

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 9, 2019

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 9th, at 6:01 PM. Council members present were Mayor Hitchcock, council members Mr. Heath Reindal, Ms. Nellie VanEngelenburg, Mr. Jeff Wichmann, and Mr. Jon Duncan. City Staff present were Chief Thunstedt, Jeanne Meyer, Jerome Wuerflein, and Shirley Newman. Also present were James & Pam McKenna, Amy Purdy, and Katie Hallum.

Mayor Hitchcock called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the August 27th, Sept 4th & Sept 5th Special meetings, as well as the Sept 11th, 2019 Council Meeting, motion made by Wichmann, 2nd by VanEngelenburg.

Treasurer reports were reviewed and approved, motion by Duncan, second by Reindal.

Hour's reports were reviewed and approved, motion by Reindal, second by VanEngelenburg.

Chief Thunstedt presented and reported on the Fire Department. Council approved Fire Dept report, motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Reindal.

Public Works Superintendent, Wuerflein presented and reported on the public works reports, Council approved. Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann.

Mayor Hitchcock presented correspondence of the Freeborn County Public Health Nursing will provide a flu shot clinic, on Wednesday, Oct. 16th, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Shots free to Medicare and MA patients, all other individuals wanting flu shots, would be \$35.00 The clinic will be held at the City Community Center, at 174 North Broadway, Alden, MN

Additions to agenda, Mayor Hitchcock announced plans to include city Clerk-Treasurer training to be provided to newly hired clerk, Jeanne Meyer, from outgoing clerk, Lexi Scholten.

City Business included:

The purchase of 248 N. Broadway, by James and Pamela McKenna. Mr. McKenna expressed an interest in a dialog of negotiation of the past assessments of the property, asking the council to consider a reduction of those assessments. The council approved a reduction of the assessments to \$4,000. Motion by VanEngelengurg, second by Wichmann.

Mail voting, versus regular poll voting, for the upcoming Presidential Nomination Primary that will be March 3, 2020, was discussed by the council. Council approved leaving the process of voting, the same as previous years, at polling place, 174 N. Broadway, Alden, MN. Motion by Duncan, second by VanEngelenburg.

Council approved adding new clerk, Jeanne Meyer to any/all City bank accounts at Security Bank, MN Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan.

The 2020 Budget was reviewed and discussed by the council, regarding the new preliminary budget numbers, after the levy was set, at the September 2019 council meeting.

City dog/animal issues were expressed by residents Amy Purdy and Katie Hellum, regarding pets at the 275 Morin Rd residence. City letters have been sent to the property owner, regarding the matter, Ms. Purdie and Ms. Hellum were advised by the council, to keep council posted on the issue.

North park was discussed, and also the subject regarding 3 vendor billings: Spring Touch Lawn & Pest Control, \$12,160; StoneWerx Landscape Artists, \$ 93,838.48; and Dakota Supply Group, \$670.49; that the city received, that pertain to the North park project. These vendor billings will be taken care of by the Alden-Conger School district. Once the school board meets, and approves the items, forwards the payments to the city, then the city can process those vendor billings.

Office equipment was discussed, in light of the recent copier being over 12 years old, and breaking down, rendering scanner unusable. Possible options included repairs, replace, or find another scanner machine. Mayor Hitchcock and Mr. Wuerflein are going to check into a possibility of the former police chief scanner, located in the former Alden police office that could resolve the City office scanning problem. Council concluded that would be the best plan of action, regarding the scanner issue, at this time.

Delinquent Utilities and Mowing was discussed by the council. The council approved to start the process of delinquent utilities and/or mowing issues on 4 properties in the city, and to proceed with the final notification, for non-payment/fees owed, of these properties. Motion made by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann.

Council discussed the Morin Lake bank account that is currently listed under the City of Alden federal tax identification number, needing to be removed from the city's accounts, per the City of Alden annual auditor's recommendation. Motion made by VanEngelenburg, second by Duncan.

Motion by Reindal, second by Wichmann and carried with none opposed, to approve the bills, with the exception of Dakota Supply Group, for \$670.49 as follows:

BILLS – October 9, 2019

Adams, Bryce - September cell phone allowance 30.00; Alden Advance - Aug. council & Aug/Sept. special meetings minutes 250.20; Bolton & Menk - 2017 Morin Rd/Downtown Alleys Improvement Project 165.00 & Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project 10,300.00; Dakota Supply Group-North park water meter (A-C School) 670.49-Thus removed; DPC Industries - chlorine 171.14; EFTPS – September Federal payroll tax deposit 2,227.81; Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer - ditch assessments 1,046.67; Freeborn County Coop Oil - September fuel purchases 66.25; Freeborn County League of Cities Annual banquet - Greg & Jeanne 30.00; Freeborn Mower Cooperative - 8/1 - 9/1/19 electric service 2,030.21; Frontier Communications - 9/30 - 10/29/19 phone services 214.74 Gopher State One Call - September line locates 9.45; Greenfield, Travis (Advanced Outdoor Services) - Sept. city mowing/trimming 700.00; - Sept. cemetery mowing/trimming 900.00; John Hullopeter Const.- concrete work-2nd Ave., lift station, beach house, etc. 2,693.50; Lakeside Auto – loader tires, mounting, disposal 4,400.20; Midcontinent Communications - 9/17 -10/16/19 shop office internet service 105.00; 9/13 - 10/12/19 emergency phone at water plant 37.00; MN Revenue – September state withholding tax 428.44; - 3rd quarter sales tax 329.12; PERA – 8/26 - 9/8/19 employee retirement contributions 673.81, 9/9 - 9/22/19 employee retirement contributions 788.98, 9/23 - 10/6/19 employee retirement contributions 837.25; Raleigh's Ace Hardware - chlorine scale 17.99; Thompson Sanitation - September garbage service 3,230.30; TransWorld Network - long distance service 20.17; US Able Life - October premium 42.60; Wuerflein, Jerome - September cell phone allowance 30.00; Xerox Corporation - copier service agreement 64.02; Wages, less ded: Bryce Adams 2229.44; Jeanne Meyer 1959.45; Shirley Newman 1603.98; Jerome Wuerflein 3011.70; **FIRE DEPARTMENT** Fastenal – batteries 28.22; Med Compass - 16 SCBA User-Medical Exams, Processing fee 1,130.00; Midcontinent Communications - 9/17 - 10/16/19 internet service 105.00; Postmaster - annual post office box fee 56.00; Robert's Specialty Co. - 12 red uniform shirts 354.00; S & H Diesel - Trucks # 926 & 927 maintenance 492.75, Truck #929 maintenance 405.25; Santander Leasing - 2015 Ford F55 rescue truck final payment - P & I 12,350.95; Sparkling Image - cubby magnet, decal/stickers 316.88.

Council approved motion by Duncan, 2nd by Reindal, to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

Greg Hitchcock
Mayor

Jeanne Meyer
Clerk-Treasurer

