

MINUTE RECORD FOR CITY OF ALMA  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 21, 2022

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Alma, Nebraska was held at City Hall on Wednesday, the 21st of September 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Council Members: Dyann Collins, Tom Moulton, Larry Casper, Chris Tripe, and Mayor Hal Haeker. Administrator Lorri Bantam, City 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 September 21, 2022, at 5:30 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 made by Casper, second by Collins 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: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022, Budget and Tax Request Hearings. Motion made by Collins, second by Moulton to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022, Budget and Tax Request Hearings. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Casper, Tripe, and Collins. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022, regular council meeting. Motion made by Moulton, second by Collins to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022, regular council meeting. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Casper, Tripe, and Collins. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss the claims and invoices. Motion by Moulton, second by Casper to approve the claims and invoices from September 8, 2022, through September 21, 2022, for a total of \$223,498.48. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss 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: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to hear public comments on the Wellhead Protection Boundaries and Controls. Dave Schroeter, Source Water Specialist with Nebraska Rural Water Association, informed the Council that he was contacted by the City to assist in creating a Wellhead Protection Plan. This involved onsite inspections of the wells, inventorying contaminated wells in the area, updating sanitary sewer records and other documentation and records. Ron Robison asked what the intention of establishing a protection plan. Mr. Schroeter explained how the city water operator is required by state to take water samples on a monthly basis. Those samples are checked for anywhere between 63 to 163 contaminants in the drinking water. The Wellhead Protection Plan affords the City the opportunity to make us aware that we all are in charge of our drinking water. Nitrates are a big issue in Nebraska and is something that is checked. A source water protection plan helps observe these before they become a problem. Warren Lingg asked if they were in any violation. Mr. Schroeter stated he wasn't aware of any violations but those are handled by the state. The state has a website that anyone can look at testing results in your area. Ron Robison asked if the wells were tested individually. Mr. Schroeter explained the water testing is dictated by the state. The City is instructed where and when to sample whether it is directly from the point of entry (the well) and other times from the distribution source (your house). Ron then asked if more rules and regulations would come along with this plan. Dave stated

there were not more regulations, however, there is addition funding for landowners in the protection area for items such as cover crops, removing septic tanks, decommissioning old wells and other items of that nature. Jed Jackson asked how many counties have this. Dave responded the Nebraska Rural Water has around 40 to 60 across the state that he is aware of. He then asked if there was a reason it was being brought forward. Administrator Lorri Bantam stated that we do not have any issues, but we are looking forward to keeping the drinking water protected. The list of prohibited items in the plan would require a permit to install which the council would approve or disapprove. If an issue would arise and needed legal action, the City would need an Ordinance in place to enforce the controls. She showed the designated protection area that was mapped by the State DEQ thirteen years ago. Mr. Schroeter explained the 20-year time travel indicated on the map. The timeline shows the time travel before a contaminate would reach the wells. As the maps are updated, they will have a 50-year time travel. Ron Robison asked if he were to build a new shop with a septic tank if it would be allowed. Administrator Bantam stated the septic is on the list that would require a permit which the council would then consider. Chris Schlutz asked if it would affect chemigation. Dave said it would not, but we would like the farm operators to be good stewards of the land and use the right amount of chemical and not over apply. Administrator Bantam informed the attendees that next step is to forward the approved final designation of boundaries and controls to the state for approval. If the state would disapprove, they would give suggested changes they would like to see to be approved. Motion by Casper second by Tripe to approve the final designation of the Wellhead Protection Boundaries and Controls. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened a Public Hearing at 5:58 p.m. to discuss the One- and Six-Year Street Improvement Plan. Larry Steele from Miller and Associates addressed the Council stating the public hearing gives opportunity to hear comments on the 1- & 6-Year Street Plan. He informed the council that Alma received \$159,733 in funds allocated by the State and is estimated to be at \$167,096 for the next fiscal year. Larry pointed out the proposed red markings in the 1-year plan for the downtown drainage project and Ninth Street maintenance sites. The City currently has awarded the Downtown Drainage project and is waiting on the contractor's schedule. The remaining blue marks are for the Six-year plan and can be addressed as funding allows. Administrator Bantam noted that some of the listed projects were being worked on currently and would be removed from the next year's map. Larry also explained to the Council the Plan is just that – a plan that is allowed to be changed as needed. However, any changes would require another public hearing. Larry explained to the council the difference in the colors of the circles on the map. He stated the circles with a number in parentheses does not indicate a priority but rather how projects are grouped together. The projects grouped together are calculated for a budget amount entered on documentation that is sent to the state for approval. The circles do not necessarily mean intersections as some may be small curb or street section repairs. Motion by Moulton, second by Tripe to close the Public Hearing. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried and the Public Meeting was closed at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor opened the floor for Resolution 23-2022 for the One- and Six-Year Street Improvement Plan. Motion by Collins, second by Moulton to approve Resolution 23-2022 One- and Six-Year Street Improvement Plan as presented. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to approve a Special Designated Liquor License to Fisherman's Corner for a tail gate event on November 12, 2022. Motion by Collins, second by Tripe to approve the Special Designated Liquor License. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss Resolution 24-2022 Hoesch Memorial Library Cleaning contract with Samantha Kresser. The Library Board made a change in the contract to reduce the monthly rate to \$160 from \$185. This was a decision made by the Board to help balance their budget. Samantha has been able to clean the library in a shorter time frame and has agreed to the change. Motion by Moulton, second by Collins to approve Resolution 24-2022 for Hoesch Memorial Library Cleaning contract with Samantha Kresser per the

Library Board's recommendation. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss Resolution 25-2022 -Municipal Buildings Cleaning contract with Samantha Kresser. The contract is being renewed and has not changed from the previous year. Motion by Tripe, second by Moulton to approve Resolution 25-2022 for Cleaning contract with Samantha Kresser for the Municipal Buildings. Councilman Casper asked if Samantha was being compensated adequately for cleaning the softball restrooms. Administrator Bantam commented that per the agreement change last year, she was to only clean once a week for the three-month season and the ball association is to pick up the restrooms after each game. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe, and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker then entertained for a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. Motion by Casper, second by Collins to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe and Moulton. Motion to reconvene regular session by Casper, second by Moulton. Upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Collins, Casper, Tripe and Moulton. Regular Session reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

Councilman Tripe left meeting.

Mayor opened the floor to approve the appointment of a new City Clerk. Motion by Moulton, seconded by Casper to approve Dawn McNulty as the City Clerk with the starting salary of \$35,000. 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 opened the floor to discuss awarding stipends to employees covering vacant positions. Councilman Moulton expressed the outside guys and the office staff have done a good job covering the staff shortages. Mayor Haeker commented that what the Council and he really wants the employees to know is they appreciate all the employees for going above and beyond. It isn't easy to show their appreciation and they want to do something to show their appreciation for what the employees have done for the City of Alma. Councilman Casper stated the employees need to know they are operating within budget restrictions. Councilman Collins expressed this may or may not be a yearly thing and she was hopeful that we would fill all the positions, so they don't have to be worked harder. Motion by Collins, second by Moulton to pay the 5 outside employees each \$3,000 and the 2 office employees \$4,500 each. 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 for the administrator's report. Administrator Bantam highlighted on the Roof replacements with the City Hall, 32 N John, all gutters and an awning still pending. The Downtown Drainage project has been moved back to next spring by the contractor as they are having a hard time getting supplies and have other project delays. The airport lighting project has also been pushed back to next spring also for supply issues. She then informed the Council of a few projects being undertaken in the past month including a large water line bored under 7<sup>th</sup> Street by the sale barn to replace a leaking line, a new fire hydrant installed at the same location to replace a leaking fire hydrant, a block long section of the sewer main being relined, and three water mains breaks on different blocks but all between Main Street and South Street. City Superintendent Pfeil commented about the size of the corroded spots in the 4" cast water pipe and how they were not just cracks but holes. Councilman Moulton commented that we should check with other communities to see if they are having corrosion issues from the fluoride in the water. He stated fluoride is an acid and is highly corrosive. Russ agreed the fluoride would do this.

City Attorney Doug Walker then updated the Council on the pending litigation. He stated there has not been any activity from Patrick Calkins and heard the case has been handed over to an attorney with DeWald in the Holdrege office. Mayor Haeker asked if Jaclyn Daake had made a request to the court to set a hearing date. Walker stated there isn't a timeline and doesn't need to be pursued but since the City has planning issues, he will have her proceed with getting a trial date set. Attorney Walker also commented on the Whitson nuisance case. The Whitson's have until the end of September to get something done with their property. After that date, the City can proceed to have the Fire Department burn the house. He commented the house has deteriorated since the last inspection.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Moulton, second by Casper. 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 7:21 p.m.

  
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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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Lorri Bantam, Acting City Clerk