

## **MINUTES OF THE ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING – November 9, 2022**

The Alden City Council met in its regular session, November 9, 2022 at 6:00pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Reyerson.

Council members present: Mayor Reyerson, Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, Mr. Duncan. City Staff Present: Fire Chief Thunstedt, Public Works Director Jerome Wuerflein. Others present: Nicole Eckstrom, county commissioner-elect, Shirley Newman, Alex Burris

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion made by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the minutes from the October council meeting. Carried.

No Treasurer's report or Hours report were available at the time of the meeting.

Ms. VanEngelenburg will compile information to make payments for Election Judges.

Fire report was presented by Chief Thunstedt. The department had 0 fire calls, 4 medical calls and 1 MVA call in October. The county meeting was held in London this month, which our department did not attend. AFD was awarded \$2500 from the Freeborn Mower Round up to be used towards rescue tools. MBFTE training dollars are set at \$300 per firefighter, so our training allowance for 2023 is \$6900. The 9 First responders who needed to complete their 2 year renewal have done so. Checks and bills were presented to Mayor Reyerson. Chief Thunstedt asked about who might be vulnerable to the data breach, and Mayor Reyerson stated that letters were sent out this week to those affected. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to approve the fire report as presented. Carried.

Superintendent Wuerflein presented the Public Works report. He has been spending a large amount of his time in the office. He would like to begin entering some information into the computer. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to allow Jerome to begin entering Accounts Receivable into the computer. Carried. Alex has been flushing hydrants, mulching leaves, and spraying for dandelions. Jerome has been working on a compliance plan for the MPCA to help with the potential water litigation. The council would like to continue to fight the litigation at this time. Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the public works report as presented. Carried.

County Commissioner-Elect Nicole Eckstrom addressed the Council. She is looking forward to working with the council on any needs that we have.

Discussion was had on water billing concerns for Hemmingsen and the school irrigation systems. There appears to be an issue with the meter set up in our computer system, which is causing issues with the billings. The city will continue working on the issue and present the information to the council at a future meeting.

Special Assessments for delinquent utility bills will be assessed to the property tax roll. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Duncan to pass the Resolution Certify the delinquent utilities to property taxes. Carried. We will verify that letters have been sent to the residents to notify of them of the special assessment, or will send letters.

Signature card for the bank account will be addressed at the next meeting.

We have had 6 applicants for the Clerk Position. Interviews will be conducted in 30 minute intervals, on November 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00pm.

A letter was received from Francis Avisse notifying us that the house on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave will be left to the Freeborn Humane Society upon his death.

Janelle VanEngelenburg served as head judge for the General Election. 259 voted in Alden. Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Election results as presented. Carried.

Hall Deposit checks were discovered in the clerk's desk drawer and rental checks that were old. Jerome reached out to the people he was able to find phone numbers for. He would like to destroy the checks and keep record of the checks that were destroyed.

Motion by Duncan and seconded by Reindal to approve the final levy for 2023, with no change from the preliminary levy submitted in September. Carried.

Election Pay resolution states that judges will be paid \$12 per hour plus their training time. Discussion was had on meals provided. Ebeneazor Howe and his wife brought in sandwiches for lunch, and Nellie purchased meals from the Methodist Church for those who wanted them.

Truth in Taxation meeting will be scheduled for the December 14 at 6:00, with the regular meeting to follow at 6:30.

Alex Burris 6 month review was discussed. The review will be done at 5:30 Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, prior to the Clerk Interviews.

Midco would like the city to commit to a longer tower lease. We will reach out to Midco to find out more details on the new proposal.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the bills as presented. Carried. Jerome will try to print the checks from the computer.

Motion by Duncan and seconded by VanEngelenburg to adjourn the meeting. Carried.