

MINUTES OF THE ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING – September 13, 2023.

The regular meeting of the Alden City council was called to order by Mayor Reyerson at 6:05pm and roll call was read. Council Members present were Ms. VanEngelenburg, Mr. Reindal, Mr. Wichmann, Ms. Pederson, and Mayor Reyerson. City staff present were Jerome Wuerflein, Jim Thunstedt, Kim Knutson, and Alex Burris. Others present were Shirley Newman and Ben Rosal.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to approve the minutes from the August 9 meeting. Carried. Clerk Knutson noted that the minutes from the July meeting should be updated to reflect that the chairperson from the Morin Lake Days Committee was available the Saturday night of Morin Lake Days to make the call regarding cancelling the fireworks due to weather. She had been in contact directly with the company who provided the fireworks.

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

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

Fire Chief Thunstedt reported that there were no fire calls in August, 4 medical calls, and 1 mutual aid service call. The county meeting was held in Freeborn. The paging coverage study was discussed, and Alden is in a poor paging coverage area. A committee is being formed to work on the next steps from that study. The training was on solar panel power. The pork chop feed served over 300. Chief Thunstedt has applied for a grant from Compeer Financial for water movement items. He also applied for the Freeborn-Mower Operation Round up Grant to go toward rescue tools and a grant from the Alden Area Community Foundation to also go toward rescue tools, which was received. The MN DNR grant was denied this year. Rick Looke has submitted a letter of resignation from the Fire Department. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to accept the resignation with regrets. There was a discussion on 356 S. Broadway. The demolition should be completed in September. Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to accept Fire Report as presented. Carried.

Superintendent Wuerflein reported that the American Towers cell tower at the ponds has been taken down. The power line going to the tower has also been removed, and they are working on cleaning up the debris. The soil boring for the streets has been completed. We received a copy of the sewer inspection report from the sewer line cleaning and televising project. We will be receiving a quote for some street patching. The pickup box has been repaired since the accident. We will also check into replacing the front fenders to get rid of the rest of the rust. Jerome would like to get wheel weights for the Case 55 tractor and set of pallet forks. Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Pedersen to purchase the weights and forks. Approved. The overhead doors for the Fire Station need to be replaced. We received 2 quotes, one from Overhead Door Co. and the other from Midland Doors. Motion by Pedersen and seconded by Reindal to approve the quote from Midland Doors, which was a higher quality door. Carried. Jerome would also like to reface above the doors when the new ones are installed. We will get a quote on that before we repair it. The storage room at the beach is having issues with the foundation which is causing trouble with the door. It is secured now, but will need to keep it in mind for future repairs. The group in charge of the flower watering will continue to be allowed to use that storage room. Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the Public Works Reports. Carried.

The Alden Interagency Group will be meeting on September 18 to finalize the brochure listing all the organizations in the city. We also received a letter from the State Auditor stating that our audit has not been turned in yet. It should be turned in by the end of the week, as it is on the agenda to approve today.

Ben from Bolton-Menk presented a contract for the LRIP application. We will need to gather some letters of support for the projects on Broadway, Euclid, and Water streets. Resolution 2023-11 was presented to allow us to apply for the Grant Navigator. Motion by Pedersen and seconded by VanEngelenburg to adopt Resolution 2023-11 Authorizing Application for Grant Navigation support for the city. Carried. Still working through getting application submitted by the end of September. Another aspect of the project will need to be a new water tower, and possibly a new well. Motion by Reindal and seconded by Wichmann to approve the LRIP contract with Bolton-Menk. Carried.

Motion by Pedersen and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve the 2022 Audit as presented at the August 9th City Council meeting. Carried.

Much discussion was had on the Budget for 2024. The council will continue to work on the separate line items in the budget at a Workshop scheduled for September 27 at 6:00pm.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to leave the total levy amount the same as last year.

General Fund	\$187,524
2017 Bond	\$ 61,000
Fire Protection	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
Total	<u>\$273,524</u>

The Truth in Taxation meeting was set for December 13, 2023 at 6:00, to be held at the beginning of the regularly scheduled council meeting.

Motion by Wichmann and seconded by VanEngelenburg to approve Resolution 2023.07 Establishing an Urban & Rural Service District. Carried.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Reindal to approve Voting Operations, Technology & Election Resources (VOTER) Account Agreement allowing Freeborn County to retain all the VOTER Account Funds received. Carried.

There was a discussion held on the process to vacate/abandon an alley. If the concerned parties come to the council to make a formal request, we will begin the process.

The city will hold a City Wide Clean up day on October 14, 2023, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We will put together a flyer to notify residents. We will need someone from the city to work at the dumpster to make sure the items thrown in the dumpster are allowed by Thompson Sanitation.

An update was given on the tax forfeiture properties that the city is purchasing from the county. The sale has been approved by the county board, and they are working on the deeds. Motion by Reindal and seconded by VanEngelenburg to make the payment to Freeborn County for these properties. Carried.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to approve the bills presented for payment totaling \$130,701.05, EFT's totaling \$7,272.69, and payroll of \$13,633.05. Carried.

Motion by VanEngelenburg and seconded by Wichmann to adjourn at 8:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Knutson
Clerk-Treasurer