacholz. The call breakdown for the year of 2020 is as follows:

- 42 Total Calls
- 6 Fires ( 3 structure, 1 vehicle, 1 grass fire, and 1 false alarm)
- 27 Medicals
- 4 Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA)
- 4 Mutual Aid Given (1 grass fire, 1 MBA, 1 Search and Rescue, and 1 Cancelled)
- 2 Haz-Mat
- 1 Weather Related Service Call

VanEnglenburg made the motion, Reindal 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the Fire Report; motion carried.

Public Works Superintendent, Jerome Wuerflein reported the former snowplow truck can be put up for sale. Vanenglenburg motioned, Wichmann 2<sup>nd</sup>, to sell off excess equipment requiring a closed bid for the purchase. Wuerflein also reported the Christmas Decorations have been taken down, the aerator has been started with signs being placed around the lake, the sewer line had a blockage near the baseball field and brought up the possibility of replacing some of the sewer lines. Discussion ensued about the state of the shed at the cemetery, installing garbage cans around the city and or cemetery, and mowing contracts for the upcoming spring and summer. Duncan motioned, Wichmann 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the Public Works Report.

Jason Schenneker of Northern County Coop presented his vision for the future of the Alden branch of Northern County. He discussed the state of the buildings, the proposed remodeling project, and the desire for the company to stay in the City of Alden. There was a large discussion between the council, Schenneker, and Brian Jacobs.

The yearly audit will happen between January 18<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 via video conferencing according to Clerk Wacholz.

The council was presented with the assignments for council members and city staff. VanEnglenburg motioned, Reindal 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept a Resolution of Assignments for 2021, motion carried. The Resolution is filed in the clerk's office.

The council was presented an idea to the council regarding water bills being sent to the owners of the property instead of renters. Some discussion was made regarding some of the delinquent water bills.

Wichmann motioned, VanEnglenburg 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the fees for 2021, motion carried. Fees are filed in the clerk's office.

Mayor Hitchcock requested that the council to review job descriptions to update descriptions to match the pertinent information and duties for each employee.

The review of the City Clerk has been postponed until later in the month to coincide with the starting date of Clerk Wacholz. Council member VanEnglenburg and Mayor Hitchcock will conduct the review.

Discussion between Clerk Wacholz and the council about the clerk to work 40 hours/week. VanEnglenburg motioned, Wichmann 2<sup>nd</sup>, to confirm the clerk to work 40 hours/week, motion carried. The new hours for the City Office are Monday-Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm.

The bills provided for the month have been accepted by motion from Wichmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reindal, motion carried. The following bills for the month are as follows:

<b>Alden Advance</b>	<b>\$70.81</b>
<b>Arnold's of Alden</b>	<b>\$193.01</b>
<b>Bolton &amp; Menk Inc</b>	<b>\$3,736.25</b>
<b>Bomgaars</b>	<b>\$198.42</b>
<b>Bryce Adams</b>	<b>\$279.98</b>
<b>DPC Industries</b>	<b>\$171.14</b>
<b>Fire Safety USA</b>	<b>\$2,705.50</b>
<b>First Independent Bank</b>	<b>\$65,096</b>
<b>Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer</b>	<b>\$2,732.67</b>
<b>Freeborn County Co-Op</b>	<b>\$205.08</b>
<b>Freeborn Mower</b>	<b>\$4,407.32</b>
<b>Frontier</b>	<b>\$215.85</b>
<b>Gopher State One Call</b>	<b>\$60.80</b>
<b>Hanson Tire Service</b>	<b>\$166.95</b>
<b>Jerome Wuerflein</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Leach Law PLLC</b>	<b>\$1,871.34</b>
<b>League Of MN Cities Insurance Trust</b>	<b>\$1,043.00</b>
<b>Metro Sales</b>	<b>\$29.20</b>

<b>Minnesota Energy</b>	<b>\$1237.91</b>
<b>MN DNR</b>	<b>\$186.65</b>
<b>MN State Fire Dept Association</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
<b>Quill</b>	<b>\$26.18</b>
<b>Reindal Electric</b>	<b>\$20,179.05</b>
<b>Southern Lock &amp; Glass</b>	<b>\$429.58</b>
<b>Spencer Wacholz</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Staples Enterprises</b>	<b>\$158.61</b>
<b>Thompson Sanitation</b>	<b>\$3,230.30</b>
<b>TransWorld</b>	<b>\$49.56</b>
<b>US Bank</b>	<b>\$1,012.01</b>
<b>USable Life</b>	<b>\$56.55</b>
<b>Utility Consultants</b>	<b>\$647.50</b>
<b>UtilityLogic</b>	<b>\$4,456.00</b>

VanEnglenburg motioned to adjourn meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reindal.

Mayor Hitchcock adjourned meeting at 8:00 pm.

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Spencer Wacholz – Clerk

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Greg Hitchcock - Mayor