

Alma, Michigan
January 26, 2010

Mayor Nyman called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

Present: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

Absent: Mapes.

Mayor Nyman asked the City Commission and members of the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Ayers to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2010 regular meeting.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

A public hearing to consider Special Assessment District #1 for 2010 for the construction of a concrete sidewalk along the east side of Golfside Drive between Superior Street and Riverview Drive was held at 6:03 p.m. Ron Turner advised that the Golfside Drive Sidewalk project involves construction of a new five foot wide sidewalk on the east side of the street approximately 1,890 linear feet long. The sidewalk would start at the northeast corner of Golfside/Riverview Dr. and extend northward to the intersection of Golfside/Superior Street. Total estimated project cost is \$59,803 with 50% assumed by the City and 50% assumed by the property owners. City Manager Moore explained that the assessed cost would be spread out over five payments with an interest rate of 3.49%.

Charles Simmons, 316 Golfside Drive, asked why the City would want to put a sidewalk in on a dead end street with very little car traffic and limited foot traffic. He feels that it would be a waste of tax payer money and an unnecessary expense for the city.

Dave Kitzmiller, 310 Golfside Drive, said he polled the neighbors and of the 30 people on roll, 28 were polled and 24 definitely do not want the sidewalk; 2 people had no opinion. The meant that about 93% of the residents are against the sidewalk construction. The sidewalk would also add additional cost to each property owner for maintenance.

Mayor Nyman asked for a show of hands for those who were NOT in favor of a sidewalk. All present from Golfside Drive raised their hands. Mayor Nyman asked for a show of hands for those in favor or the sidewalk project. No hands were raised.

Stuart Taylor, 236 Golfside Drive, inquired about where the utilities run on the street and how it would affect the sidewalk construction. Also, if in the future there were problems with utilities, wouldn't that affect the sidewalks and require costly repairs?

There being no further questions or comments, the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington seconded by Commissioner Dancer to close the public hearing at 6:17 p.m.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott seconded by Commissioner Ayers a resolution directing City staff to abandon the Golfside Drive Special Assessment Sidewalk project and assessment.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Tom Farrar stated he has a concern with the restoration of the lawns after construction. He has seen how many sidewalk projects in other areas of town that have resulted in poor lawn restoration. Mr. Turner will make note of the concerns and make sure they are addressed with the contractor when the project is awarded.

A public hearing to consider Special Assessment District #2 for 2010 for the construction of a concrete sidewalk along the east side of Pineview Court heading south from Riverview Drive. Ron Turner advised that the Pineview Court Sidewalk project involves the construction of a new five foot wide sidewalk on the east side of the street approximately 380 linear feet. The sidewalk would start at the southeast corner of the intersection Pineview Court and Riverview Drive and extend southward to one-half way around the cul-de-sac. Total estimated project cost is \$14,470 with 50% assumed by the City and 50% assumed by the property owners. City Manager Moore explained that the assessed cost would be spread out over five payments with an interest rate of 3.49%.

Mike Moerlins, 1020 Pineview Court, advised the City Commission that he has the same concerns that the residents on Golfside Drive have with the sidewalk construction project. He is opposed to the sidewalk; his property is pie shaped and he would lose quite a bit of frontage by having a sidewalk constructed.

Mayor Nyman explained that the City's policy has always been that if there is no sidewalk present, the City would construct one when the street is reconstructed. This policy makes the community more walkable and bicycle friendly.

Anne Lambrecht, 1026 Pineview Court advised that her husband sent an email to City Commissioners and staff. They feel the sidewalk would be a waste of money, that it would be a sidewalk to nowhere. There are no connections and would not be a used sidewalk. In these hard economic times, the funds could be spent more wisely in other areas.

City Manager Moore advised that staff also received a phone call from Jeff Ingersoll, 1004 Pineview Court expressing the same opinions as presented. The sidewalk goes nowhere and the City could make better use of the funds proposed.

Mayor Nyman asked for a show of hands for those who were NOT in favor of a sidewalk. All present from Pineview Court raised their hands. Mayor Nyman asked for a show of hands for those in favor of the sidewalk project. No hands were raised.

There being no further questions or comments, the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to close the public hearing at 6:28 p.m.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott seconded by Commissioner Ayers of a resolution directing City staff to abandon the Pineview Court Special Assessment Sidewalk project and assessment.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Ayers to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda for payment: \$1,652 to Fortino, Plaxton, Moskal & Costanzo for December legal services rendered; \$2,500 to the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce for 2010 annual dues; \$9,201.42 to the Mid-Michigan Area Cable Consortium for 3rd quarter 2009 cable franchise fees.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Dancer seconded by Commissioner Ayers to adopt the City of Alma Mailbox Policy establishing requirements for the installation of mailboxes along street rights-of-way that provide for the efficient snow clearance and right-of-way maintenance and enhance traffic safety and to establish standards for reimbursing property owners for damage done to mailboxes by City equipment.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution authorizing the following street closures in conjunction with 2010 Special Community Events:

Event	Date	Time	State Highway Closure	City Street Closure
Alma Highland Festival 5K Run	Saturday 05/29/10	8:15 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Superior-Pine to Wright	Center-Woodworth to Pine Additional local streets to be determined.
Highland Festival Parade	Saturday 05/29/10	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Superior-Bridge to Wright Center –Woodworth to Pine Pine-Center to Superior Wright-Warwick to Superior	Michigan-Bridge to Superior Superior-Purdy to Wright Center-Woodworth to Pine Pine-Center to Superior
Alma H.S. Homecoming Parade	Friday 10/08/10	4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Superior-Pine to Prospect	Pine-Superior to High School Downie-Park to Prospect Prospect-Wright Park to Superior
Alma College Homecoming Parade	Saturday 10/09/10	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Wright-Downie to Superior Superior-Pine to Wright	Superior-Presbyterian Church
Downtown Christmas Celebration	Friday 12/10/10	5:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Superior to Park	Woodworth-Center to Downie

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution authorizing the Highland Festival Series of Races Committee to place temporary signage on the streetlight poles along Superior Street in the vicinity of the festival road races start/finish area contingent upon staff approval of the method used to attach the signage.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution approving the Alma Highland Festival Committee's request to operate their entertainment tent until midnight on Friday, May 28, Saturday, May 29, and Sunday, May 30, 2010 pursuant to Ordinance No. 695 which allows the City Commission to approve the two-day variance to the noise ordinance.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Dancer seconded by Commissioner Mott to adopt a resolution awarding an Alma Downtown Development Authority Façade Grant in the amount of \$1,500 to J & J Giles Tire Service for a front façade project at 231 W. Superior Street.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution approving an amendment to the Meritain Health Administrative Services Agreement setting the 2009-2010 rates for the City of Alma's medical supplement, dental and flex spending programs.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to receive the following reports and place them on file: Alma Police Department Parking Report for December; Alma Fire District Annual Report; Alma Downtown Development Authority minutes of 10/9/ & 12/10/2009; Annual Water Quality Report; December Financial Statements.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution ratifying the investment of the following City funds

<u>Investment Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Interest \$</u>	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Type</u>
1/12/10	1/12/11	\$384,115.14	365	5.50%	\$21,126.33	Wolverine	CD
1/24/10	1/24/11	\$320,581.78	365	3.75%	\$12,021.82	Wolverine	CD
1/28/10	7/29/10	\$199,853.51	182	0.15%	\$146.49	Treasury Direct	T-bill

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Mott to approve Warrant No. 10-14 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Commissioner Harrington expressed her appreciation for the public input on the sidewalk issue; had their not been the outpouring of opposition, she would have voted in favor of the project as she is a big proponent of sidewalks and their value to the community.

Commissioner Mott and Commissioner Ayers thanked the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Alma Firefighter for the wonderful ceremony they had in honor of Fire Chief George Blyton, whose funeral was held on Monday, January 25, 2010.

City Manager Moore stated that George Blyton will be greatly missed. He was a good man, and an inspiration to many. He was a dedicated employee and community member.

Mayor Nyman extended his condolences to family. George was a good man and he considers him among the top “curmudgeon.” He as a great asset to the community and will be dearly missed. He also thanked all the residents for attending the meeting.

Mr. Bill Watson 125 W. Downie, addressed the City Commission. Mr. Watson stated he is 77 yrs old and a disabled vet. His issue is with Dial-A-Ride and the fact that they will not drop him off mid-block on Superior Street. He has to be dropped off at sidestreet. He stated that he has filed complaint with civil rights commission.

City Manager Moore advised that is DART’s policy to not drop off customers from Superior Street in midblock due to safety concerns. He further explained that when dropped off in mid-block, there is no place to access the sidewalk except between parked cars which presents a danger and that there is curb to maneuver for pedestrians and those in wheelchairs. Also, if a lift is being used on the bus, DART would have to stop in the center lane of the street in order to accommodate the lift. The passenger would then have to travel to the corner in order to access the sidewalk with no obstacle. Customers are dropped at the corners or at an alley. Mr. Moore explained that this is the policy for everyone whether they are disabled or not.

Mr. Watson then stated that delivery trucks should not be allowed to stop in the street mid-block.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Harrington, Mott, & Nyman.

No: None.

Melvin A. Nyman, Mayor

Barbara A. Gager, City Clerk