

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 11, 2019

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:05 P.M. Council members present were Mayor Greg Hitchcock, Jon Duncan, Heath Reindal, and Jeff Wichmann. Absent were Nellie VanEngelenburg. City staff present were Chief Jim Thunstedt, Jerome Wuerflein, and Shirley Newman. Also present were Jeanne Meyer, Neil Pierce, Pam & James McKenna, Leah Jacobsen, and Abby Leach.

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

Chief Thunstedt requested a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11.

Mayor Hitchcock introduced Jeanne Meyer. Jeanne will be starting as the Alden City Clerk-Treasurer.

Approved as presented were the August 21 Council Meeting Minutes, along with the August Treasurer's Report, Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and the Public Works Report.

Chief Thunstedt presented the Fire Department Report. The department received the 2 new ice water rescue suits which were made possible through the Freeborn-Mower Operation Round Up Grant awarded last year. Thunstedt has applied for two other grants in hopes of receiving grant dollars to purchase other fire equipment. The CAFS unit has been repaired. Physicals for the firemen are scheduled for Sept. 12. The 2020 budget for the fire department was discussed. The FEMA grant opens November/December and is awarded in July 2020. Mayor Hitchcock will ask the LeVerne Carlson Fitness Center if they will extend the free membership to the Alden firemen until spring of 2020.

Wuerflein presented the Public Works Report. Ullands will send the City a check for their share of the seal coating costs. Ullands still has a few jobs to finish with the 2017 Morin Road/Downtown Alleys Street Improvement Project. The new filter is now being used at the water treatment plant. The water plant construction has a finish date of October 8. Work is being done on the North Park shelter including siding, water line to the shelter etc. Water meter training is still in progress.

Correspondence was read.

Neil Pierce representing the Alden Lions requested to use the city hall on Saturday November 30, 2019 for the Children's Christmas Party with Santa Claus rent free. Motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann, and carried with none opposed to waive the city hall rental fee for use by the Alden Lions on November 30, 2019.

Motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann, and carried with none opposed to approve Resolution 219-911 authorizing the City of Alden to enter into an agreement with Freeborn County. Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan, and carried with none opposed to approve the Freeborn

County Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Alden for installation, operation, and maintenance of a dynamic driver feedback sign. The full resolution and agreement will be on file at the city office.

Leah Jacobsen updated the council on the property at 280 Euclid. Discussion followed on the process going forward with input from City Attorney Abby Leach

Motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann, and carried with none opposed to continue to acquire the property at 350 Euclid with the City paying for taxes, fees, and attorney fees.

The property at 248 N. Broadway was the next topic. James McKenna questioned the council about the previous assessments attached to this property. The assessment amount was reviewed. Leach explained how the process works if an interested party would acquire this parcel in the future.

Leach and the council discussed the North Park agreement. Several issues were shared and discussed. Hitchcock will follow up with the school concerning the things needed from the school. Leach will continue to work out the details for the North Park agreement.

Motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann, and carried with none opposed to approve payment of pay request #7 to Beemer Companies in the amount of \$140,125.00 after receiving appropriate PFA funding.

Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan, and carried to officially hire Jeanne Meyer for the Alden City Clerk-Treasurer position. The starting pay will be \$21.96 per hour, with other benefits as established in the personnel policy for full-time employees. There will be a 6 month review.

Motion by Duncan, second by Wichmann, and carried to approve and adopt the following resolution: Resolution Establishing an Urban & Rural Service District. The full resolution will be on file in the city clerk's office.

Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan, and carried to adopt the 2020 Proposed Tax Levy as follows: RESOLVED, that the following sums be, and hereby are, levied upon the taxable property in the taxing district of the City of Alden, County of Freeborn, State of Minnesota, for the year 2020 for the following purposed, to-wit:

| <u>LEVY PURPOSE</u> | <u>LEVY</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$161,240.00 |
| FIRE PROTECTION | 13,200.00 |
| BONDS - 2017 | <u>49,560.00</u> |
| TOTALS | \$224,000.00 |

Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan, and carried to transfer \$23,027 from Sewer Equipment Replacement Business Savings to Sewer Fund Checking to cover the expenses of the equipment purchased (camera and electric switch at the lift station) thru the checking account.

The Freeborn County League of Cities annual meeting/banquet will be held on Tuesday, September 24. Hitchcock and Meyer will attend with the cost of the meal being covered by the city.

Motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann, and carried to approve the bills as follows: Adams, Bryce - August cell phone allowance 30.00; Albert Lea - Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce - membership dues 175.00; Alden Advance - council minutes, City Clerk-Treasurer ads 438.41; Beemer Companies - Pay Request #7 - Water Treatment Facility Improvement Project 140,125.00; Bolton & Menk - 2017 Morin Rd/Downtown Alleys Improvement Project 542.50; Cardmember Services - mail water samples, N. Park shelter, supplies 1,351.12; EFTPS - August Federal payroll tax deposit 2,747.00; Freeborn County Coop Oil - August fuel purchases 331.23; Freeborn County Shopper - City Clerk-Treasurer ads 288.00; Frontier - September phone services 207.93; Gopher State One Call - August line locates 16.20; Greenfield, Travis (Advanced Outdoor Services) - city mowing/trimming 875.00, cemetery mowing/trimming 1,125.00; Jacobs, Marjean - refund of hall rental on 7/20/19 due to power outage 75.00; Leach Law PLLC - attorney fees - N. Park negotiations 1,387.50, ordinance updates 555.00, city council meetings 555.00; League of MN Cities - MN Mayor's Association membership dues 30.00, membership dues 814.00; Midcontinent Communications- 8/17 - 9/16/19 shop office internet service 105.00; MN Revenue - August state withholding tax 507.33; PERA - 8/12 - 8/16/19 employee retirement contribution (Lexi final) 121.82, 8/12 - 8/25/19 employee retirement contributions 674.83; Postmaster - 100 \$.55 & 300 \$.35 postage stamps 160.00; Ron's Plumbing HVAC & Electric - N. Park bathrooms 316.09, South Central News - City Clerk-Treasurer ads 112.00; South Central SealCoat - asphalt patching on Holway, 2nd, city hall, water tower 8,200.00; Thompson Sanitation - August garbage service 3,230.30; USABLE Life - September premium 42.60; Utility Consultants - sewer testing 118.50; Wuerflein, Jerome - August cell phone allowance 30.00; Xerox Corporation - copier service contract 176.89; Wages, less ded: Bryce Adams 2,149.20, Shirley Newman 2,103.82, Jerome Wuerflein 3,011.68; FIRE DEPT: Fire Safety USA - deco wipes, ice water suits, shipping 2,314.90, foam pump, shipping 821.00; Freeborn County Coop Oil - August fuel purchases 110.04; Midcontinent Communications - 8/17 - 9/16/19 internet services 105.00

Motion by Wichmann, second by Duncan, and carried to adjourn at 9:00 P.M.

Greg Hitchcock
Mayor

Shirley Newman
Office Assistant