

**MINUTE RECORD FOR CITY OF ALMA**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 20 , 2024**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Alma, Nebraska was held at City Hall on Monday, May 20 , 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Council Members: Tom Moulton, Dyann Collins, Larry Casper, and Mayor and Acting Administrator Hal Haeker. Absent: Chris Tripe. City Clerk Dawn McNulty, Treasurer Tashia Butterfield, City Attorney Doug Walker, Utility Floater Kent Fleischmann, and City Superintendent Russell Pfeil 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 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. and the following business was transacted:

Roll call: Tom Moulton-present, Dyann Collins-present, Chris Tripe-Absent, Larry Casper-present, and Mayor Haeker-present. Motion by Moulton, 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: Casper, Collins, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024, council meeting. Motion by Collins second by Moulton, to approve the regular minutes of the May 6, 2024, council meeting. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss the claims and invoices for May 7, 2024, through May 20, for \$86,562.39. 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, Moulton, and Casper. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss and or approve the Treasurer's report. 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: Casper, Collins, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss and or approve Special Designated License for The Station for Tiffany Wells Wedding Reception at the Auditorium on June 22, 2024. Motion made by Collins second by Moulton to approve the Special Designated License for The Station for Tiffany Wells Wedding Reception at the Auditorium on June 22, 2024. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Moulton, and Casper. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss and or approve the Swimming Pool Assistant Managers and Lifeguards. Motion made by Moulton second by Casper to approve the Swimming Pool Assistant Managers and Lifeguards. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Moulton, and Casper. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss and or approve the Swim Team Assistant Managers. Paul Ogier stated that Courtney Stottler has withdrawn her name as Swim Team Assistant Manager and Kaylan Ogier would be taking her spot. Ogier stated that Kaylan would only be helping during the first hour of practice with the little swimmers. Mayor Haeker stated that there was only one Swim Team Assistant Manager position in the budget. Ogier asked if there could be a second position looked at in the budget

for next year. Mayor Haeker said that we would have to discuss it. Ogier stated that if the program keeps growing, it is critical to get eyes on the kids in the water. Moulton stated that there has been an increase in the number of swimmers on teams every year. Motion made by Moulton second by Casper to approve Sarah Lozo as the only paid Swim Team Assistant Manager. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Moulton, and Casper. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss and or approve Swimming Pool Passes Family vs Groups with Rates. Mayor Haecker stated that Rhonda, Tashia, and he had been having conversations over the last year. Haeker stated that one of the things that they talked about was the family passes, and how it was harder for some of the younger guards to track those. Haeker shared that he had been talking about if it should be a family pass or a group pass, such as aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Rhonda said that it is harder for the young lifeguards to enforce the family passes but she and Courtney plan on being at the front most of the time to do so this year. Rhonda stated that this would be immediate family living in the house would be a family pass, and if you wanted to add a babysitter to the pass, then it would be \$10.00, or a grandparent to the pass, then add \$ 10.00. Moulton said that he usually buys a family pass for his grandchildren from out of town, he, and his wife but he would not if this no longer covers them. Rhonda said that it comes down to who gets to use the pool free and who does not. Collins shared a group pass idea for five people for 3 days for \$20.00, or five people for 1 day for \$10.00. This would give us another alternative to the family passes. This would be a whole new pass, stated Haeker. Moulton said that if you are going to limit family passes to immediate family, it would not benefit his family to buy one because he and his wife only go a couple times a year. Rhonda said that all the pool pass numbers will be checked before people are let into the pool and that in other towns, everyone pays to get into the pool whether they swim or not, like a grandparent who is watching inside the fence. Haeker stated that the laminated pass will need to be presented each time they swim and will take some getting used to. Rhonda stated that last year they had people who bought a yearly individual pass for their babysitter, to accompany the family pass for their children. Rhonda stated that a family pass will be six people, immediate family all residing in the same household. Collins stated that we should just leave it the way that it is and if they want the babysitter, they just need to pay the \$50.00 for an individual pass. Collins stated that we should leave it the way that it is and we need to have signage up at the pool stating the way that the passes are going to work so that there is no confusion. Motion made by Moulton, second by Collins, to Swimming Pool Family pass as parents and children living in the same household. A babysitter, grandparents, or extended family members are welcome, but this is a separate fee and is not included in the family pass. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Moulton, and Casper. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Moulton, second by Collins, for Swimming Pool passes as single day, \$3.00, Single Individual Pass, \$50.00 and a family pass, understood as immediate family, parents and children living in the same household, \$80.00. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Moulton, and Casper. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss and or approve the current Disconnect / Reconnect Resolution. Treasurer Butterfield stated that she has come to realize that this resolution does not state what it was supposed to originally accomplish. Butterfield shared that she wanted to bring it to the council today so that she could get a group consensus of what the resolutions intent was and how to move forward. Butterfield said that she understands it as a way to recoup base charges for these customers that turn off their services for four months or more. But mathematically, it does not work. The resolution states that it is for one or more utility services being are turned off, we are recovering just a small fraction of the base charges. Butterfield asked do we want to enforce this resolution as it is stated or do we need to change it. Utility Floater Kent Fleischmann stated that turning on and off services is turning on and off our valve, rather that be water or gas. What we are looking at is that it is more hazardous to be turning it on

or off at the curb stop, there is a chance that it could break, and that is all a cost to the city. Obviously, we could never recoup the cost of the shut on or off. We encourage every customer to have a working shut off valve in their home. Casper asked if a customer shuts off their service at their shut off, will they still be billed? Fleischmann stated yes, but just their base charges, and not any usage. Fleischmann said that we understand the resolution as that anytime we turn a utility on or off we charge \$30.00. Doug Walker said that another issue is what if you have someone working on a house and they need the service off for 24 hours, then they are looking at \$60.00. Butterfield agreed. Walker stated that we may need a different resolution that spells out the intent for an extended period of time. Moulton stated that the resolution agreed to raise it but did not specify for what situations. Fleischmann again stated that if the customer has a ball valve in their house, then they would not have to deal with this charge. Haeker stated I do not know how we can force people to put in a shut off valve. Casper said that what he is hearing is that if they are shut off for more than a month, we are not recouping our costs. Moulton stated that we are going to need separate resolutions for this. Walker said that there would be two different sections to the resolution for short intervals of time and then longer ones. Walker asked at what point do you want to set that period of time? Moulton said that he did not think that they should get a month. Walker stated that he would talk to Lash at the league and Tashia will pose the question to the clerk's group as to what others are charging and what time frames are being used. Walker said that we need to get a better idea of where we are at in relationship to other towns. In the interim, we will follow this Resolution. Moulton asked to postpone further discussion on this Resolution until next meeting.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss and or approve Ordinance 2024-07 Establishing Municipal Gas System Rates. Treasurer Butterfield explained that this was another Ordinance that we were not following as it was written. This came up due to me looking at the trends for the gas department over the last few years. The current ordinance does not give us any room for increased expenses. The current ordinance was passed in 2014 and our expenses for the gas department have doubled in this current budget year. I did a lot of research about how we came up with our rates and this is how we came up to discover that how I was taught to do it was really not what the Ordinance stated. I went back and found a pricing formula from 2006 and updated it to what we need to do now and that is what this ordinance reflects. The minimum charges remain the same for residential and commercial. One change that I made was having the price for gas commodity split in to two parts. We have the purchase gas charge which is what we buy for our gas wholesale, and we pass that on to our customers. We also have a delivery charge. Which is what we as the gas department need to charge to maintain its budget. The price for delivery charge will be updated hereafter based on the approved annual budget. The purchase gas charge will change hereafter month to month based on the cost of the gas charged by the supplier. Both of these numbers need to be changed, one annually, and one monthly. Delivery charge will change annually with our budget, purchase gas price will change month to month. Nothing is going to change for the customer, and they will have the lowest price per CCF this month than all year.

Council Member Moulton introduced **Ordinances Number 2024-07 Establishing Municipal Gas System Rates ; Repealing all prior Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance; providing for publication; and to provide for an effective date** and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different dates be suspended. Council Member Casper seconded the motion that the statutory rule requiring three different dates be suspended. A roll call vote was then taken on the motion; the following Council Members voted yes: Collins, Casper, and Moulton. The following voted no: None. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of these ordinances. These ordinances were then read by title and thereafter Council Member Casper moved for final passage of these ordinances and said motion was seconded by Council Member Moulton. The mayor then stated the questions, "Shall Ordinances Numbers 2024-07 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following Council members voted yes: Collins, Casper, and Moulton. Voting no: None.

The passage and adoption of these ordinances having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor declared the ordinances adopted; and the mayor in the presence of the City Council signed and approved the ordinances and the City Clerk attested the passage and approval of the ordinances and affixed her signature thereto and ordered the ordinances to be published as provided by law.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to discuss and or approve Hazardous Waste Disposal. Superintendent Pfeil stated that our collection site in Holdredge has closed and we no longer have a place to take the hazardous chemicals and materials that have been collected from residents. Pfeil said that other towns had been looked at other locations but they are too far away and too costly. Motion made by Moulton, second by Collins to approve the cancellation of Alma's Hazardous Waste Disposal program. Collins suggested information be put in the paper for 2 weeks and added to the City website. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Moulton, and Casper. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Collins, second by Moulton. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Casper, Collins, and Moulton. Voting no: None. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 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

