

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 11th, 2018

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 11th, at 6:00 PM. Council members present were Reyerson, Riebe, VanEngelenburg, Wichmann, and Duncan. City Staff present were Chief Thunstedt, Wuerflein, Scholten, and Newman. Also present were Ann Bryson, Donna Schmidt, Suzanne Parr, Steve Newman, Maria Bernal, Leah Jacobsen, and Greg Hitchcock.

Mayor Reyerson called the meeting to order.

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the March 14th Council Meeting and March 26th, March 27th, and April 2nd Special Meetings, along with the March Treasurer's Report, Transfer of Funds, Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and the Public Works Report.

Chief Thunstedt presented the Fire Report. He mentioned the house burn training with Freeborn and Conger Fire Departments went very well. Thunstedt then informed the council the rescue truck is getting some exterior paint issues resolved.

Wuerflein presented the Public Works Report. He discussed a meeting he had with Bolton & Menk and Councilmember Duncan regarding the water plant plans. He mentioned water rates will need to increase if the council decides to move forward with the plans.

In conjunction with the Public Works Report, motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Riebe and carried, to have Bernal pay the minimum utility rate amount for the property at 326 Euclid until the situation is further investigated. The amount will be due May 21st, 2018.

Motion by Riebe, second by Wichmann and carried, to officially hire Bryce Adams for the Public Works Maintenance position. Adams start date will be April 24th, 2018 with a 6 month probationary period.

A correspondence letter was reviewed from Kay Marschalk regarding a mailbox damaged from the snowplow.

Ann Bryson and Donna Schmidt presented to the council requests for the 2018 Morin Lake Days celebration. There was discussion regarding law enforcement during the celebration weekend. Reyerson stated he was informed by Sheriff Freitag county law enforcement would be available

at a rate of \$60.00/hr. It was then decided the Morin Lake Days committee would be in contact with Sheriff Freitag to discuss specifics.

Motion by Duncan, second by Wichmann and carried, to approve the list of presented Morin Lake Days requests, which will be available for review at the City Office. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried, to donate \$1,200.00 to the Morin Lake Days celebration.

On behalf of the Alden American Legion Post 404, Steve Newman requested a new water service for the legion, since the current service comes through a business next door. Wuerflein recommended the project be done before the construction on Highway 109 begins. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried, to approve the request and for Newman and Wuerflein to coordinate the water service project.

Scholten presented information regarding the Fire Debris Insurance Escrow program. She explained the program allows the city to establish an escrow account for deposits of 25 percent of insurance proceeds resulting from fire and/or explosion to ensure that owners fulfill their responsibility for securing, repairing or demolishing damaged or destroyed properties. Scholten informed the council the city has been a part of the program since July of 2010 and has recently received insurance money for the escrow account. Motion by Riebe, second by Duncan and carried, to open the fire debris escrow account. Motion by Riebe, second by Duncan and carried, to give Leah Jacobsen until October 1st, 2018 to have the property at 280 Euclid taken care of after its recent fire. If the property is not taken care of by that date, the city will have the ability to use the escrow money to clean up the property.

Greg Hitchcock requested the council consider looking into his high utility bill. After lengthy discussion, the council directed Wuerflein to monitor Hitchcock's meter for the next month and to install a new meter, if possible. The council decided they would review and discuss the situation at the next council meeting.

Suzanne Parr requested the council grant her an extension to complete necessary improvements for her property at 290 South Broadway. Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan, Riebe carried, Reyerson and VanEngelenburg opposed, to grant Parr an additional 30 days to make the necessary improvements to her property and have a final inspection done. If the property does not pass the final inspection, the council will move forward with the condemnation process.

The City Key Policy was tabled for next council meeting.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan and carried, to approve the following:

Temporary Non-Intoxicating On-Sale Liquor License: Alden American Legion Post 404 Saturday, June 16th, 2018 – Sunday, June 17th, 2018 at 1:00 AM. Permit fee: \$10.00. Dance Permit: Alden American Legion Post 404/Dave Rasmussen, Mgr. in the parking lot at Hemmingsen's Transfer lot, or in case of rain, at Hemmingsen's Transfer Saturday, June 16th, 2018 7:00 PM – 1:00 AM Sunday. Conditions: Enough supervision to keep orderly. Permit fee: \$15.00.

Scholten presented a resolution and explained passing and adopting the resolution would take the assessments for the 2017 Street & Alley Improvement Project off of the affected city property taxes, which were added by mistake. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried, to approve and adopt the following resolution: RESOLUTION ABATING ASSESSMENTS ON CITY PROPERTIES. The full resolution will be on file at the Alden City Office.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan and carried, to approve Scholten's request to close the City Office on Friday, April 27th, 2018.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan and carried, to approve a two year pay step increase for Scholten.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Riebe and carried, to approve the bills as follows: Bolton & Menk - WWTF Forcemain Replacement Project 821.00; Bomgaars - flashlight, square 33.98; EFTPS - March federal payroll tax deposit 1856.26; Fastenal - water main valve bolts 56.64; MIDCO - 3/17 - 4/16/18 shop office internet service 105.00; MN Energy - 2/13 - 3/14/18 gas services 1252.39; MN Pollution Control Agency - water permit annual dues 345.00; MN Revenue - March state withholding tax 314.93, 1st qtr. Sales tax 1317.00; PERA - 3/12 - 3/25/18 employee retirement contributions 601.37; Postmaster - 100 \$.50 & 300 \$.35 postage stamps 155.00; Raleigh's Ace Hardware - flag, hall supplies 38.67; Southern Lock & Glass - keys 13.00; US Able Life - April premium 41.35; Wuerflein, Jerome - Feb. cell phone allowance 30.00, March cell phone allowance 30.00, work boots - 75.00; Alden Advance - mowing, maintenance position, council & special mtg. ads 148.00, public notice pertaining to construction of new water plant 15.33; Alden Pool & Municipal Supply - water plant pump repairs, shipping 391.56; Boettcher, Mervil - damage done to mailbox by city snowplow 37.13; ExpressWay Alden - March fuel purchases 522.29; Freeborn County Shopper - Public Works Maintenance employment ad 90.00; Freeborn Mower Coop - 3/1 - 4/1/18 electric services 2107.51; Frontier - April phone services 197.76; Guggisberg, William - March mileage 40.00; Karl's CarQuest - oil, fuel & lube filters, carb choke 88.34; League of MN Cities Insurance Trust - workers' comp premium adjustment 732.00; Northern Country Coop - softener salt for hall 14.30; Quill Corp. - office supplies, hall supplies 75.78; Thompson Sanitation - March garbage service 3089.86;

TransWorld Network - March & April long distance service 6.27; Visa - hotel for MN Clerk's Conference - Lexi 429.48; Xerox Corp. - copier service agreement 64.85; wages, less ded: William Guggisberg - March 156.99; Shirley Newman 1146.57; Alexis Scholten 2507.67; Jerome Wuerflein 2863.62, March OT 601.69. FIRE DEPT: Fastenal - batteries 167.95; MIDCO - 3-17 - 4/16/18 internet service 105.00; SE MN Emergency Medical Services - EMR Skills Exam 80.00, consortium membership 400.00; Conger Meat Market - food for house burn training 58.68; Freeborn County Coop Oil - March fuel purchases 153.98; Ignaszewski, Kyle - race fuel purchased at Neubauer Oil Co. 30.00; Tomschin, Brad - food supplies, food for house burn training 108.53.

Motion by Riebe, second by VanEngelenburg and carried, to adjourn at 7:50 PM.