

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 21, 2019

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 21, at 6:00 P.M. Members present were Mayor Greg Hitchcock, council members Jon Duncan, Heath Reindal, Nellie VanEngelenburg, and Jeff Wichmann. City staff present were Chief Jim Thunstedt, Jerome Wuerflein, and Shirley Newman. Also present Doug Sauke, David McKean, David & JoAnn Sorensen, Steve & Candace Sorensen, Ryan Sabinish/Military Order of the Purple Heart, Duane Thomas/Alden American Legion, Shelly Zeller/Alden Advance, and Glen Mathiason/Freeborn County Commissioner.

Mayor Hitchcock called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approved as presented were the July 10th Council Meeting Minutes, along with the July Treasurer's Report and Transfers, Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and the Public Works Report.

Chief Thunstedt presented the Fire Department Report. The fire trucks are being checked out and serviced as needed. The council was updated on the different grants available. The FEMA grant writer has started working on that grant. The new helmets and particulate hoods are in that were purchased with the LeVerne Carlson Foundation money. The pork chop feed on August 17 served 230 people.

Wuerflein presented the Public Works Report. The kitchen floor at the city hall has been installed. The new water filter is online as of August 13 and going well so far. The streets that were scheduled to be seal coated are finished except for Morin Road. Water meter training is in process. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann, and carried to purchase four tires from Lakeside Auto for the loader. Training using the new sewer camera has taken place. Wuerflein talked about trainings needed in the near future. Motion by Reindal, second by VanEngelenburg, and carried to purchase a new generator for the water treatment plant not to exceed \$25,000 thru the PFA Loan.

Mayor Hitchcock read a Proclamation In Honor of the Military Order of the Purple Heart recognizing the City of Alden as a "Purple Heart City in the State of Minnesota". Sabinish presented the City with two signs to be displayed on the City of Alden signs on both ends of Highway 109. Veterans David Sorensen and Steve Sorensen were present for the Purple Heart recognition. Alden is the 33rd city in Minnesota to hold this honor. Thanks to the past and present veterans for their service!

Motion by Duncan, second by Reindal, and carried to hold the following special meetings: (1) Tuesday August 27 at 6:00 P.M. to review applications that were submitted to the city office prior to 4:00 P.M. on August 26 for the Alden City Clerk-Treasurer position and (2) Thursday September 5 at 6:00 P.M. to interview candidates for the Clerk-Treasurer position.

Doug Sauke expressed his concerns as a resident of Alden about spraying weeds in the city limits and treating Morin Lake.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan, and carried to refund the July 20 hall rental fee of \$75.00 to Marjean Jacobs due to the power outage that day.

Motion by Wichmann, second by VanEngelenburg, and carried to purchase a flashing speed sign along with Freeborn County (50%/50%) to be put on the south end of town.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Reindal, and carried to renew the liquor licenses (On-sale, Off-sale, and Sunday) for MineAgains Bar & Grill upon payment of the license fees.

VanEngelenburg will be the council liaison to work with the volunteers who are in charge of the downtown hanging flower baskets.

Motion by Wichmann, second by VanEngelenburg, and carried to approve payment of Pay Estimate #6 to Beemer Companies in the amount of \$99,750.00 after receiving appropriate PFA funding.

Motion by Wichmann, second by Reindal, and carried with none opposed, to approve and accept the construction estimate by "Spring Touch Lawn and Pest Control" for improvements to North Park softball facilities in the amount of \$12,160.00.

Motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann, and carried with none opposed, to allow "Spring Touch Lawn and Pest Control" to begin improvement work of North Park facilities.

Budget was the next item on the agenda. Some questions were brought up regarding the budget numbers which Newman will look into before the next meeting. The next budget meeting will be during the regular council meeting on Wednesday September 11.

Motion by Reindal, second by VanEngelenburg, and carried that the name of Mayor Greg Hitchcock should be added to the City of Alden's safe deposit box signature card at Security Bank MN of Alden.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan and carried to sign contract with Central Square Technologies (USTI) to update computer software so Alden's current computer system will interface with the new water meter reading software.

Motion by Wichmann, second by Reindal, and carried to allow the Morin Lake Restoration Project to go ahead with the proposed locations as per the email states up to but not to exceed \$2,000.00 plus the interest that has accrued.

Seal coating on Morin Road was the next topic. After much discussion and clarification, Wuerflein will look into the options available to the city.

Newman brought up the topic of office hours, expectations etc. Motion by Wichmann, second by VanEngelenburg, and carried for the following decisions: (1) The Alden City Office will be closed to the public temporarily on Mondays due to the staffing shortage, (2) Newman will be paid for the Labor Day holiday, and (3) Newman is allowed to shut down the Alden City Office when she needs to due to previous scheduled family commitments.

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

Adams, Bryce - July cell phone allowance 30.00; Albert Lea Electric - lift station repair 13239.00; Alden Advance - June council minutes 167.35; American Engineering Testing - concrete testing for 2017 Morin Rd./Downtown Alleys 744.40; Arnold's of Alden - loader repair, 3 pt mower repair 73.90; Arnold Companies - Tax Increment Financing from July 2019 tax settlements 8452.44; Beemer Companies - Pay Request #6 Water Treatment Facility Improvement Project 99750.00; Bolton & Menk - Water Treatment Improvement Project 5/18 - 6/14 7182.50, Water Treatment Improvement Project 6/15 - 7/12 4907.00, 2017 Morin Rd./Downtown Alleys Improvement Project 1551.00; Bomgaars - chain saw chains, sprayer repairs 96.74; Cardmember Service - postage, chair socks, hall repairs, cleaning supplies 394.69; Copperhead Innovations - inspection camera, shipping 10008.00; Core & Main - water repairs 692.10; EFTPS - July Federal payroll tax deposit 3811.32; Freeborn County League of Cities - annual dues 20.00; Freeborn Mower 6/1 - 7/1/19 electric service 2105.45, 7/1 - 8/1/19 electric service 2079.33; Frontier - August phone service 213.93; Gopher State One Call - July line locates 13.50; Greenfield, Travis (Advanced Outdoor Services) - July city mowing, trimming, & cleanup 929.00, July cemetery mowing/trimming/cleanup 1179.00; Heartman Insurance - 2019-2020 bond renewal policy 250.00; Hitchcock, Greg - composition books, hi liters 5.40; Home Federal Savings Bank - 2011 Bond Issue principal/interest - paid off 22559.49; Iverson, Keith - refund of city hall rental deposit 100.00; Jim & Dude's Plg & Htg - bathroom repairs 4.61, outside faucet at beach house 237.85; Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - bug remover spray 13.10, hand cleaner 10.77; Kroeger, Jerry - gravel 2367.14; Mid-American Research Chemical - penetrating oil, lube oil, freight 279.20; Midcontinent Communications - 7/17 - 8/16/19 shop office internet service 105.00, phone install & service @ water plant 223.97; MN Dept. of Health - 3rd quarter water testing fee 508.00; MN Energy - 6/13 - 7/16/19 gas service 152.03, 7/16 - 8/14/19 gas service 140.48; MN Pollution Control Agency - Wastewater Operator Certificate - Jerome 23.00; Wastewater Certification Class D exam - Jerome 55.00; MN Public Facilities Authority - Water Treatment Improvement Project principal/interest 47561.33; MN Revenue - July state withholding tax 721.36; Municipal Clerks & Finance Officers Assoc. of MN - membership fee 45.00; Northern Country Coop - roundup 79.90; Pearson Bros. - seal coat streets and downtown alleys 29967.21; PERA - 7/1 - 7/28/19 employee retirement contributions 1674.19, 7/29 - 8/11/19 employee retirement contribution 831.24, 1/1 - 8/16/19 employee retirement contribution (Lexi prorated annual) 43.75; Quill Corporation - FAX transfer film, post its, legal pads 83.77, trash bags 111.98; R & R Flooring - hall kitchen floor, hall carpet 4374.39; Raleigh's Ace Hardware - vinegar 4.13, paint brushes 49.46, picnic table repair 41.77; Reindal Electric - install new LED fixture about city hall entry 248.38; Ron's Plumbing HVAC & Elec - air conditioner thermostat@ city hall 329.25; South Central Sealcoat - crack repair on Euclid, Hemmingsen & N. Powers Streets 6150.00; Sparkling Image - 12 "Welcome" banner flags for street light poles, redo name plaques 1230.00; Staples Enterprises - July fuel purchases 283.55, Thompson Sanitation - July garbage service 3230.30, TransWorld Network - July long distance service - office 3.71; USABLE Life - August premium 49.45; Wuerflein, Jerome - July cell phone

allowance, paint for N. Park shelter 150.69, shop door, N. Park shelter repairs 95.73; Xerox Corporation - copier service agreement 79.46; Wages, less ded: Bryce Adams 3344.16, Shirley Newman 1623.65, Alexis Scholten 4037.93, Alexis Scholten - vacation 859.63, Alexis Scholten - annual prorated 268.29, & Jerome Wuerflein 4517.53; FIRE DEPT: Emergency Medical Products - fire equipment 584.37; Fire Safety USA - 22 helmets 4785.00, particulate hoods, shipping 2480.00; Freeborn County Coop Oil - July fuel purchases 39.10; Hemmingsen's Transfer - wash 4 fire trucks 200.00; Ignaszewski, Kyle - race gas 60.00; Karin Anderson GrantWriting - grant writer for fire department 1500.00; Midcontinent Communications - 7/17 - 8/16/19 internet service 105.00; Reinertson Embroidery - fire department attire & patches 1027.50

Motion by Reindal, second by VanEngelenburg and carried to adjourn at 8:31 P.M.

Greg Hitchcock
Mayor

Shirley Newman
Office Assistant