

CITY OF ALMA

AT YOUR SERVICE

Volume 17, Issue 1

**October
2022**

OFFICE CLOSINGS

- October 10th
- November 11th
- November 24 & 25th
- December 26th



**Inside This
Issue**

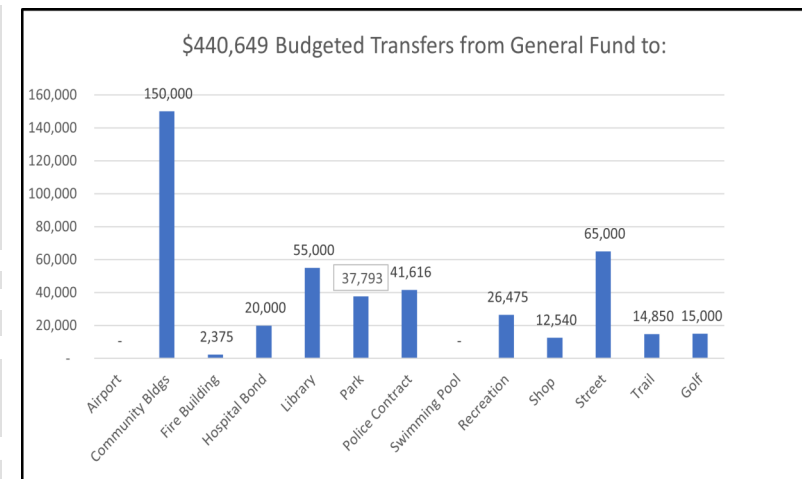
- Downtown Drainage Project
- Goodwill Trailer
- Drinking Water Protection
- Snow Removal
- Library News
- Did You Know?
- Upcoming Events
- Dog License
- Budget Billing
- Bicycle Ordinance Change
- Gas Safety
- City of Alma - Contact Information

2022-2023 Budgeted Cash Summary

	Cash Balance 9/30/22	Budgeted Revenues	Transfers In	Budgeted Expend	Transfers Out	Cash Balance 9/30/23
Governmental Funds						
General Fund	918,448	925,342	389,200	780,380	440,649	1,011,962
Street Fund	605,269	262,596	65,000	634,881	-	297,985
Airport Fund	33,880	223,975	-	232,125	-	25,730
CDBG Housing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Bond Fund	207,183	400	20,000	-	-	227,583
Total Governmental	1,764,781	1,412,313	474,200	1,647,386	440,649	1,563,260
Enterprise Funds						
Gas	848,765	2,157,522	-	2,270,196	-	736,091
Sanitation	49,047	182,800	-	182,854	-	48,993
Water	90,332	282,000	50,000	326,424	-	95,908
Golf	5,486	307,384	15,000	297,166	20,000	10,705
Wastewater	44,690	92,000	30,000	139,152	-	27,538
RV Park	175,654	64,125	-	34,550	-	205,229
Electric	9,206	186,000	-	14,350	180,500	356
Total Enterprise	1,223,180	3,271,831	95,000	3,264,692	200,500	1,124,819
Grand Total	2,987,961	4,684,144	569,200	4,912,077	641,149	2,688,079

A total of \$459,150 in Property Tax and Sales Tax revenue has been budgeted in the General Fund for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The remaining Revenue for the General Fund will be from an Electric Fund transfer, state Municipal Equalization funds, and various leases, permits and fees. A total of \$440,649 has been budgeted to be transferred out of the General Fund to other funds and departments as shown in the Transfers Chart below.

	Property Tax Budget	Sales Tax Budget
General Fund	\$ 234,150.00	\$ 225,000.00
Street Fund		\$ 80,000.00
Swimming Pool	\$ 79,000.00	\$ 145,000.00
	\$ 313,150.00	\$ 450,000.00
County commission	\$ 3,131.50	
Total Taxes	\$ 316,281.50	\$ 450,000.00
Valuation	\$ 76,962,842	
Levy	\$ 0.410954	



City Council Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted each Friday prior to the meeting at City Hall, Hogeland's Market, Alma Post Office, and Trustworthy Hardware. If there is an agenda item of particular interest to you, the Mayor, City Council and City Staff encourage you to attend the meeting.

Downtown Drainage Project

As most citizens of Alma are aware, we have a terrible ice problem in the winter on the south side of the streets in the downtown area. After sidewalks are cleared of snow, it melts in the curb and has no where to drain. This results in the melted snow refreezing overnight and becoming an ice hazard.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) disbursed federal funds to municipalities to aid with Water, Sewer, and Storm Water projects. The City of Alma has received a total of \$201,943.02 in which the City Council approved to proceed with the Downtown Drainage project that has been looked at for a number of years.

Drains for storm water will be constructed on the south side of two of the downtown city blocks. As snow and ice melt it will flow down the storm drain rather than refreezing along the curb. The slope of the drainage area is anticipated to also help with portions where the step up to the curb is steep. Parking in the downtown district area may be in short supply while the construction is in progress so we please ask that you use extra caution when driving and parking downtown. The timing of the construction will depend on the Contractor's schedule but is anticipated to start this Fall on one block and early Spring for the second block.

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?? PURCHASE A GOLF GIFT CERTIFICATE WHICH MAY BE USED TOWARDS A MEMBERSHIP, GREENS FEES, CART RENTAL, OR DRINKS/SNACKS AT THE CLUB HOUSE ~ OR ~ PURCHASE A SWIMMING POOL PASS TO BE USED NEXT SUMMER.



**KNOW WHAT'S
BELOW. CALL
BEFORE
YOU DIG!
DIAL 811**



ALWAYS REVIEW EACH AND EVERY UTILITY BILL

It is a very good idea to review each bill and reference back to the previous bill. Is there a significant difference? We have had customers discover they have a water leak because their bill was huge. If they had only reviewed the prior bill, they may have avoided a huge water bill! Leaky toilets and broken water lines can be costly on your bill!

MESSAGE FROM THE GOODWILL STAFF

We truly value donations, as they are the lifeblood of our mission services and without them, we would not be able to serve the individuals we do. We are seeing an uptick for donations that are not being placed in the trailer and instead are being left on the ground. When items are left on the ground in the elements, they are often unusable and have to be disposed.

This is where we need your help so that we can continue to have the trailer available in Alma.



Sometimes this is a matter of the trailer being full and there not being any useable room to place the items. In this case, we are asking for you to hold your donations for the next donation truck and not create a mess. Other times items are being placed at the end of the trailer, which then blocks the rest of the trailer from holding valued donations. We are asking that you place your items to the front of the trailer so that other community members can continue to fill the trailer and not leave items on the ground. We thank you for your cooperation!

PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

Everybody enjoys a refreshing drink of cool water, but not everyone in the world has the ability to turn on the tap and get a glass of drinking water. We are very lucky in this country to have an abundant source of water for drinking, cooking, washing and watering our yards. Although the water from our City wells is safe to drink and meets all State and Federal standards, there is still a possibility that the water will not maintain the same high quality in the future.

It is easy to blame farming and other quality, but residential homeowners luting this valuable resource. This is potential damage that could result—properly, fertilizers on lawns and gar—that seep into the ground, old tires and time.



industries for the degradation of water are just as guilty when it comes to pollution usually done without realizing the household chemicals not disposed of properly, used oil and saturated oil filters other trash that decompose slowly over

The City Council has adopted a plan to protect our drinking water sources (our city wells) from sources of contamination with a Wellhead Protection Plan.

The Wellhead Protection Area is the surface and subsurface surrounding our wells through which contaminants are likely to move toward and reach the wells. The Wellhead Protection Area has been delineated by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. The area is determined by several factors including location, number of wells in the system, amount of water pumped by the wells, and groundwater flow direction. The complete plan is kept at city hall and can be viewed by the public.

The old saying that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is definitely true when it comes to our water. The price of treatment is much higher than the price of conservation and prevention.

Snow Removal - It's inevitable! Snow will be falling in the next few months!!!

Please note the following: The City of Alma would like to express its appreciation for its citizens who understand the importance of keeping their sidewalks free of snow and ice. According to City Ordinance 96.20, it shall be unlawful for the occupant of any lot(s) or the owner of any vacant lot(s) within the corporate limits to allow snow, sleet, mud, ice or other substance to accumulate or remain on said sidewalks.



*Residential sidewalks shall be cleaned within 24 hours after the snow storm.
All sidewalks within the business district shall be cleaned within 5 hours after the cessation of the storm, unless the storm or fall of snow shall have taken place during the night, in which case the sidewalk shall be cleaned before 9:00 a.m. the following day.*

Take special care and use common courtesy when clearing your driveway. Ask for your neighbor's permission before you pile your snow on their **terrace (area between curb line and property line)** or yard. Rocks and other debris can collect on your driveway and by piling your snow on your neighbor's property you are depositing those items in their yard to be mowed over in the spring.

EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTE - Typically when it snows the City employees have two trucks with plows running to clear the streets. The streets cleaned first are Main, South, and Third running east and west. Running north and south are James, Division, Lincoln, Kennedy and Brown Avenue - north of the highway. By cleaning these streets first, the majority of Alma citizens will have only one or two streets of snow to drive through to get to a cleared street.



HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

FRIENDS BOOK SALE COMING SOON!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Friends of the Library will be holding their annual Book Sale from October 20-22 downtown at the City Auditorium. There will be a large number of books, DVDs, etc. that have been donated and weeded from the library available at the book sale! The public response to purchasing books, etc. at such reasonable prices has added to the Friends funds, so that they can help the library with improvements that are not in the library budget. The Friends have helped most recently by purchasing and paying for installation of a security system and cameras. Other things they paid for include additional lighting in the non-fiction corner, above public computers, as well as in the meeting room. And the biggest improvement was the new carpeting purchased and installed in the library in 2018. There will be more improvements needed in the future.

If you have unwanted, clean books and DVDs in good shape, please consider donating them to the Friends Book Sale. If you can bring them to the auditorium on Wednesday, October 19th that will be great. If you have a couple boxes or less, bring them to the library during our open hours.

QUILT RAFFLE

A beautiful Christmas quilt was made, quilted and bound by Jill Ann Bauer, and purchased by Don Jardon to be raffled off at the end of the book sale, as an additional fund raiser for the Friends. This quilt is 74" X 81", and will cover the top of a queen size bed or hang over the sides of a twin size bed. Raffle tickets are available at the library. Prices for tickets will be on posters at the library and downtown.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY

Yearly membership is only \$5 per person. Monthly meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. This is when plans for things to do are discussed. Help for raffles and the Book Sale are needed by more than those able to come to meetings, so get your name in as a Friend and volunteer as you can.

LIBBY APP AVAILABLE FOR PATRONS

Don't forget that every patron can access Libby for eBooks and audio books any time – there are also eBooks available for children and teenagers, as well as magazines. The Libby app just needs to be downloaded on your phone or device. Ask for a pamphlet at the circulation desk if you need directions for this service. You will need a library card to access Libby, but it is great for use when traveling or when you are unable to get out to get books at the library, or any other time you wish.

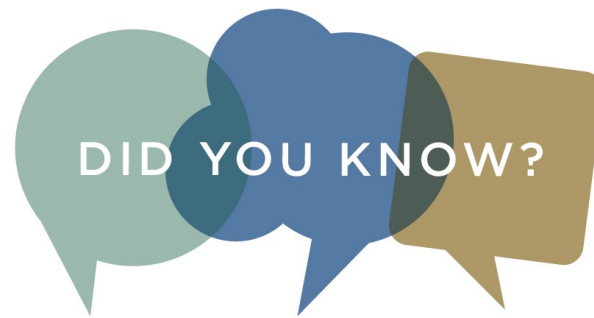
AUDITORIUM RENOVATION ON HOLD

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development's Civic & Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF) program provides grants of state aid for the development of public spaces and civic, community, and recreation centers, as well as historic buildings or districts. The City of Alma, if awarded, will use the CCCCFF grant for the renovation of our public community center – the auditorium. The City is required to have matching funds in place before applying for the Grant.

The City Council on October 6, 2021, voted to proceed with an Auditorium remodel. A CCCCFF Planning Grant was received to develop a Feasibility Study for the renovation. The next step in the process is to establish funding for the estimated \$1.2 million renovation and then apply for a CCCCFF Construction Grant.

Later in October 2021, the Council agreed to hold off on applying for the CCCCFF Construction Grant. The NDED released is funding package for 2022 with reduced grant totals due to the decrease of funds received for this grant. The total available, if awarded, would only be \$375,000 instead of the previous amount of \$562,000. It was decided to hold off applying and see if the grant funding would be increased for the following year.

The grant for 2023 has now been revised to require a partnership with a Creative District thru the Nebraska Arts Council and a total grant amount of \$250,000. The partnership requirement is presently for one year only. So once again we will hold off another year to wait for the funding to return to normal. This gives us more time to continue building the required matching funds thru budgeting and fundraising.



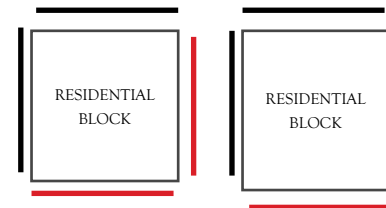
Utility Payment Options

There are numerous ways to pay your Utility Bill. You may write a check and drop it in the mail or in the slot at city hall, call or stop in and pay with a credit/debit card, have your payment deducted from your checking account on the due date each month, or you may enroll via our website to view and/or pay you bill online. Please see the options on our website www.almacity.com and click on the Payment Options icon in the quick links area.

Did you know that parking on the street in a residential area needs to be either on the north side or on the west side of the block?

No motor vehicle shall be parked or stand on any street for longer than 48 continuous hours.

NORTH



Black indicates where to park. Red indicates where **NOT** to park.

CODE RED ALERTS— The CodeRED notification system sends important alerts and time-sensitive message to our residents, but you must sign up for it. Residents can choose several different methods of notification—landline, cell phone, email, text, TTY, or a combination of them. Visit our website www.almacity.com and click on the CodeRED phone symbol to sign up.

DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE— Per City Code 90.26—Any dog found off the premise of the owner, and not under control of the owner or a responsible person, either by leash, cord, chain, wire, rope, cage or other suitable means of physical restraint may be taken up and impounded. If the police cannot reasonably do so, they may kill on sight any dog found to be running at large.

TRASH CONTAINERS & COLLECTION—All trash is to be bagged and tied. The trash toter is to be placed in the proper street facing direction for pick up. This is marked on the toter. Toters must be placed on the street curb the night before pickup or before 7:00 the morning of pickup. Grass clippings, tree branches and other yard waste is not allowed. There is a compost site south of town that may be taken. Please see our website for a listing of other unacceptable items—www.almacity.com, Resident's tab, Sanitation/Solid Waste Department.

The City of Alma has a **Fair Housing Ordinance** that is designed to prohibit discrimination in housing. It is the declared policy of the City of Alma that all persons shall have an equal opportunity for housing, regardless of sex, race, color, handicap, religion, national origin, sex or marital status of the person maintaining a household, lawful source of income, age or ancestry. The ordinance is deemed an exercise of the police powers of the City for the protection of the welfare, health, peace, dignity and human rights of the people of this City. For more information regarding Fair Housing, please visit https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint.

Winter Compost Hours

Wednesday 9am – 3:30 pm

Saturday 9 am – 3:30 pm

If these hours do not work for your schedule, you have a couple options. You may rent a key for the year (Jan 1 thru Dec 31) for \$100 or you can check out a key for 24 hours for \$5. Both require a \$20 security deposit check.

UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - SHOP SMALL SATURDAY & HOLIDAY PREVIEW - the Saturday after Thanksgiving—November 26, 2022

HOLIDAY TRASH PICKUP - Thanksgiving - City office is closed Thursday and Friday. Friday's trash will STILL be picked up on Friday. **Christmas Day** is on Sunday so the holiday will be observed on Monday. Monday's trash service will be picked up on Tuesday, and the Tuesday route will be picked up on Wednesday.

BUDGET BILLING

This program is designed for those customers who would benefit from paying a level monthly charge rather than trying to budget for utilities during the months when temperatures fluctuate. The budget billing program begins October 1st of each year.

HOW TO QUALIFY:

1. You must have your account paid in full;
2. You must have been on City utility services for at least 12 months, with a good payment history; and
3. You must be a residential (single-family) customer.

HOW IT WORKS:

Your annual utility costs are divided into 11 equal payments, with the twelfth month being the settlement month.

For more information on Budget Billing, contact City Hall.

LICENSE YOUR DOG IN DECEMBER

The City reminds you to license your dog this December by purchasing a 2023 tag.



The cost is \$7.25 for a male or spayed female and \$12.50 for an unspayed female. Pursuant to City Code

90.20 to 90.22, any dog over the age of 6 months shall be licensed within 30 days of acquisition and annually by the 1st day of January of each year. Said tax is considered delinquent after March 10th. To license your dog, stop by the City Office and be sure to bring your certificate proving your dog has had their rabies shot effective for the licensing year.

BICYCLERS TAKE NOTICE!

Did you know there is a City Ordinance 72.01 regarding BICYCLE OPERATION??? The City Council recently removed two sections of the Ordinance in order to allow bikes on sidewalks in the business district and can be parked on the sidewalk. With the Ordinance before the revision, bikes were to be WALKED on the sidewalks and only parked in bike stands. It is our hope to have parents educate their children to be mindful of people entering and exiting businesses, and instruct them to slow down and ride closer to the parked cars than the buildings. Downtown customers would sure appreciate it! Thank you!

GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

As one of the thousands of people who live or work near pipelines, you can help keep it safe and reliable by doing the following:

- A) notify us with your intention to dig;
- B) identify our pipelines;
- C) recognize a leak;
- D) take appropriate steps if you notice a leak;
- E) immediately report a leak

The City of Alma cares about your safety. Our employees are thoroughly trained to operate and maintain the system safely. We want you to be aware of our pipelines. We ask for your help in preventing accidental damage to pipelines. The City of Alma supports the Nation's Homeland Security efforts and the City of Alma encourages you to immediately notify and report any suspicious persons and/or activities near the pipeline to your local law enforcement authorities by calling 911.

A) NOTIFY US WITH YOUR INTENTION TO DIG – CALL 811—“diggers hotline”

We need your help in preventing pipeline emergencies. The number one cause of pipeline leaks is damage from earth-moving and construction equipment and tools owned by parties other than the pipeline company. If you plan to dig or do any type of excavation or construction work, call **Diggers Hotline at 811**. Call at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before you:

Excavate	Install drain tile	Repair or rebuild roads or driveways
Grade	Blast for clearing	Build homes or additions
Auger	Dig postholes	Install water lines, sewer lines
Bore	Cut or deepen ditches	septic systems, or drains
Tunnel	Install swimming pools	Install telephone, TV or power, cables
Dredge	Plant trees or shrubs	

B) IDENTIFY OUR PIPELINES -HOW TO IDENTIFY WHERE THE PIPELINE IS LOCATED

Since pipelines are buried underground, line markers are used to indicate the approximate - *not exact* - location of the pipeline. Line markers can be found where the pipeline intersects a street, highway, or railroad. However, they cannot be relied upon to indicate the exact position of the pipeline. The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers, which provide no information on the depth or number of pipelines in the vicinity. Don't try to guess the pipeline's location or route by the marker's placement. Call Diggers Hotline at **811**.

C) RECOGNIZE A LEAK

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A PIPELINE LEAK WHEN NEAR A PIPELINE RIGHT OF WAY. **LOOK FOR:** Fire or explosion near pipeline, a white cloud or fog, dying plants amid healthy ones, unusual blowing of dirt or dust, persistent bubbles in water, or pool of liquids, possibly bubbling. **LISTEN FOR:** Hissing or roaring sound. **SMELL FOR:** A pungent odor, sometimes like rotten eggs.

D) TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS IF YOU NOTICE A LEAK— WHAT TO DO?

Immediately leave the area - on foot - in an upwind direction.	Avoid making contact with escaping liquids or vapors.	Warn others to stay away from the area
DO NOT drive into an area in which you encounter a leak or vapor cloud	Abandon all equipment being used in the area.	DO NOT try to operate any pipeline valves yourself
DO NOT light a match, start an engine or automobile, use a telephone, or switch on/off an electric light or appliance.		

E) IMMEDIATELY REPORT A LEAK— WHO TO CALL?

From a distant phone, call the City of Alma (308-928-2242) or the On-Call phone if after hours (308-920-1047) OR call 911 or your local fire, police or sheriff's office. **DO NOT** use a cell phone while near the suspected emergency area.

CITY OF ALMA

614 Main Street
PO Box 468
Alma, NE 68920



Phone: 308-928-2242
Fax: 308-928-2683
E-mail: cityclk@almacity.com
www.almacity.com



PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

Alma!
is for
YOU!

Visit us online at:
www.almacity.com

Utility Emergency
(after hours)
308.920.1047

City Hall
308.928.2242

City Hall Office Hours
Mon-Wed-Fri
9 am-4 pm
Tues & Thurs
9 am-3 pm

City of Alma—Contact Information

Golf Course
928.2341
Library
928.2600
Sheriff
928.2147
School
928.2131
Hospital
928.2151

Compost Site Hours
Wednesday & Saturday
9 am to 3:30 pm

Library Hours
Tues-Wed-Thurs
10 am-8 pm
Fri- 10 am-5 pm
Sat- 9 am—12 pm
Sun & Mon - Closed

COUNCIL

East Ward
Dyann Collins 999-0070
Tom Moulton 920-1105

West Ward
Chris Tripe 920-1417
Larry Casper 512-484-4377

Mayor
Hal Haeker 928-2900

CITY STAFF

Administrator
Lorri Bantam

Treasurer
CeeAnn Affolter

City Clerk
Vacant

**Utility and Gas
Superintendent**
Russ Pfeil

Water Superintendent
Scott Kuhl

**Waste Water and Street
Superintendent**
Travis Dunse

**Sanitation
Superintendent**
Bowde Johnson

Utility Floater
Kent Fleischmann

Library Director
Keri Anderson

Golf Superintendent
Jordy Slocum