

Alma, Michigan
December 26, 2007

Mayor Nyman called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:03 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

Present: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

Absent: None.

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 Ayers seconded by Commissioner Mapes to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2007 regular meeting as submitted.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Mapes to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda for payment: \$10,941 to North American Salt Company for 300 tons of bulk rock salt for use by the Municipal Garage Services Division.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Legene to approve the request to purchase four replacement Tarco leaf vacuum hoses from Brown Equipment in the amount of \$3,250 for Municipal Garage Services units 200 & 2002.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Mapes to approve the request to purchase three 36" lateral 3-drawer file cabinets from National Business Furniture in the amount of \$1,914 for the Buildings & Grounds Division.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Mapes seconded by Commissioner Dancer:

Whereas, pursuant to Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended (Act 51), it is necessary for the City of Alma, (hereby known as THE APPLICANT) established under Act 327, to provide a local transportation program for the state fiscal year of 2009 and, therefore, apply for state financial assistance under provisions of Act 51; and

Whereas, it is necessary for THE APPLICANT, to name an official representative for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51; and

Whereas, it is necessary to certify that no changes in eligibility documentation have occurred during the past state fiscal year; and (State Operating Assistance Program only)

Whereas, the performance indicators for this agency have been reviewed and approved by THE APPLICANT; and (State Operating Assistance Program only)

Whereas, THE APPLICANT, has reviewed and approved the proposed balanced (surplus) budget, and funding sources of estimated Federal Funds \$84,161; estimated State Funds \$190,151; estimated Local Funds \$144,300; estimated Farebox Revenues \$59,092; estimated Other Funds \$16,000, for total estimated expenses of \$526,006.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that THE APPLICANT hereby makes its intentions known to provide public transportation services and to apply for state financial assistance with this annual plan, in accordance with Act 51; and

Hereby, appoints Phillip J. Moore as the Transportation Coordinator, for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51 for 2009.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer :

Whereas, the City Commission of the City of Alma has previously abandoned and vacated that portion of the alley from Hillcrest Street to Elizabeth Street located as follows:

The section of vacated alley commencing at the NE corner of lot 9 of the Hillcrest addition; thence east along the south line of Elizabeth Street 16 feet, thence south 110.65 feet parallel with the east property line of lot 9; thence west, 16 feet; then north 110.65 feet to the point of beginning.

Whereas, the City of Alma had reserved an easement for the installation, repair, maintenance, and operation of public utilities, including but not limited to, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water main, and

Whereas, the City of Alma no longer has need of such easement,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the easement previously reserved by the City of Alma for the purpose of installing, repairing, maintaining and replacing public utilities, including sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water main over and across the vacated portion of the alley from Hillcrest Street to Elizabeth Street, as described above, be and hereby is vacated and abandoned.

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution corrects a previous resolution recorded by the Register of Deeds on 11/30/2007, Liber 840, Page 967 by amending the description of the “easement previously reserved by the City of Alma for the purpose of installing, repairing, maintaining and replacing public utilities, including sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water main over and across the vacated portion of the alley from Cedar Avenue, as described above, be and hereby is vacated and abandoned” to the above.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution certified by the Clerk, be recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds at the County of Gratiot.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Mapes seconded by Commissioner Legene:

Whereas, Patricia Schaeffer has faithfully served the City of Alma from August 27, 1976 through December 31, 2007, when she will retire after 31 years 4 months of continuous service, and

Whereas, Pat began her career with the City of Alma as the first professional Cataloger for the Alma Public Library, where she compiled an annual list of reference materials, and

Whereas, during Pat's career she worked on the library's transition from the traditional card catalog to an online public access catalog with the library's first automation experience, maintained the library's acquisition, discard and replacement records, was active in maintaining and editing the library's online public catalog, and participated in the planning of several library renovations and additions, and

Whereas, over the past 31 years, Pat always demonstrated her dedication to the citizens of the City of Alma and has been a valuable source of historical information regarding the Alma Public Library, its former staff and local events, and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the citizens of the City of Alma recognize and commend Pat for her dedication to the City of Alma over the past 31 years, 4 months, and

Be It Further Resolved that Mayor Nyman, members of the Alma City Commission, City staff and citizens of the City of Alma extend an expression of appreciation to Pat in the form of this Resolution of Appreciation and that this Resolution become part of the official minutes of the City of Alma and that an original copy be presented to Patricia Schaeffer.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Legene seconded by Commissioner Mapes:

Whereas, Scott Moes has faithfully served the City of Alma as a City Commissioner from January 1, 2000 and as Vice-Mayor from May 28, 2002, and

Whereas, Scott has played a key role in the economic and community development of Alma throughout his tenure on the Commission through such projects as the Adams Avenue construction and Grover Avenue cul-de-sac, Alma Public Library Expansion, the extension of Pine Avenue, Wastewater Treatment Plant aeration basin, Groundwater Study, Gratiot Community Airport parallel taxiway extension and construction of the east-west runway, Two-way street conversion in the Central Business District, the Total Land Transfer Agreement, creation of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District, Waterfront redevelopment and clean up, Waterfront Development Master Plan, Waterfront Brownfield Redevelopment District, City of Alma Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance update, completion of the Alma Riverwalk, acquisition of two new fire trucks, the creation of the Police Athletic League and Community Policing programs, and

Whereas, he has supported intergovernmental relations within the county through the negotiation of P.A. 425 Conditional Land Transfer Agreements with the neighboring Pine River and Arcada Townships for housing and economic development projects and the creation of the Gratiot County Central Dispatch Authority as a separate legal entity and the construction of the Central Dispatch Authority building and,

Whereas, Scott has campaigned to support the successful passage of municipal millage issues involving the renewal of the 5-Year Neighborhood Street Improvement Initiatives, the \$3.5 million Alma Public Library Expansion Project and the enactment of eighty-three ordinances, and

Whereas, he has carried out his fiduciary responsibilities which have resulted in the award of over \$2.7 million in grants and contributions for the DART Transit Center and the Central Business District Second Story Apartment program, numerous Police Department grants, the attainment of the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Annual Program Budget, the achievement of sufficient fund balances in operating funds to assure the continuation of municipal services during periods of economic downturns, all of which have been accomplished throughout a period of uncertain municipal revenues and in the absence of any increases in the General Fund operating millage, and

Whereas, Scott has also shared his personal time and professional talents through his service as a member of the Alma Planning Commission and Rural Urban Fire Board.

Now Therefore Be It Proclaimed that the Alma City Commission expresses their heartfelt gratitude for the contributions of Scott throughout his eight-year tenure as an elected official for the City of Alma and further extends their wishes for his continued success as he once again becomes a "private citizen" following the expiration of his current term on December 31, 2007, and

Be It Further Proclaimed that this resolution be presented to Vice-Mayor Moes at the December 26, 2007 City Commission Meeting and that this resolution be entered in the official minutes of the Alma City Commission.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

Motion by Commissioner Mapes seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution approving MDOT Contract No. 07-5684 between the City of Alma and the Michigan Department of Transportation authorizing additional work in conjunction with the upcoming US-127BR construction project.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution approving an Agreement between the City of Alma, Gratiot County Road Commission, Pine River Township, Seville Township, West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition and the Friends of the Fred Meijer heartland Trail for the development of a public non-motorized recreational trail.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mapes seconded by Commissioner Ayers to adopt a resolution approving an agreement between the City of Alma and Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. to allow the occupancy of the Phase IV Riverwalk construction contractor to build the pedestrian crossing in the railroad right-of-way.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mapes seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of an addendum to the original Letter of Agreement dated February 22, 2005 between the City of Alma and the Mid-Michigan Area Cable Consortium for the lease of the Public Access Studio located at 206 Prospect Avenue on a month-to-month basis for up to twelve months, for a period ending December 31, 2008.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mapes seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution authorizing the City of Alma to enter into an interlocal agreement with Gratiot County for the purpose of establishing a GIS Authority.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to receive the following reports and place them on file: Alma Downtown Development Authority meeting minutes of November 8, 2007; November Financial Statements; Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Legene seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution appointing Nancy Gallagher to the Alma Downtown Development Authority for a four year term, expiring 2/13/2012.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Mapes to adopt a resolution appointing Donna Finkbeiner to the Alma Downtown Development Authority to fill an unexpired four year term, expiring 2/13/2008.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Mapes to adopt a resolution appointing Ron Turner as primary delegate and Phillip Moore as alternate to the Gratiot County GIS authority.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Legene to ratify 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>
12/06/07	12/06/08	\$400,000	366	4.50%	\$18,049.32	Wolverine	CD
12/12/07	12/12/08	\$500,000	366	4.50%	\$22,561.64	Wolverine	CD

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Ron Turner, Public Services Director for the City of Alma addressed the City Commission and audience on

the results of the Bridge Avenue Bridge Safety Inspection.

All bridges in the State of Michigan located on public streets or roads are required to be inspected biannually, with the report submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation. Each bridge receives a score or grade based upon the inspection report, the higher the numbers represent structures that are in better condition. The bridge structure that is located on Bridge Avenue immediately south of the intersection with Washington Street is showing signs of structural deterioration, and now has reached a precarious point. The current structure was constructed in 1966 replacing an older structure and realigning the river channel. Records' going back to the early 1990's indicated that the bridge deck was resurfaced around 1991 and in 2002 the bridge deck was reconstructed; all done with local monies. Nearly three years ago, relatively serious spalling of the concrete on some of the piers of the bridge was observed. The extent of the spalling has exposed reinforcing bars to the environment. The bi-annual inspection was scheduled in 2005. Concerns over reinforcing corrosion forced the City to have the structure re-inspected in 2006, regardless of the fact that it was not required. The City also attempted to place the structure on the critical bridge list in 2006. Based upon the inspection report of 2006, the City's request for placement on the critical bridge list for funding of repairs to the bridge with the use of DOT and MDOT funds has been denied. Based upon the scoring system we must score a rating below 80 to be placed on the Critical bridge list. Based upon the engineering report of the inspection of 2006; our bridge scored 80.2 points. The calendar year 2007 required re-inspection again, which has just recently been completed. Re-inspection has found both some expected items and one not expected. As would be expected deterioration on the concrete piers continues and appears to be accelerating. The unexpected item is a crack, and the engineers believe that it represents a structural weakness/failure in the pre-cast box beams. Namely that a reinforcing bar has fractured. The State regulates the GVW for vehicles on the roads. The load ratings on the structure have been re-evaluated, and it is highly recommended that load limits be placed upon the structure. The limits should be reduced to 33 Ton for single unit trucks, 40 Ton for double unit trucks (tractor and semi trailer) and 55 Ton for triple unit trucks (tractor and 2 semi trailers).

Motion by Commissioner Mapes seconded by Commissioner Legene to accept the presentation by Ron Turner on the results of the Bridge Avenue Bridge safety inspection

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mapes seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution authorizing Temporary Traffic Control Order No. 124 to install load limit signs on the Bridge Ave. Bridge.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Ayers to approve Warrant No. 08-12 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Vice-Mayor Moes wanted again to thank the Commissioners and the City of Alma for all their support over the years as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Legene wanted to express his amazement of Charter Communications; he had to wait only 21 minutes before being able to speak to a real person about his service. He wanted to thank Pat Schaeffer for all her help at the Public Library, she was an excellent employee. To Vice-Mayor Moes he wished him best of luck, we will miss you and you are always welcome to return.

Commissioner Dancer also expressed her thanks to Pat Schaeffer and Vice-Mayor Moes for their service to

the City of Alma.

Commissioner Comer expressed her thanks to Pat Schaeffer and Vice-Mayor Moes and wished all a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Mapes offered congratulations to Pat Schaeffer and Scott Moes. He hoped everyone had a great Christmas. He reminded all of the New Years Eve party that is being held at Shifters.

Commissioner Ayers will miss Vice-Mayor Moes and wished him the best of luck. He noticed that due to the recent snow storm, the fire hydrants needed to be cleared off. He commended the Citizens who did this on their own instead of waiting for the City Crews.

City Attorney Fortino will miss Vice-Mayor Moes. He wanted to remind all Citizens to keep sending cards and letters to the Governor on The Great Lakes Energy Park.

City Manager, Phillip Moore wanted to thank Vice-Mayor Moes, he enjoyed working with him and appreciated his work and advice. The letters and cards are working on getting the Governor to understand the importance of the Energy Park. He wanted to thank all those that wrote.

Mayor Nyman wishes to thank both Pat and Scott for all they have done. He hoped that all are enjoying this holiday season being that this night is only the second day of Christmas.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Moes seconded by Commissioner Legene to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Moes, & Nyman.

No: None.

Melvin A. Nyman, Mayor

Sheila Letourneau, Deputy City Clerk