

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

14 October 2020

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, 14 October 2020, at 6:00 PM.

Mayor Greg Hitchcock took council members attendance by roll call. Council members Mr. Reindal, Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Wichmann and Mr. Duncan. City Staff present were Jim Thunstedt, Jerome Wuerflein, and Spencer Wacholz. Cheryl Reynolds was in attendance as well.

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

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the 9 September 2020, along with the September Treasurer's Report and transfers, and the Hours Report.

Fire Chief Thunstedt reported the department had 1 mutual aid call, 1 Haz-Mat call, and 1 motor vehicle accident call for the month. There was a county meeting in Hartland. Jared Rozeboom from the State Fire Marshalls office on training and education presented several updates. Chief Thunstedt reported the FF I & II are fully funded this year. FEMA AFG Grant for 2021 should be opening in December '20 or January '21. Compeer Financial issued a \$3,000 grant for equipment for the department to use, which will be used on SCBA Bottles. CAFS Truck is still being worked on with the League about finding a number that works for payout. Annual pump tests and service were done on pumper and tanker trucks. Chief Thunstedt also reported on the November feed on 10 November 2020 at the Alden Legion starting with a 6 pm social and 7 pm supper. VanEngelenburg motion to accept the Fire Report, 2nd by Wichmann, motion carried.

Public Works Superintendent, Jerome Wuerflein, reported that Blackstone has repaired the streets from our water repairs. Barga patched the potholes on North Star Rd has been completed as well. Wuerflein reported the North Park restrooms were being painted with electrical work to follow. The posts still needed caps and chains at the openings. The water tower cleaning was to happen on the 10th of the month but ended up being postponed. Wuerflein also sent the locator in for repair but has requested the council for him to purchase a new one. Duncan motion, 2nd by Wichmann to allow Public Works to purchase a new locator for the city, motion carried.

Wuerflein also brought to the council's attention about ordering garbage cans for the Cemetery, around the lake and in North Park. He thought concrete pads would be underneath the garbage cans to help anchor the cans down. There was also discussion about more beautification around the lake and parks including but not limited to: Flower Boxes, BBQ stands, benches, and the garbage cans. Wuerflein also brought to the attention of the council's to build bins for the gravel and sand mounds by the city garage, but discussion was tabled for a later date. Wuerflein also reported on various dead trees around the city. VanEngelenburg motion to accept Public Works Report, 2nd by Reindal, motion carried.

Mayor Hitchcock presented other council members a letter written by Doug Sauke.

Clerk Wacholz presented the city software being implemented to an online server, which will be maintained and secured by the creators of the software. It would allow the clerk to work from home if needed due to COVID-19 as well as potentially allow residents to pay utility bills online.

The upgrade would only be a small increase in price. Wichmann motioned, 2nd by Reindal to upgrade city billing software, motion carried. Clerk Wacholz also presented information for online bill processing for utility billing. Discussion on the change from quarterly water billing to monthly billing, but no action was taken. Clerk Wacholz suggested asking residents on the next water billing cycle on their water bills what they would prefer.

The following items have been tabled for a later meeting: Police Enforcement contract, Liquor Licensing, and City Attorney for the November meeting.

The bills provided for the month have been accepted by motion from Reindal 2nd by Duncan, motion carried. The following bills for the month are as follows:

Bargen Incorporated	\$8,000.00
Freeborn County Coop	\$142.93
Frontier	\$220.30
Heiman Inc	\$56.00
Quill LLC	\$375.90
Utility Consultants	\$370.00
Emergency Medical Products	\$508.85
Karl's Carquest	\$24.74
Freeborn Mower Coop	\$4,170.35
USABlueBook	\$155.88
USAbLe Life	\$85.20
Travis Greenfield	\$1,350.00
Thompson Sanitation	\$3,230.30
Raleigh's Ace	\$376.69
Southern Lock & Glass	\$960.14
Ferguson Waterworks	\$240.00
Minnesota Energy	\$281.96
Albert Lea Steel	\$51.09
Jerry Kroeger	\$917.96
Fire Safety USA	\$912.00
Blackstone Construction	\$4,750.00
Jerome Wuerflein	\$210.32
Midco	\$553.99
Parker Hemmingsen	\$43.65
Sanco Equipment	\$146.02
Beemer	\$6,000.00
Metro	\$32.68
Spencer Wacholz	\$110.00
Kamstrup Water Meter	\$962.40

Wages:

Bryce Adams	\$3185.60
Jerome Wuerflein	\$4083.20
Spencer Wacholz	\$3481.60
PERA	\$2249.60

Cheryl Reynolds presented questions from the community to the city council.

VanEnglenburg motioned to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Reindal.

Mayor Hitchcock adjourned meeting at 7:30 pm.

Next Council Meeting will be 18 November 2020.

Greg Hitchcock, Mayor

Spencer Wacholz, Clerk-Treasurer