

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ALDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 12th, 2018

The Alden City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 12th, at 6:00 PM.

Council members present were Reyerson, Riebe, VanEngelenburg, Wichmann, and Duncan. City Staff present were Chief Thunstedt, Wuerflein, Newman, and Scholten. Also present were Greg Hitchcock, Scott Hemmingsen, Cheryl Reynolds, Charlie Majerus, and Steve Newman.

Mayor Reyerson called the meeting to order.

Approved as presented were the Minutes of the August 8th Council Meeting and August 15th Special Meeting, along with the August Treasurer's Report and transfers, Hours Report, Fire Department Report, and the Public Works Report.

Chief Thunstedt presented the Fire Report. He gave the council an update on upcoming training opportunities for the newest members of the department. Thunstedt also mentioned the department was awarded the MN DNR 50:50 Grant to be used toward communication equipment. The Fire Report was concluded with a "thank you" to Jim & Marge Bute for a generous donation to the department because of their quick response to a medical call.

The Public Works Report was reviewed. Wuerflein informed the council the rural recycling dumpsters were moved to the gravel lot east of the City Shop. He went on to discuss an issue with Pond #2, which is leaking. He anticipates repairing the problem around the end of September or beginning of October. Wuerflein ended the report stating an anticipated water plant start date has been set for Monday, September 17th, 2018.

Cheryl Reynolds explained to the council her concerns regarding the condition and maintenance of Elizabeth Street. After some discussion, it was decided Wuerflein would look into options for grading Elizabeth Street to get it into better condition.

Reynolds then informed the council, on behalf of the Alden Lion's Club, the club would be interested in sponsoring banners for the new street lights along downtown Broadway.

The council discussed leaf burning within city limits. They decided the burning of leaves will be allowed during the months of October and November during the hours of 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM. They also stated any county burning bans will supersede city leaf burning.

Steve Newman expressed his concerns regarding issues with dogs biting and running loose in city limits. After some discussion, the council informed Newman letters are being sent to property owners when complaints are received to try and help alleviate the issues.

Abby Leach of Leach Law, LLC was absent, so the discussion regarding the deferred assessments was tabled.

The council then discussed the property at 316 West Main Street. The house on the property was used for a house burn training earlier in 2018. After some discussion, motion by Duncan, second by VanEngelenburg and carried, to give the property owner until November 1st, 2018 to have the property cleaned up and utilities properly taken care of or the city will move forward with taking action.

Scholten informed the Council the property located at 285 N Broadway is no longer available for the City to acquire after Freeborn County offered it to the City because of tax forfeiture. Scholten stated the owner of the property entered into a confession of judgement, which makes the property no longer available.

Charlie Majerus informed the council his grass on his property was damaged when the city sprayed the curbs for weeds. He requested the city consider how the situation should be handled to get the grass back to its original condition.

Motion by VanEngelenburg, second by Wichmann and carried, to approve the bills as follows: Adams, Bryce - Aug. cellphone allowance 30.00; Albert Lea Electric - repair alarm at the lift station 495.00; Arnold's of Alden - street sweeper repair, 3 pt. Mower repair 76.63; Bolton & Menk - WWTF Foremain Replacement Project 4931.00, Water Treatment Improvement Project 4454.50; Bomgaars - couplings, shop supplies, supplies, marking flags 59.71; EFTPS - Aug. Federal payroll tax deposit 2464.08; Empire Pipe Service - storm sewer cleaning @ shop catch basin 620.00; Freeborn Mower - 7/1 - 8/1/18 electric service 2191.89; Gopher State One Call - August line locates 6.75; Guggisberg, William - August mileage 40.00; John Hullopeter Construction - curb & gutter repair @ 1st Ave/Mason & Lincoln Ave 1477.50; Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - Toro & snowplow truck filters, shop tool 71.11; League of MN Cities - membership dues 796.00, MN Mayor's Assoc. Membership dues 30.00; M & S Outdoor Equipment - chainsaws chains sharpened 34.00; MIDCO - 8/17 - 9/16/18 shop office internet 105.00; MN Dept. of Health - 3rd Qtr. water testing fee 508.00, water supply system operator exam app - Jerome 32.00; MN Energy - 7/17 - 8/14/18 gas services 218.10; MPCA - wastewater & stabilization pond manuals 53.00; MN Revenue - Aug. state withholding tax 459.82; MN Rural Water Assoc. - Water & wastewater certification refresher/exam - Jerome 255.00; Northern Country Coop - solar salt, roundup 116.96; PERA - 7/30 - 8/26/18 employee retirement contribution 1598.94, additional municipal contribution - Alden Fire Dept. Relief @ fair 4300.00; Sanco Equipment - toro blades, freight 89.86; Team Lab - paint, freight 425.00; Thompson Sanitation - Aug. garbage service 3089.86; US Able Life - Sept. premium 49.60; Utility Consultants - sewer testing, shipping 77.50; Visa - mail water samples, manhole cover for Hwy. 109 project, shipping, election judge food 936.93; Wuerflein, Jerome - July cellphone allowance, sprayer repairs 48.07; Zarnoth Brush Works - street sweeper broom 815.50; Alden Advance - city elections, primary election, July council minutes 131.71; Albert Lea - Freeborn County Chamber - membership dues 175.00; Bernau & Sons - repair fork tine on loader 40.00; Core & Main - water repairs, hydrant by Security bank 1781.71; Ferguson Waterworks - cold asphalt 1033.20; Freeborn County Coop Oil - July fuel purchases 366.51, August fuel purchases 756.02; Frontier Comm. - Sept. phone service 243.62; Greenfield, Travis (Advanced Outdoor Services) - August mowing/trimming cemetery 1000.00; Karl's CarQuest Auto Parts - street sweeper repair 22.79; Kroeger, Jerry - gravel 330.40; Mathy Construction - prep & overlay