

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 13th, 2019

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 13th, at 6:00 PM. Members present were Mayor Hitchcock, councilmembers Reindal, Wichmann, and Duncan. Councilmember VanEngelenburg was absent. City Staff present were Chief Thunstedt, Scholten, and Wuerflein. Also present were Barb Carlson, Betty Steele, and Doug Blanshan with CliftonLarsonAllen.

Mayor Hitchcock called the meeting to order.

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the January 9th Council Meeting, along with the February Treasurer's Report and transfers, Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and the Public Works Report.

Chief Thunstedt presented the Fire Report. He stated county fire contracts were recently updated through 2024, which included the fee increase from \$750 to \$1000, effective April 1st, 2019. Thunstedt then brought up a concern regarding snow covered fire hydrants around the city and the issues related to not having access to them during an emergency. Thunstedt concluded his report informing the council of a generous \$200.00 donation to the fire department from Herman Manufacturing in Wells.

Wuerflein presented the Public Works Report. There was discussion regarding the electrical issues at the lift station, as well as discussion about updating water meters.

Doug Blanshan of CliftonLarsonAllen presented to the council the 2018 draft financial reports for the city, as well as a summary of the 2018 audit. He explained to the council the PFA loan used for financing the Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project triggers additional recording requirements for the water fund. Those requirements include recording the water fund portion of financials in GAAP basis accounting, instead of regulatory basis accounting. Blanshan concluded by stating the official financial reports and audit will be ready for approval at the March council meeting.

The council discussed mowing at the cemetery for 2019. After some discussion, the council directed Wuerflein to contact Advanced Outdoor Services to see if they would be interested in a 3 year contract for mowing at the Alden Cemetery.

The council then discussed mowing throughout the city. It was decided to review the amount of mowing there is around the city, then it will be discussed at the March council meeting.

Mayor Hitchcock and Councilmember Reindal informed the council about their Joint Powers meeting with members representing the Alden-Conger School.

In conjunction with the Public Works Report, Wuerflein asked the council to consider metal siding on the new water treatment plant, instead of the cement board in the original spec for the new plant.

Motion by Wichmann, second by Reindal and carried with non opposed, to approve the following training requests: Scholten to attend the annual MCFOA Clerk's Conference in St. Cloud, Wuerflein to attend Water Operators Training in Rochester, and Adams to attend schooling for pond training in May.

Motion by Reindal, second by Duncan and carried with non opposed, to approve Scholten's request to close the City Office on Thursday, February 28th for training.

Motion by Reindal, second by Duncan and carried with non opposed, to approve hiring Thorson Tree Service to remove trees near Morin Lake on Mason Avenue.

Motion by Duncan, second by Wichmann and carried with none opposed, to approve the bills as follows: Adams, Bryce - Jan. cellphone 30.00; Albert Lea Steel - shop supplies 89.50; Alden Advance - Dec. & Jan. minutes, 2019 budget 271.96; Arnold's of Alden - sweeper repair 6.32; Bolton & Menk - WTP Improvement Project 11/17 - 12/14/18 7578.00, 2017 Morin Road/Downtown Alley Improvement Project 532.50; CliftonLarsonAllen - professional services for 2018 audit 3500.00; Dave Syverson - plow truck repair 47.54; EFTPS - Jan. payroll tax deposit 2520.62; First Independent Bank - 2017 GO Improvement Bond interest payment 10,946.25; Freeborn Mower - 12/1/18 - 1/1/19 electric services 2268.89; Frontier - Feb. phone service 210.45; Fryberger, Buchanan - professional services MN PFA loan, mailings 3550.00; Gopher State One Call - Jan. line locates 8.10, 2019 facility operator fee 50.00; Home Federal Savings Bank - 2011 GO Improvement Bond interest payment 495.00; LMC - 2019 Leadership Conference - Greg 225.00; Karl's CarQuest Auto - supplies 313.04, alternator for plow truck, sweeper repairs 229.52; MIDCO - 1/17 - 2/16/19 shop internet service 105.00; MN Energy - 12/14/18 - 1/17/19 gas services 1444.96; MN Revenue - Jan. state withholding tax 476.21; PERA - 12/31/18 - 1/27/19 employee retirement contribution 1646.62; SCSU - 2019 MCFOA Conference (Lexi) 275.00; Staples Enterprises - Jan. fuel purchase 528.13; Thompson Sanitation - Jan. garbage service 3230.30; US Able Life - Feb. premium 49.60; Wuerflein, Jerome - Jan. cellphone 30.00; Xerox Corp. - copier service agreement 94.15; Barco Municipal Products - safety jacket (Bryce) 50.00; Bolton & Menk - WTP Improvement Project 12/15 - 1/11 13,443.00; Bomgaars - aeration pump maintenance 8.78; Cardmember Services - boot & clothing allowance (Bryce), stamps, testing supplies 432.78; Core & Main - water plant repairs, freight 184.55; DPC Industries - chemicals 162.10; Freeborn Mower - 1/1 - 2/1/19 electric services 2551.57; Jim & Dudes Plg & Htg - aeration repair 26.77; MN DNR Ecological & Water Resources - MPARS water permit 140.00; PERA - 1/28 - 2/10/19 employee retirement contribution 801.71; Postmaster - 100 \$.55 & 300 \$.35 postage stamps 160.00; Raleigh's Ace Hardware - flag by city office 32.39; Ransom, Billy - replacement of damaged mailbox post 50.00; Sweeper Services - sweeper repairs 511.07; TransWorld Network - Jan. long distance service 4.71; Wuerflein, Jerome - seat & tailgate for pickup 532.95; wages, less ded: Bryce Adams 3269.04; Shirley Newman 1645.84; Alexis Scholten 3809.25; Jerome Wuerflein 4517.54. FIRE DEPT: Fastenal - batteries 85.18; Freeborn County Fire Assoc. - annual dues 100.00;

MIDCO - 1/17 - 2/16/19 internet service 105.00; MN State Fire Dept. - MN Firefighter Publications (45 members) 315.00.

Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan and carried with none opposed, to adjourn at 8:39 PM.

Greg Hitchcock
Mayor

Alexis Scholten
Clerk-Treasurer