

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ALDEN CITY COUNCIL  
–For Property of 280 Euclid, Alden, MN, 56009 Parcel#21-002-0100

March 11, 2020

The Alden City Council held a Public Hearing, on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. Purpose of Public Hearing, was regarding hazardous property located at 280 Euclid, Alden, MN, parcel #21-002-0100. Property was damaged by fire on 03/20/2018. Hearing called to order, by Mayor Greg Hitchcock, at 6:00 p.m.

Present besides the city mayor, were council members Mr. Reindal, Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Wichmann, and Mr. Duncan. City Staff present were Mr. Jerome Wuerflein, Ms. Shirley Newman, and Ms. Jeanne Meyer. Also in attendance was Alden City Attorney, Ms. Abby Leach.

No individual(s) came forth to speak at hearing. City Attorney, Ms. Leach reported on a phone call she received, from Ms. Leah Jacobsen, regarding the said property. At 6:15 p.m., the city council concluded to move to the next step of the process for this hazardous property, by authorizing Ms. Leach to set a court date, to have removal of hazardous property, at 280 Euclid St. Alden, parcel#21-002-0100. Hearing was hereby closed by Mayor Hitchcock, at 6:16 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2020

Mayor Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m., and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the February 12th Council Meeting, along with the February 2020 Treasurer's Report and transfers, the Hours Report, Fire Department Report and Public Works Report.

Fire Chief Jim Thunstedt was unable to attend, but relayed information, regarding two new fire department applicants, to city clerk. Chief Thunstedt stated that the Alden Fire Department approved and voted in the two new fire department applicants, and asked for council approval. The council discussed the applicants, and a made a motion to approve the two applicants to the Alden Fire Department. Motion by VanEngelenburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duncan, and motion passed.

Public Works Superintendent, Jerome Wuerflein reported on the pond testing of sludge. Pond testing showed the sludge was not at serious levels. Working on improvements at the Alden City Hall, Also, taking down and repairing as needed, the outside Christmas decorations, until next season. A big “Thank you”, goes out to Council member, Ms. VanEngelenburg, for all her hard work, in refurbishing and improvements, of the Alden City Hall.

City Attorney, Abby Leach reported on the process of finalizing the Joint Powers Agreement, between the City of Alden, and Alden-Conger Schools. There are just a few minor items, left to conclude, and then the agreement will be finalized. Council thanked Ms. Leach for all her hard work, for the city.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Hitchcock presented correspondence regarding the Alden cemetery, from Mavis Bryson. Also there was correspondence, from staff member, Shirley Newman, thanking the staff and council for the flowers.

#### CITY BUSINESS

The council canvassed the results of the Presidential Nomination Primary Election held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Alden had 357 registered voters when the polls opened. Voter turnout percentage was 18.77%. Motion by VanEngelenburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reindal, and carried, to approve the results of the Presidential Nomination Primary Election on March 3, 2020; as presented.

Council reviewed mowing throughout the city, for 2020. After some discussion, the council directed Wuerflein to contact Advanced Outdoor Services, whom is in current contract for City Cemetery mowing, to see if they would be interested continuing in contract for mowing throughout the city, for 2020, as well.

The 2019 Audit is in progress, by CliftonLarsonAllen LLC. Auditors informed staff, regarding the PFA loan used for financing the Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project triggers additional recording requirements. It is required to have an evaluation/depreciation of the Water treatment plant and assets. Work is in progress for the evaluation of water plant & assets.

The council discussed the Morin Lakes Day Bank account. Council reviewed and decided city clerk will contact owners of the account, to have account owners close out their account under city, set up their own independent Morin Lake Days account, as directed by CliftonLarsonAllen LLC auditing firm.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann, and carried with none opposed, to approve the Midwest AquaCare quote of \$1890.00, to treat Morin Lake, for the 2020 summer season.

The council discussed the LeVerne Carlson Foundation request for 2020 and decided to request for financial assistance for the upkeep and maintenance at the city cemetery, as well as funds to help cover costs of Morin Lake Days Fireworks Display, on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Motion by Duncan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wichmann, and carried, to approve the request for fireworks permit, for Morin Lake Days fireworks commencing Sat. May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Also, motion by Wichmann, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reindal, and carried, for a permit request, to close main street, during the parade, for Morin Lake Days also on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This would include the city covering the insurance expenses related to events, as well as MnDOT approving closing the road, prior to the parade event.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reindal, and carried, to approve the request of the Alden American Legion for all their annual liquor licenses renewals. Approve the following: RESOLVED, to grant On-Sale, Off-Sale, and Sunday Liquor Licenses for the year May 17, 2020 to May 16, 2021, to the Alden American Legion Post 404, located at 151 N. Broadway in Alden (including outdoor patio area at rear of building); upon payment of \$500.00 for the On-Sale license, \$100.00 for the Off-Sale license, and \$200.00 for the Sunday Liquor License, and fulfilling all other requirements and upon approval from the Minnesota Liquor Control Director.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reindal, and carried, to approve the request of a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License: March 28, 2020, at Hemmingsen's Transfer, 126 Euclid St., for the hours from 7 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>, for a license fee of \$10.00. This will be for the PTO's Night of Knights fundraiser. Also to approve request of a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Lake Morin Days, on Saturday, June 20th, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Sunday, June 21st, 2020, at 1:00 AM. Permit fee: \$10.00. Alden American Legion Post 404/Dave Rasmussen, Mgr. in the parking lot at Hemmingsen's Transfer lot, or in case of rain, at Hemmingsen's Transfer Saturday, June 20th, 2020 7:00 PM – 1:00 AM Sunday. Conditions: Enough supervision to keep orderly.

Mayor Hitchcock discussed the city old equipment, junk, supplies, and misc., located in the various city storage areas, and what action can be taken, to clean up the areas. Council authorized Mr. Wuerflein, Public works Superintendent to remove and/or take to salvage yard, the old city equipment/junk, as he deems appropriate.

Motion by Duncan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wichmann and carried with none opposed, to approve anniversary step increases for eligible staff.

Council reviewed staff vacation requests for the upcoming year, Newman, in April 2020, and Meyer and Wuerflein, in July 2020. Motion to approve staff vacation requests by VanEngelenburg, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duncan, and passed, with none opposed.

#### ADDITIONAL AGENDA

The State Water Testing Fee has gone up to \$9.72, (was \$6.40-\$1.60 per quarter) single connection fee, annual amount up to \$3,110.00, Quarterly amount due: \$777. Council discussed the increased water testing fee and decided to **not** raise the water testing fee, for this year, as residents have had increase water fees already this year.

The election judge's fees from the Presidential Nomination Primary, held on March 3, 2020, were presented. Motion by Wichmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reindal, to approve payments of the election judge's fees from the Presidential Nomination Primary election with none opposed.

Motion by Reindal, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duncan, and carried with none opposed, to approve the bills as follows:

## BILLS – MARCH 11, 2020

Adams, Bryce - February cell phone allowance	30.00
Albert Lea Steel - back splash at city hall	22.46
Alden Advance - 280 Euclid Ave. public hearing, Feb. council minutes	197.25
Arnold's of Alden - snow blower repairs, loader repairs, shipping	3,808.86
Beemer Companies - Water Treatment Plant Improvement - Pay Request #8	38,000.00
Bolton & Menk - Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project - 1/11 - 2/7/20	4,114.75
Cardmember Service - water sample postage	10.94
- water sample postage, rattle reel & line	22.19
Dakota Supply Group - 2019 Water Meter Replacement Project - retainage amount	4,120.55
EFTPS – February Federal payroll tax deposit	2,576.82
Fastenal - supplies for city hall	4.19
Freeborn County Coop Oil - February fuel purchases	499.23
Freeborn County Highway Dept. - Dynamic Driver Feedback Sign (50%)	4,194.98
Freeborn Mower Cooperative - 2/1 - 3/1/20 electric services	2,378.59
Frontier - March phone services	213.47
Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - plow truck repair, grease	64.78
Meyer, Jeanne - PNP election food & supplies	21.52
Midcontinent Communications - 2/17 - 3/16/20 shop office internet service	105.00
- 2/13 - 3/12/20 emergency phone at water plant	35.75
MN Dept. of Health - 1st quarter water testing fee	777.00
MN Energy - 1/20 - 2/11/20 gas service	843.96
MN Pollution Control Agency - water permit annual fees	345.00
MN Revenue - February state withholding tax	446.17
- February sales tax	377.00
PERA - 2/10 - 2/23/20 employee retirement contribution	841.42
2/24 - 3/8/20 employee retirement contribution	846.36
Quill - ink cartridges, broom, ink pens	89.96
Raleigh's Ace Hardware - fasteners, silicone, distilled water, ice melt, drill bit	86.82
Reindal Electric - replace bad dusk to dawn fixture at lift station	195.00
Southern Lock & Glass - repair city hall front door	693.63
Staples Enterprises - February fuel purchases	218.00
Thompson Sanitation - February garbage service	3,230.30
TransWorld Network - Feb. - March long distance service - office	5.35
USAbLe Life - March premium	69.30
Westrum Leak Detection - 2019 leak detection survey	900.00
Wuerflein, Jerome - February cell phone allowance	30.00
- 2 pair workpants	139.00
Xerox Corporation - copier service agreement	119.94
Wages, less ded:	
Bryce Adams	2,303.12
Jeanne Meyer	2,614.68
Shirley Newman	1,126.20
Jerome Wuerflein	3,111.64
Wages/Mileage:	
Election judges (see attached sheet)	713.05

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Midcontinent Communications - 2/17 - 3/16/20 internet service	105.00
MN State Fire Chiefs Assoc. - membership renewals - Thunstedt, Weigel, Skov	220.00
Motorola Solutions - fire equipment	266.25

Council approved motion by Reindal, 2nd by VanEngelenburg, and carried, to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

Greg Hitchcock  
Mayor

Jeanne Meyer  
Clerk-Treasurer