

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 9th, 2018

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 9th, at 6:00 PM. Council members present were Reyerson, VanEngelenburg, Wichmann, and Duncan. Riebe was absent. City Staff present were Chief Thunstedt, Wuerflein, Scholten, and Newman. Also present were Greg Hitchcock, Barb Carlson, Betty Steele, and Abby Leach.

Mayor Reyerson called the meeting to order.

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the April 11th Council Meeting, along with the April Treasurer's Report, Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and the Public Works Report.

Chief Thunstedt presented the Fire Report. He informed the council of a generous donation to the department in the amount of \$750 from Billy Ransom.

Wuerflein presented the Public Works Report. He updated the council on the many projects happening throughout the city. Wuerflein stated the new pumps have been installed at the lift station and the forcemain project should be close to complete. He then explained to the council the final coat for Morin Road and Broadway alleys will need to wait until after the Highway 109 detour has ended and concrete work has been fixed on the alley east of Broadway. Wuerflein then informed the council bid opening for the water plant and new water meters will be held on May 24th, 2018.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried, to approve a \$30 monthly cell phone stipend for Adams.

Wuerflein then discussed the water issue at 326 Euclid. He stated according to the well readings at the water tower, he is only able to account for 60,000 gallons during the time frame of the water leak at the property. Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan and carried, to bill the property owner at 326 Euclid for 60,000 gallons and to waive any accrued late fee since the issue was in the process of being investigated.

The kitchen floor at City Hall was discussed. There have been complaints regarding its poor condition due to age and leaks from the dishwasher. The council directed Scholten to look into the matter further to see if it is something Semcac's insurance would help cover due to the dishwasher leaks.

Greg Hitchcock presented to the council information regarding his previous city utility bills, which were abnormally high compared to his average usage. He explained he has been proactive by having a plumber check everything over multiple times with no issue being found. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried to waive the

remainder of Hitchcock's city utility bill in the amount of \$304.02. The council discussed the possibility of reviewing the current policy at a future council meeting.

Abby Leach with Leach Law, PLLC discussed with the council possible options for the properties with deferred assessments along Hemmingsen Street. The council then decided to table the discussion until a later council meeting.

The proposed City Key Policy was discussed with a few suggested changes and the council decided to review it again at the next council meeting.

Scholten presented a proposal to the council for her upcoming maternity leave. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried, to approve Scholten's proposal, which included Scholten working flexible, part-time hours with doctor approval and closing the City Office on Fridays beginning June 29th until August 31st.

Regarding liability coverage, the council decided to table whether or not to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability until the next council meeting.

Councilmember Wichmann presented information regarding a request for a storage building on a property located at 204 Mason Avenue. Motion by Wichman, second by VanEngelenburg, and carried to grant Al Young a variance to place a 200 square foot shed with concrete block foundation on his property at 204 Mason Avenue.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan and carried, to approve the bills as follows:

Albert Lea Electric - city hall restroom fan 25.79; Alden Advance - March council meeting 141.01; Bolton & Menk - WWTF Forcemain Replacement Project 3187.50, Water Treatment Improvement Project 33,844.75; Core & Main - fire hydrant replacements during Hwy 109 project 8228.61; EFTPS - April Federal payroll tax deposit 1906.78; Freeborn County Coop Oil - April fuel purchases 409.56; Frontier - May phone service 197.29; Gopher State One Call - April line locates 43.95; Hach - wastewater testing tool, freight 220.27; Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - air filter for Toro 25.31, battery for toro 121.09; MCFOA - membership fee - Lexi 45.00; MIDCO - 4/17 - 5/16/18 shop office internet service 105.00; MN Energy - 3/14 - 4/12/18 gas services 986.57; MN Revenue - April state withholding tax 329.80; Morin Lake Days - contribution for the 2018 celebration 1200.00; PERA - 4/9 - 4/22/18 employee retirement contributions 584.86; Ron's Plumbing, HVAC & Electric - museum furnace repairs 193.19, city hall boiler repairs 706.52; Thompson Sanitation - April garbage service 3089.86; US Able Life - May premium 41.35; Visa - water samples postage 60.95; Water Conservation Services - leak detection @ 229 Morin Rd. 776.65; Wuerflein, Jerome - April cell phone allowance 30.00; Xerox Corp. - copier service agreements 77.85; Bolton & Menk - Water Treatment Improvement Project, permits, testing 25,615.80; Freeborn County Auditor - Treasurer - 2018 property taxes & ditch assessments 1018.05; Guggisberg, William - April mileage 45.00; MN Dept. of Labor & Industry - registration fee for air compressor 10.00; PERA - 4/26 - 5/6/18 & April OT employee retirement contributions 783.32; TransWorld Network - April & May long distance service 11.91; wages & April OT, less

ded: Bryce Adams 979.11; William Guggisberg - April 175.46; Shirley Newman 1186.55; Alexis Scholten 2294.85; Jerome Wuerflein 2863.62, April OT 191.43. FIRE DEPT: Ernie's Canvas - patch 3 pants & 1 jacket 45.00; Freeborn County Coop Oil - April fuel purchases 84.83; MIDCO - 4/17 - 5/16/18 internet service 105.00; SASCS, LLC - 2 EMR training 850.00; South Central Regional Fire Dept. Assoc. - membership dues 50.00; Thunstedt, Jim - District 14 Regional Fire Metg. 7 registrations 42.00, 30 memorial flags from Witmer Public Safety, freight 195.69, 2 name plates purchased from Our Designs 100.99; LifeLine - Zoll Stat Padz CPT electrodes, shipping 91.67.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried, to adjourn at 8:17 PM.

