

MINUTE RECORD FOR CITY OF ALMA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 1, 2023

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Alma, Nebraska was held at City Hall on Wednesday, May 1, 2023, at 5:31 p.m.

Present were Council Members: Tom Moulton, Chris Tripe, Larry Casper, Dyann Collins, and Mayor Hal Haeker. Absent: None. Administrator Lorri Bantam, City Clerk Dawn McNulty, Treasurer CeeAnn Affolter, 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 May 1, 2023, at 5:31 p.m. and the following business was transacted:

Roll call: Tom Moulton-present, Dyann Collins-present, Larry Casper-present, Chris Tripe-present, and Mayor Haeker-present. Motion by Casper, second by Tripe 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 Haeker opened the floor to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023, regular council meeting. Motion by Tripe, second by Moulton to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023, regular council meeting. 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 Haeker opened the floor to discuss the claims and invoices for April 20, 2023, through May 1, 2023, for a total of \$ 89,505.30. Motion made by Moulton, second by Collins to approve the claims. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Tripe, Casper, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Affolter discussed that all the interest on the CD's totaled \$8,500.00 which was better than last year. Motion by Collins, second by Moulton to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Tripe, Casper, Moulton, and Collins. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss the water and sewer Rate Increase. Discussion of the need to increase rates from the last council meeting was agreed upon by all council members. The decision to implement the increase over a two-year period versus a three-year period was held. It was agreed to raise water rates to \$19.00 per month base charge with \$2.00 a gallon starting with the June 2023 billing cycle and \$21.50 per month base charge and \$2.35 per gallon starting with the June 2024 billing cycle. Sewer rates were discussed to increase to \$10.25 base charge and .80 per gallon starting with the June 2023 billing cycle and \$12.50 base charge with \$1.00 per gallon starting with the June 2024 billing cycle. These increases would cover the department operating and debt obligations and we would still be below average for communities our size. An Ordinance for these increases will be on the next council agenda.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss Resolution 5-2023 Mowing Contract on City Properties with TNT Lawn Care for 2023 season. Discussion was held on the mowing of the ball field once per week at \$225.00, and the infield twice per week for an additional \$100.00. South of South Street from Highway 183 to the East City Limit was discussed at a rate of \$725.00 per time as needed to keep it less than 6 inches in height. TNT Mowing was the only bid for the mowing. The airport was taken out of the original bid and will be mowed by the City staff when needed. Motion by Collins, second by Tripe to accept Resolution 5-2023 Mowing Contract on City Properties with TNT Lawn Care for 2023 season. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Casper, Tripe, Collins, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss the Certificate of Resolution for Alma's Section 125 Premium Only Plan. The plan allows the city to use tax free dollars to pay for insurance coverage, premium amounts,

and other allowable plan contribution or expenses which you would normally pay for with out-of-pocket tax dollars. It is something that we have to renew every year. Motion by Tripe, second by Casper to accept Certificate of Resolution for Alma's Section 125 Premium Only Plan. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Casper, Tripe, Collins, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss the potential designation of the Pheasant Ridge Trail as part of the International Bikeway System. The City received a contact through the website from Tom Newstead. He is working to get an International Bikeway system up and going. He is looking at Pheasant Ridge Trail as part of that path. He just wants to know if we are interested in this. He sent a sample along of what they would want to do here. He is trying to get this approved from San Francisco CA to Ocean City MA, offroad protected bike paths. All existing and proposed protected trail heads would have a pavilion and kiosks servicing long distance users along bikeway 70 path. Nothing has been designated yet. The Council was in agreement to provide feedback that we are interested in this designation.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss the hiring of a part time employee at the Hoesch Memorial Library. Library Director Keri Anderson was present and stated the Library Board approved the hiring of Elsie Hale for a part time library aide. She will make \$9.50 per hour. Motion by Moulton, second by Tripe to accept hiring of a part time employee at the Hoesch Memorial Library. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Casper, Tripe, Collins, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor for the Administrator's Report. Administrator Bantam reported on the Ball Association correspondence. The Memorandum of Understanding was enclosed. It was discussed that the fertilizer and weed control had already been done. The playground equipment was discussed that this was the Ball Association's responsibility. The mowing for the ball fields has been approved. The concession stand area has some rutting at the edge of the pavement and part of this is due to natural run off. Buffalo grass was put in last year to fill in the south side. Acid was put on the North side so nothing is going to grow unless the soil is removed and replaced where the bushes were removed. It was decided that there would be no response to the letter from the Ball Association.

Administrator Bantam reported on the Downtown Drainage Update. The project has started on Main Street, across the street from the City Office.

Administrator Bantam reported on the 7th Street Road Improvement Update. This project was completed in two and a half days. The county spoke highly of working with the City crew.

Administrator Bantam commented that the CCCFF Non-Selection Letter results was included. The City could re-apply for the grant in a couple of years.

Administrator Bantam reported the Golf Bartender hired Abby Cevera as a Bartender and will start in June.

Administrator Bantam also stated the City Treasurer's Resignation Letter was enclosed.

Mayor Haeker then entertained for a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:19 p.m. Motion by Tripe, second by Moulton to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe and Moulton. Voting no: None Motion carried

Motion to reconvene regular session by Tripe, second by Casper. Upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, and Moulton. Voting no: None Motion carried. Mayor stated that no actions were taken. Regular Session reconvened at 6:59 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Tripe second by Moulton. There being no further discussion on the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.


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.


Dawn McNulty, City Clerk

