

MINUTES OF THE ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 10, 2020

The Alden City Council met in regular session, on Wednesday, June 10th, 2020. The Mayor, Greg Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Council members in attendance were: Mr. Jon Duncan, Mr. Heath Reindal, and Ms. Nellie VanEngelenburg, and Mr. Jeff Wichmann. City Staff present was: Ms. Shirley Newman, Ms. Jeanne Meyer, Mr. Jim Thunstedt and Mr. Jerome Wuerflein. Public individuals attending were Mr. Craig Popenhagen of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Also, Carl & Theresa Blizzard, and Ms. Joseth Hertaus and daughters Julia & Jeanna.

Mayor Hitchcock led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approved were the minutes of the May 13th council meeting. Motion by Mr. Duncan, 2nd by Ms. VanEngelenburg, and passed with none opposed.

The May 2020 Treasurer's Report and transfers, the Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and Public Works Report were also approved as presented.

Fire Department Chief Mr. Jim Thunstedt, reported that there was no county meeting, due to COVID-19. State training money needs to be used by June 30th, 2020. Will look for some training videos and hands on training. Applied for a grant through Minnesota Energy for a new 4 gas monitor. The LaVerne Carlson Foundation awarded the fire department \$8,000., for a purchase of a new thermal camera. Checking out pricing, to update some old halogen lights. The foam truck has some issues, and they are investigating further, on repairs.

Public Works-Mr. Wuerflein reported on the lift station has some issues on one of the pumps. Working on repairs for that pump problem. Also, there was a sink hole, on Mason Ave., that is being worked on to dig up and make repairs. The catch basins on Emerson Avenue also need repairs. There are chemical issues regarding chorine and phosphate levels at the water treatment plant. Jerome is going to call Bolton & Menk Co. right away and work on resolving the problem. Need to resolve the water problem by the end of June, 2020. The council approved a purchase of a shot gun, to deal with pests/ varmint at the ponds. Motion to approve Jerome purchasing a shot gun for city use; motion by Mr. Wichmann, 2nd by Ms. VanEngelenburg, and passed, with none opposed. Work has started on remodeling of bathrooms, at North Park. There will also be improvements on North Park fencing. Need to finalize the city mowing bid from Advanced Outdoor Services, for 2020.

Mayor Hitchcock read correspondence, regarding a thank you letter from Alden-Conger public schools, thanking the city for their working together, in closing part of Euclid St., in order to have an outdoor graduation service, to honor graduates for 2020.

CITY BUSINESS

Craig Popenhagen from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, reported on the annual audit for the city of Alden, for 2019. Council approved the 2019 audit results and findings. Motion by Ms. VanEngelenburg, 2nd by Mr. Reindal, and passed, none opposed.

City Clerk-Treasurer Meyer requested a work session with council, to work on the 2021 budget. Council set Wednesday, July 15th, @ 6:00p.m. Clerk has 2021 preliminary budget completed, and will plan to send to council, 2 weeks before the July 15th work session. Motion by Mr. Reindal, and 2nd by Mr. Wichmann, and passed, none opposed.

Council member Mr. Reindal reported on his findings of the costs of putting in two time clocks for employees, to use for keeping track of work hours. One time clock for the city shop and one time clock for the city office. Motion by Mr. Duncan, and 2nd by Mr. Reindal, and passed, none opposed.

Carl and Theresa Blizzard, of 234 Morin Rd, requested a variance on the height, of putting up a back yard fence. Motion to grant Blizzards' variance fence request, by Mr. Wichmann, 2nd by Ms. VanEngelenburg, and passed, none opposed.

City Clerk Meyer reported on MN Basic Code committee meeting, back on June 4, 2020. Committee recommended the council adopt the MN Basic code, including Chapter 151, regulating zoning and subdivision, and all ordinances be repealed when MBC is adopted. Motion by Ms. VanEngelenburg, 2nd by Mr. Wichmann and passed, none opposed. Council will hold a public hearing on July 8th, at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of MN Basic Code adoption.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA

Staff vacation request by Ms. Newman to approve vacation requests of July 6-10th, and August 10-14th, 2020. Motion by Ms. VanEngelenburg, 2nd by Mr. Wichamnn, and passed, none opposed.

Ms. Joseth Hertaus, with her daughters spoke about animal nuisances occurring on Scotte Lane. Council will look into what can be resolved regarding Hertaus's concerns, about city animal nuisances.

Motion by Ms VanEnglenburg, 2nd by Mr. Wichmann, with none opposed, to approve the bills as follows:

BILLS – JUNE 10, 2020

Adams, Bryce - May cell phone allowance	30.00
Alden Advance - TIF notice, May council & special mtg. minutes	312.25
Bolton & Menk - Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project - 4/18 - 5/15/20	4,299.75
Cardmember Service - mail water samples, water/sewer supplies, freight	397.34
EFTPS – May Federal payroll tax deposit	2,624.56

Fastenal - loader repairs	68.76
Freeborn Mower Cooperative - May electric services	1,939.96
Frontier Communications - May phone service	212.80
Gopher State One Call - May line locates	13.50
Greenfield, Travis (Advanced Outdoor Services) - mowing/trimming cemetery	1,000.00
- mowing/trimming city	800.00
Leach Law PLLC - city lease with Alden-Conger School - N. Park softball field	1,400.00
Midcontinent Communications - 5/17 - 6/16/20 shop office internet service	105.00
- 5/13 - 6/12/20 emergency phone at water plant	35.59
MN Dept. of Health - 2nd quarter water testing fee	777.00
MN Energy - 4/14 - 5/12/20 gas service	497.00
MN Revenue - May state withholding tax	456.39
- May sales tax	260.00
PERA - 5/4 - 5/31/20 employee retirement contributions	1,708.69
Prange, Amy - hall rental (6/6/20) refund due to COVID 19 regulations	75.00
Raleigh's Ace Hardware - batteries	15.29
Spring Touch Lawn - service on N. Park softball field sprinkler system (A-C)	125.00
Staples Enterprises - May fuel purchases	211.65
Thompson Sanitation - May garbage service	3,230.30
TransWorld Communications - April & May long distance service - office	7.53
US Postal Service - post office box fee	76.00
USable Life - June premium	69.30
Utility Consultants - sewer testing, shipping	216.00
Wuerflein, Jerome - May cell phone allowance	30.00

Wages, less ded:

Bryce Adams	2,354.46
Jeanne Meyer	2,548.62
Shirley Newman	1,246.96
Jerome Wuerflein	3,111.64

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fastenal - hand sanitizer	35.60
Freeborn County Coop Oil - May fuel purchases	52.91
Midcontinent Communications - 5/17 - 6/16/20 internet service	105.00
Staples Business Credit - disinfecting wipes	38.64

Council approved motion by Ms. VanEngelenburg, 2nd by Mr. Duncan, and passed, none opposed, to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Greg Hitchcock
Mayor

Jeanne Meyer
Clerk-Treasurer

