

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 8th, 2019

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 8th, at 6:00 PM. Members present were Mayor Hitchcock, Councilmembers Reindal, Wichmann, VanEngelenburg, and Duncan. City Staff present were Chief Thunstedt, Scholten, Newman and Wuerflein. Also present were Cheryl Reynolds, Brian Townley & Rick Christenson, City Attorney Abby Leach, Donna Schmidt, Trent Nelson, and Lori Nelson.

Mayor Hitchcock called the meeting to order.

Approved as presented were the minutes of the April 10th Council Meeting, along with the April Treasurer's Report, Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and the Public Works Report.

Chief Thunstedt presented the Fire Report. Motion by Wichmann, second by VanEngelenburg and carried with none opposed, to pre-approve payment for 10 new pagers, which will cost approximately \$4,198.50 and funds from the 50/50 MN DNR Grant will be used. Motion by Duncan, second by Reindal and carried with none opposed, to approve the request to add Wyatt Ladwig to the Alden Fire Department roster. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan and carried with none opposed, to approve adding Section 7: "Attendance Policy" to Article 9: "Members" of the Alden Fire Department Constitution.

Wuerflein presented the Public Works Report. Motion by Duncan, second by Wichmann and carried with none opposed, to accept the proposal from Reim Roofing in the amount of \$25,200.00 to repair the City Hall roof. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried with none opposed, to use funds from the General Building Maintenance Business Savings Fund for the roof repair costs and to use funds from the General Fund to cover remaining costs.

Wuerflein then discussed with the Council the need for the water tower to be inspected. He explained the inspection costs could be paid for through the PFA loan. The Council decided the process needs to be looked into further before a decision can be made.

Wuerflein and the Council then discussed curb and street maintenance, as well as street valve maintenance. Motion by Wichmann, second by VanEngelenburg and carried with none opposed, to approve renting a street valve exercise machine from Minnesota Rural Water Association at a rate of \$800 per week.

Wuerflein informed the Council he would like to start inspecting homes for sump pump violations due to the large volume of water at the city ponds. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Reindal and carried with none opposed, to approve Wuerflein purchasing a camera for inspecting underground city lines at an estimated cost of \$10,000 - \$12,000.

In regards to correspondence, Scholten presented a considerate donation from the Alden Lion's Club in the amount of \$500, which is designated for North Park shelter repairs. Scholten then

presented the multiple donations for the downtown Broadway hanging flower baskets. The generous donations were from the following: Alden Tuesday Study Club, Carole King of Chesapeake, VA, Donna Nelson of Alden, and Richard & Elaine Petersen of Clarkfield, MN.

Brian Townley & Rick Christenson presented to the Council on behalf of the Wells 150th Celebration Committee. They requested the Alden Fire Department to participate in the Bell of Honor Ceremony on August 18th.

Cheryl Reynolds inquired about the status of Elizabeth Street, as well as parking concerns in front of the City Office.

There was discussion with the Council and City Attorney Leach regarding North Park and the Alden-Conger School. It was decided Leach would prepare a proposed lease agreement for the Council to review to get a better idea of how an agreement would look with insurance and liability included. No decisions were made regarding the Alden-Conger School use of North Park.

There was discussion about the downtown Broadway hanging flower baskets in regards to what type of machine would be used to water the baskets and where the machine would be stored. Leach suggested the City not own the watering machine or allow unlimited access to the machine on city property due to liability issues. Mayor Hitchcock volunteered to store the machine on his property and he will work with the watering volunteers for access.

There was discussion regarding the Morin Lake Days parade. Due to new MnDOT regulations, additional signage and vehicles are required for temporarily closing trunk highways. Motion by Reindal, second by VanEngelenburg and carried with none opposed, to purchase the required signs through SafetySigns.com.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Reindal and carried with none opposed, to approve the following Morin Lake Days road closure requests: Temporary closing of Water Street Friday, June 14th from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM for Kiddie Tractor Pull and Kiddie Parade; Saturday, June 15th from approximately 4:00 PM to midnight for the parade, musical entertainment, and teen dance. No Parking on Broadway, from Main to Lincoln Saturday from parade line up time until after the end of the parade. Temporary closing all day on Saturday, June 15th of two sections of the alley between Redeemer Church and the Security Bank parking lot; and between the Hemmingsen's Transfer lot and the back of the American Legion & MineAgain's. Temporary closing all day on Saturday, June 15th of the north end of the alley by the beach to behind the Lakeside Auto Body property and the beach driveway.

City Attorney Abby Leach presented to the Council on multiple topics, including: adopting a Data Practices Policy, properties in the City with nuisance yards, holding a city wide clean up day, the Ordinance Project, and the status of the property at 280 Euclid. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried with none opposed, to approve Scholten and Leach to proceed with the Ordinance Project.

In conjunction with the Public Works Report, Wuerflein discussed with the Council details pertaining to the Water Meter Replacement Project. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan and carried with none opposed, to approve reading water meters a month early due to the project and to charge utility customers based on usage with no minimum. Scholten will put out notices in the Alden Advance and on city social media to notify residents of the billing changes.

Wuerflein updated the Council on the Morin Road/Broadway Alley Improvement Project. He stated after having a meeting with Ulland Brothers, it was decided Ulland Brothers would fog seal Morin Road and both Broadway alleys with an anticipated start in the next couple of weeks. Motion by Wichmann, second by VanEngelenburg and carried with none opposed, to approve payment of pay request #4 to Ulland Brothers in the amount of \$42,090.16.

Motion by Duncan, second by Reindal and carried with none opposed, to approve payment of pay request #4 to Beemer companies in the amount of \$133,950.00 after receiving appropriate PFA funding.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Reindal and carried with none opposed, to pay the property owners at 121 2nd Avenue in the amount of \$240.00 for the damage to their landscaping during city snow removal in February 2019.

Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan and carried with none opposed, to approve replacing the kitchen and bathroom flooring in the City Hall at 174 N Broadway.

The Council decided to table the following topics for next meeting: Street Maintenance Savings Account and speed signs.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried with none opposed, to approve the bills as follows:

Adams, Bryce - April cell phone allowance 30.00; Bomgaars - tape measures 59.98; Core & Main - straw wattle, freight 377.38; EFTPS - April federal payroll tax deposit 2487.88; Flow Measurement & Control - replace transmitter at water tower (storm) 987.00; Gopher State One Call - April line locates 55.35; Hach Company - water testing supplies, freight 316.94; MIDCO - 4/17 - 5/16/19 shop office internet service 105.00; MN Energy - 3/18 - 4/15/19 gas services 781.40; MN Pollution Control Agency - water permit annual fee 345.00; MN Revenue - April state withholding tax 469.84; PERA - 4/8 - 4/21/19 employee retirement contribution 809.97; Postmaster - 340 \$.55 postage stamps for water meter letters 187.00, 320 \$.55 postage stamps for water meter letters 176.00; Raleigh's Ace Hardware - sanitizer, air effects, batteries 21.81; Reim Roofing & Metal Construction - repair old fire hall roof 560.74; Scholten, Lexi - mailing labels 42.74; Team Lab - road patch, freight 770.50; US Able Life - May premium 49.60; USTI - annual maintenance fee 1715.60; Wuerflein, Jerome - April cell phone allowance 30.00; Alden Advance - March council minutes 141.38; Cardmember Service - snowplow repairs, mail water samples, office supplies, fuel purchases, beach dock & fence repairs, 6 lamp post brackets for hanging baskets 2,139.20; Core & Main - fire hall repair 1,088.90; Freeborn County Coop Oil - April fuel purchases 2,039.49; Frontier - 4/30 - 5/29/19 phone service 211.45; Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - lift station generator maintenance 299.15; MN Assoc. Of Small Cities - membership dues 413.85; MN Dept. of Labor & Industry - registration fee for air compressor 10.00; Quill -

envelopes 109.98; PERA - 4/22 - 5/5/19 employee retirement contribution 835.52; Thompson Sanitation - April garbage service 3,230.30; TransWorld Network - April & May long distance service - office 4.97; Utility Consultants - sewer testing, shipping 373.50; Wells Aviation - fuel for generator 21.75; Xerox Corp. - copier service agreement 158.76; wages, less ded: Bryce Adams 2229.44; Shirley Newman 951.53; Alexis Scholten 2696.16; Jerome Wuerflein 3011.68. FIRE DEPT: MIDCO - 4/17 - 5/16/19 internet service 105.00; City of Albert Lea - FF I & II training - Hallman & VanEngelenburg 2,700.00; Com-Tec Land Mobile Radio - belt clip 12.50; Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - lights for #927 85.45; Lakeside Auto - battery 170.95; MN Fire Service Certification - FF I & II Certification Exam (2) 460.00.

Motion by Wichmann, second by Reindal and carried with none opposed, to adjourn at 10:20 PM.

Greg Hitchcock  
Mayor

Alexis Scholten  
Clerk-Treasurer