

**MINUTES OF THE ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING – October 11, 2023.**

The regular meeting of the Alden City council was called to order by Mayor Reyerson at 6:00pm and roll call was read. Council Members present were Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, Ms. Pederson, and Mayor Reyerson. Absent was Ms. VanEngelenburg. City staff present were Jerome Wuerflein, Jim Thunstedt, and Kim Knutson. Others present were Ben Rosal, County Commissioner Nikki Eckstrom, and Maureen Williams-Zelenak, Heather Butler, and Lt Wacholz on behalf of the Crime Victims Crisis Center.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the minutes from the September 13 public hearing and regular council meeting. Carried.

Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to approve the Hours Report as presented. Carried.

Fire Chief Thunstedt reported there was 1 mutual aid fire call, 7 medical calls, 1 mutual aid medical call, 1 motor vehicle accident, and 1 assistance call in September 2023. The County meeting was held in Geneva. The training was anhydrous ammonia hazards. There will be a First Responder training held in January and February, and we had 3 or 4 firefighters interested in taking those classes. Fire Prevention week is October 8 – 14. Operation EDITH will be held Wednesday evening. Department physicals were completed by 13 members on September 20. Jim will try to reschedule for those who could not get theirs done that day. Medical Consortium training was held on September 20. The department was awarded a \$4000 grant from the Compeer "Fund for Rural America" to be used for water movement items. Chief Thunstedt did report the new overhead doors are ordered, and he has asked for a quote to redo the trim above the doors as well. The lower quote to complete the trim work will be approved, and the trim will be done in dark brown as it was in the past. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Pedersen to approve the Fire report as presented. Carried.

Superintendent Wuerflein reported that Olson Excavating has been in town doing some repairs. A storm drain was repaired, water service was reconnected at one location, and disconnected at another. We have started street patching this week. There are a few sewer lines where we were waiting for the crops to come out to finish cleaning and televising. We will get that completed soon. Jerome is working on getting a quote for seeding at the North Powers lots. They have been cleaned up so that we can mow next year. There was discussion held on ideas for the sale of city lots. The council will consider and come back with ideas for selling those lots. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to approve the Public Works Report as presented. Carried.

Correspondence from the MN Department of Transportation regarding the Greater MN Stand-alone Noise Barrier Program was shared with the council. Another piece of correspondence for the council is that Freeborn County Public Health will be doing a Flu Shot Clinic in Alden Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 3:30 at City Hall. Deb Pedersen will help line up volunteers if needed.

Representatives from the Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center presented information on "Paint the town Purple" program raising awareness regarding Domestic Violence Awareness month. They brought signs and lights for businesses to display in support of the program.

Ben from Bolton-Menk updated the council on the infrastructure project. We did get the application submitted on September 29<sup>th</sup>. RD will come back with comments, and there will be back and forth

information in the upcoming months. It can take 6 to 9 months before we hear back from them. A meeting will be set up October 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am with Bolton-Menk, Jerome, and the council water sewer committee to go over more details. A motion was made by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to publish the Public Notification of Intent to File Application with the USDA Rural Development in the Alden Advance. This is in keeping with the requirement to publish the notice either 60 days before or after the application has been filed. Carried.

The city has been awarded a \$5000 grant from the League of MN Cities to pay Bolton-Menk to apply for the LRIP grant on our behalf. A motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Wichmann to approve Resolution number 2023-13 Accepting Grant Navigator Funding. Carried.

Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Reindal to adopt resolution 2023-10 to approve the summary publication of the Minnesota Basic Code. Carried.

The school has asked the city to assign a street address to the Football Field to aid emergency services in locating. In doing research we also decided there should be addresses assigned to the Neil Pierce Baseball Field, Northpark Softball field and playground, the boat landing, and the 5 vacant lots on N. Powers Ave. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to adopt Ordinance 170.02. Carried.

## **ORDINANCE 170.02**

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALDEN, MINNESOTA, ASSIGNING NEW STREET ADDRESS FOR PROPERTY**

#### **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALDEN DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:**

Section 1. That the following properties within the City of Alden that currently have no assigned street address shall be reassigned as follows:

Alden-Conger School Football Field & Playground Complex, PID #21.906.0010 in the City of Alden, be assigned to the street address of 215 Euclid Street.

Alden-Conger School's Neil Pierce Baseball Field, PID #21.906.0010 in the City of Alden, be assigned to the street address of 200 N. Powers Ave.

NorthPark Softball Field and Playground, PID #21.960.0030 in the City of Alden, be assigned to the street address of 375 N. Broadway.

Morin Lake Boat Landing, PID #21.904.0040 in the City of Alden, be assigned to the street address of 150 W. Main Street

Parcel ID #21.149.0010 in the City of Alden shall be assigned the street address of 300 N. Powers Ave.

Parcel ID #21.149.0020 in the City of Alden shall be assigned the street address of 310 N. Powers Ave.

Parcel ID #21.149.0030 in the City of Alden shall be assigned the street address of 320 N. Powers Ave.

Parcel ID #21.149.0040 in the City of Alden shall be assigned the street address of 330 N. Powers Ave.

Parcel ID #21.149.0050 in the City of Alden shall be assigned the street address of 340 N. Powers Ave.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

A discussion was held on the Budget for 2024. Ms. Pedersen wanted to publicly thank clerk Knutson for the extra work put in to help her work through her questions on the budget. After some discussion, motion was made by Pedersen and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Budget for 2024. Carried.

A discussion was held on whether or not to certify the delinquent utility bills to property taxes at the end of the year. We will certify any past due balances as of November 15<sup>th</sup> to property taxes. Letters will be sent to all delinquent accounts notifying them of this. This will be a new policy, so that we can just certify the taxes each year.

The Alden Interagency group has been putting together a flyer for any resident of Alden listing the various clubs and groups within the city for anyone interested. Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann for the city to pay the printing costs for this flyer from the city's general fund. Carried.

October 14<sup>th</sup> is the citywide cleanup day. Jerome will work at the drop off site on Saturday. Discussion was had on the Hazardous Waste Collection process. Those items are not to be dropped off on Saturday, but there is information on the county website with the process for disposing of those items at Environmental Services.

Freeborn County is working on a Cannabis Ordinance that will go into effect county wide regulating uses of cannabis. It is the understanding of the commissioner that if the city has their own cannabis ordinance, then the county can't enforce the laws. If there is no city ordinance in place, then the county ordinance would cover the city. We will need to verify this with the County Attorney's office. They are also working on an ordinance regulating the sale of cannabis.

County Commissioner Eckstrom also notified the city that there are many grants available out there for various purposes. She encouraged us to search out grants if there are any projects that we are working on.

Discussion was had on fraudulent emails received by the city. There were 2 that appeared to be from city employee and a council member. We will check with the Insurance company on the cost for the identity theft monitoring for the past year and see if we would like to continue that for another year.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to approve the bills presented for payment of \$63,861.23, EFT's of \$7,130.26, and Payroll of \$9,088.71. Carried.

A letter and bill for the city's cost for the property abatement will be sent to the residents at 275 S. Broadway.

Discussion was had regarding complaints about dogs running loose around town. We will research the ordinances and look for consequences for failing to follow the ordinance.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by Reindal to adjourn at 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Knutson  
Clerk-Treasurer