

The Alden City Council met in its regular session, August 9, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Reyerson at 6:00pm, and he read roll call. Council members present were Mayor Reyerson, Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, and Ms. Pedersen. City staff present were Fire Chief Thunstedt, Public Works Superintendent Wuerflein, and Clerk-Treasurer Knutson. Others present: Craig Poppenhagen, Pat Martinson, Kelly Hendrickson, Nicole Eckstrom, Ben Rosol, Christopher Cannistraci, Rhonda McDonald, Will Jacobs.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Reindal and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2023 Public Hearing and Regular meeting. Carried.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Carried.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to approve the Hours report as presented. Carried.

Fire Chief Thunstedt reported there was 1 house fire call, 1 grass fire call, and 1 mutual aid medical call in July. The county meeting was held in Emmons, and they discussed E-Dispatch with expanded paging capabilities. The question was asked about dialing 911 on cell phones. In our area this often goes to Faribault County, so you just need to request to speak with Freeborn County and they will transfer the call. The House fire at 356 S. Broadway is still under investigation, and we now have contact information with the insurance company if needed. The Alden Fire Department Pork Chop Supper will be Saturday, August 19 from 5:00 to 7:30. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve closing the alley behind the fire station for that day. Carried. Department physicals will be done on September 20th, which needs to be done every 2 years. The new fire truck will not be available for us until 2024. Alden sent 3 teams to a firemen's tournament in Frost, and took 1st & 2nd place. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the Fire Report as presented. Carried.

Superintendent Wuerflein reported that they have been working hard on the sewer cleaning project. They anticipate being done this week, except for a few lines that will need to be cleaned and televised after the crops come out in the fall. He shared a map showing the issues found while doing the cleaning project. Letters will be sent to residents who had specific issues, recommending they have the line cleaned from the house out to the main. Motion by Reindal and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the Public Works Report. Carried.

An email was shared that was received from League of MN Cities regarding the one time, 2023 Public Safety Aid of which the city is set to receive \$25,161.00. There are specific things it can and can't be used for, so the council will need to decide what the best use would be.

The residents at 275 S. Broadway attended the meeting to request the council allow them more time to work on the cleanup issues. The council decided that enough time was allowed for completing the cleanup, and we will begin the process to abate the issue. The city will get clarification from our attorney before we proceed. Motion by Reindal and seconded by VanEngelenburg to move forward with the abatement of the property.

Discussion was had regarding adopting the updated Minnesota Basic Code and zoning map. We would like to compare them with previous ordinances to make sure that we have everything covered with the new ordinances. A workgroup of Deb, Jeff, and Kim will meet on Wednesdays to work on the updates.

Ben from Bolton-Menk presented 2 bids for soil boring. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to accept the bid from Braun Intertec for 14.5' soil boring. Carried. There are 14 spots they will do the testing. Ben also discussed the Notice of Intent that we will probably file next month, and the requirements for Public Hearings. We will hold the public hearings once we have more complete information to share. Ben also discussed another source of funding called LRIP. This grant could help cover repairs on a specific street after the infrastructure project is complete, since those costs are not covered in the RD project, and we would need to get

letters of support from the community for the application. There is also a grant available to help cover the cost of the grant writing called Grant Navigator, that we will check into a little later down the road.

Craig Poppenhagen from CliftonLarsonAllen presented a summary of the City's 2022 Audit. There were no significant adverse findings. The council will review the audit and will approve it at the September meeting.

Pat Martinson and Kelly Hendrickson were present at the meeting to answer questions regarding six tax forfeiture properties that will be sold at a public auction in September. There was much discussion on options. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to purchase 5 vacant lots on Hemmingsen Ave for \$1000 each. Carried. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to approve 308 W. Main Street for sale at auction. Carried

Will Jacobs presented information on the Boy Scout Project that he is working on. He will be putting a sign at Northpark in the parking lot. It made of Metal and will have simple landscaping around it. The landscaping will be maintenance free. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to approve the sign with the White Lettering. Carried.

Discussion was had on possible projects for the Lions Club. Ideas were updating the beach, painting the swing and bench at the beach, wind blockers for the pavilion at Northpark. There were no Lions members in attendance, so this was just a discussion item.

Other topics of discussion were the signage in the planters by the lake. We will do something that will hold up better through the weather next year. We would also like to get information from the Alden Interagency committee listing the heads of all the area committees. We also discussed the sidewalk in need of repair from the fire hydrant repair. Jerome is looking for someone to patch the sidewalk.

Employees will continue to work on their job description updates. Hope to have completed by January 1st.

We will update our ordinances to include the time limit allowed for residents to bring property back into compliance with the ordinance. We will allow 7 days for long grass, 7 days for refuse, and 14 days for junk vehicles.

The council will schedule a Budget Workshop for August 23rd at 6:00. We will make sure to post notice of the meeting.

More discussion was had on ordinance violation properties and citizen's complaints. We will continue working through our processes.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the bills totaling \$26,991.61, EFT payments totaling \$5,188.52, payroll of \$9,088.73. Carried.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to adjourn at 8:18. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Knutson
Clerk-Treasurer