

MINUTE RECORD OF BUDGET & TAX REQUEST HEARING

CITY OF ALMA

September 6, 2023

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Alma, Nebraska was held at City Hall on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 5:30 pm for the FY 2023-2024 Budget Hearing and the Property Tax Request Hearing. Present were Council Members: Tom Moulton, Larry Casper, Dyann Collins, Chris Tripe and Mayor and Acting Administrator Hal Haeker. Absent: None. City Clerk Dawn McNulty, Treasurer Tashia Butterfield, City Utility Superintendent Russ Pfeil and City Attorney Doug Walker were also in attendance.

Notification of this meeting and the agenda was given in advance by posting, a designated method for giving notice. Advance notice of the meeting and the agenda was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council. All proceedings hereinafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Haeker advised the public of the Open Meetings Act posted on the east wall of the meeting room, and then proceeded to call the regular meeting of September 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. and the following business was transacted:

Roll call: Tom Moulton-present, Dyann Collins-present, Chris Tripe-present, Larry Casper-present, and Mayor Haeker-present. Motion by Collins, second by Casper to determine this meeting as previously publicized, duly convened and in open session. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Tripe, Casper, Collins, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the Budget Meeting at 5:32 p.m. for the City of Alma, for purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget.

Treasurer Butterfield presented the proposed 2023-2024 Budget. She noted the Property valuation of \$94,535,566 has increased 23% from last year. The Operating Budget increased 7%, mainly due to the Auditorium tuckpointing and increased insurance premiums. The General Fund, and Street Fund combined are above the auditor's cash reserve recommendation. The Enterprise (Utility) Funds are also above the recommended cash reserve. She presented the proposed revenues, expenditures and ending Cash Balances and Investments. Butterfield gave detailed information for the Expenditures in comparison to the previous fiscal year and explained the increase or decrease for each department. Charts were shown detailing transfers from the General Fund to the other Departments, Sales Tax Receipts, and Expenditures broken down by Expense categories.

Jacklyn Daake asked about park, pool, recreation, and golf. She asked what all goes into recreation, what is covered by that fund? Treasurer Butterfield answered that the recreation department covers the ballfields. Mayor Haeker stated that the Ball Association has also budgeted \$10,000 for improvements to the grounds, or the city property itself.

Councilman Tripe said that he knows that there has been some talk on the library and reductions to their funds. He asked Treasurer Butterfield to address this. She stated that for this coming year we have budgeted \$58,240 to the library from the general fund. The library also gets part of the Porter Trust each year, but the amount varies. For the 2023-2024 budget year, the library will receive \$26,800 from the Porter Trust. Additional income for the library is expected to include \$1,100 in Library fines and \$1,500 in various funds that come in on behalf of the library. The Porter Trust is 75 years, and we believe it started in 1994 or 1995, said Keri Anderson, Library Director.

Mayor Haeker closed the hearing at 5:45 pm. Motion by Tripe, second by Moulton to close the budget hearing. There being no discussion upon the motion made, the following voted yes: Moulton, Casper, Tripe and Collins. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the special Tax Request hearing at 5:45 p.m. for purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount. Motion by Tripe, second by Moulton to open the tax request hearing. Treasurer Butterfield walked through the Accountant's Report that will be filed with the State Auditor and County Treasurer. She explained that during the budget process we increased the tax asking by the 2% base limitation plus the 3.24% real growth increase, bringing the tax request to 5.24%. In doing this, we will increase the Property Tax Request by \$16,565.01 for a total of \$332,846.51. It is just under the asking authority that we are given. \$253,056.51 is for Non-Bond Purposes and \$79,790.00 for Bond Purposes (Swimming Pool). Our operating budget will increase 7% from the previous year and the property valuation has increased by 23%. This will set the Tax Rate at .352086 which is 14% lower than the current tax rate.

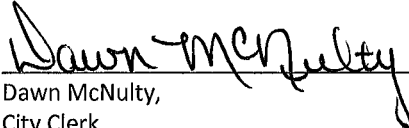
Cody Simmons asked for clarification about how the City receives the money from the property tax request. went up and we have not seen that, when the house goes up in value, most of the property did, next year without raising, you will be receiving more, you just have not seen it yet? Is that correct? Treasurer Butterfield responded that the City is not asking this request of Alma property owners. We are asking this of the County. From the money that the County collects from Alma property owners, we are asking 5.24% of it. We are just asking for our portion of it out of the big bucket. We actually get more from the sales tax than we get the property tax.

Mayor Haeker asking for any other questions or comments and hearing none, closed the hearing at 5:57 pm. Motion by Tripe, second by Casper to close the tax request hearing. There being no discussion upon the motion made, the following

voted yes: Moulton, Casper, Collins, and Tripe. Voting no: None. Motion carried.  
Meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.

  
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Hal Haeker, Mayor

I the undersigned Clerk hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advanced notification of the time place and of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

  
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Dawn McNulty,  
City Clerk