

**Alma, Michigan
April 8, 2008**

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, Legene, Mapes, Mott, & 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 Comer seconded by Vice-Mayor Mapes to approve the minutes of March 25, 2008 regular meeting as submitted.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott seconded by Commissioner Legene to receive a communication from the National Arbor Day Foundation announcing that the City of Alma has been named as a 2007 Tree City USA.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to receive a communication from Habitat for Humanity of Gratiot County requesting the City of Alma install a storm sewer between 112 and 124 Marshall Street and to refer to staff for further investigation.

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

No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mapes seconded by Commissioner Comer to receive and approve the request from Jack Schnepf representing the All Class Alma High School Reunion, requesting permission to allow the placement of porta-potties, the use of a golf cart for transportation, the use of a small P.A. system, additional trash containers and to allow the Alma High School Softball Boosters to run a concession stand on Sunday August 17, 2008.

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

No: None.

Mr. David Eldridge 1010 Michigan Ave., St. Louis addressed the City Commission on the upcoming Bushwhacker Challenge Canoe/Kayak event in May 2008. Mr. Eldridge advised the Commission that the event is used to promote the Pine River and its resources. It is also intended to promote and generate tourism and recreation in Gratiot County on a national level. The course for the challenge is designed to give the challengers an opportunity to test their skills and endurance and canoeing/kayaking skills on mid-Michigan rivers through a 150 mile encircled route. It is a week

long event running from May 16-22, 2008. All proceeds will go directly to the Verlen Kruger Memorial. The proceeds will complete a statue and memorial to Verlen Kruger on the Grand River in Portland, Michigan. Mr. Eldridge asked the City of Alma for permission to use the boat landing and Riverside park facilities and to supply picnic tables and trash containers for the event. He also requested that the City possibly a banner in the downtown advertising the event.

Motion by Commissioner Mott seconded by Commissioner Legene to receive the presentation from Mr. Eldridge

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve requests for tables and trash containers and to refer the remainder of the requests to City staff for review.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.
No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mapes seconded by Commissioner Comer to set public hearing for May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. to review the Proposed FY 2009 Annual City Budget and related property tax millage rates.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Mott, & Nyman.
No: None.

Motion by Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda for payment: \$2,049 to Commercial Blueprint, Inc. for annual maintenance agreement and paper usage for the Engineering Department wide format printer/copier/scanner; \$8,873.25 to Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. for third quarter economic development services; \$2,798.04 to Morning Star Publishing Company for March publications.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Mott, & Nyman.
No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mapes seconded by Commissioner Comer to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$1,877.38 from C & S Steel various pieces of steel and labor for the construction of side racks for two new flat bed trucks.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Mott, & Nyman.
No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Legene to approve the request to engage EQ Industrial Services in the estimated amount of \$5,530.20 for a five-year contract for the Annual Household Hazardous Waste Program, on May 6, 7, 8, 2008.

Yes: Ayers, Comer, Dancer, Legene, Mapes, Mott, & Nyman.
No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Legene seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve the request for payment in the amount of \$1,654 to Diesel Truck Sales for 2 T-100 rear pintle hooks and supports, installed on new flat bed truck units #220 & #221.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to receive the bids for the purchase of 32 trees for the annual tree planting and to award the bid to the low bidder, Kluck Nursery, Inc., Saginaw in the amount of \$3,690.

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

No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mapes seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution authorizing the Alma Little League to pour sidewalks on Euclid Ballfields with all costs to be paid by the Alma Little League Association.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Mott to adopt a resolution approving Temporary Traffic Control Order No. 125 to install a “yield” sign at the southwest corner of Hubble and Grafton streets.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Legene seconded by Vice-Mayor Mapes to adopt a resolution authorizing an amendment to MDOT Contract No. 2007-0668 between the Gratiot Community Airport Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation for additional project costs associated with the rehabilitation of runway 9/27 and the taxiway at Gratiot Community Airport in the amount of \$1,100 and to authorize Mayor Nyman to execute the agreement on behalf of the Gratiot Community Airport Commission.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Vice-Mayor Mapes to adopt a resolution authorizing Change Order #1 with Rowe Incorporated in the amount of \$16,000 for additional Superior Street Streetscape engineering fees.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution authorizing Change Order #1 with K & D Ind. in the amount of \$57,699.81 for additional soil removal at the former AIM/Riverfront clean up site.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Ayers to adopt a resolution authorizing the extension of a farm lease agreement between the City of Alma and Friedrich Gadde, d/b/a/ Gadde Farms for a 39.05 acre tract located on the southeast corner of Jerome Road and Hoffman Road for \$88.50 per tillable acre for the 2008 crop year and to authorize Mayor Nyman and City Clerk Gager to execute the lease extension on behalf of the City of Alma.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Legene seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution authorizing the extension of a farm lease agreement between the City of Alma and Michael P. Chaffin, d/b/a/ Chaffin Farms for an additional two years for a 117 acre tract located at Gratiot Community Airport for an annual fee of \$2,917 and to authorize Mayor Nyman and City Clerk Gager to execute the lease extension on behalf of the City of Alma.

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

No: None.

Motion by to Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Ayers adopt a resolution authorizing the extension of a farm lease agreement between the City of Alma and Joe Butcher, d/b/a/ Grafton Farms for an additional two years for a 17 acre tract located adjacent to Riverside Cemetery for an annual fee or \$1,462 and to authorize Mayor Nyman and City Clerk Gager to execute the lease extension on behalf of the City of Alma.

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

No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mapes seconded by Commissioner Dancer to receive the following reports and place them on file: Alma Police Department March reports; Alma Fire District March report; Gratiot Community Airport Commission meeting minutes of 3/12/08; Rural Urban Fire Control Board meeting minutes of 3/26/08; DART & Depot March reports; Treasurer's Investment March report; Alma Public Library Board meeting minutes of 1/30/08 & 2/20/08; Friends of the Alma Public Library meeting minutes of 2/13/08 & 3/12/08.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution ratifying the investment of the following City funds on 4/3/2008:

<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>
4/3/2008	4/23/2008	\$400,000	20	2.56%	\$561.10	Commercial Bank	CD
4/3/2008	3/3/2009	\$200,000	334	2.74%	\$5,014.58	Commercial Bank	CD
4/3/2008	4/1/2009	\$400,000	363	2.50%	\$9,945.21	Comerica Bank	CD

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

No: None.

City Manager Phillip J. Moore presented the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget to the City Commission. Mr. Moore gave a brief overview of the City Commission Goals, which include diversify the economy; expand new housing options; more recreation options and maintain and improve infrastructure. The revenue overview included modest property growth, assumed revenue sharing increased and an increase in user fees. Mr. Moore noted that the General Fund revenues have only grown by .036%, while the Consumer Price Index has risen by 34%. Mr. Moore also reviewed the taxable value components and proposed revenue sources totaling \$9,872,387.

The proposed budget is based upon maintaining the General Fund millage of 13.13; a Transportation millage of .9604; a Voted Street millage of 2.50; Voted Library millage of 1.7500 and a DDA millage within the district of 1.9716. Homestead millage will be \$42.6260 per \$1,000 assessed value and Non-Homestead millage will be \$60.6260 per \$1,000 assessed value.

Proposed increase to user fees includes wastewater and solid waste rates.

Proposed expenditures by program total \$9,591,243. Mr. Moore advised that many projects maintenance project funded under the General Fund will be deferred. Major capital projects include: Panther Parkway, downtown streetscape, rails to trails, Eastward & Elmwood street rehabilitation and the Transportation Center.

Mr. Moore advised the City Commission that they need to be looking at long-term implications. The City needs to review its revenue options and all service levels and assets maintained. There have been many unfunded mandates, including the compost site, handicap sidewalk ramps, election equipment, barricade construction, narrow banding radios, assessing classifications, treasurer reporting and drug and alcohol testing. These have all had an impact on the City's budget.

City Manager Moore presented the following times to review the proposed FY 2009 budget:

April 15, 2008	Budget Review Session (special meeting)	5:30 p.m.
April 22, 2008	Budget Review Session (regular meeting)	5:30 p.m.
	Adopt resolution of proposed FY 2009 millage rates	
May 13, 2008	Budget Review Session (regular meeting)	5:30 p.m.
	Budget hearing	6:00 p.m.
May 20, 2008	Budget Review Session (special meeting)	5:30 p.m.
May 27, 2006	Budget Review Session	5:30 p.m.
	Adoption of FY 2009 Budget	

Commissioners commented on how they will welcome public input and help in the planning for upcoming fiscal years.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Legene to receive the FY 2009 Annual City Budget as prepared by the City Manager.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Legene seconded by Commissioner Comer to approve Warrant No. 08-13 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

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

No: None.

Commissioners Mott & Legene thanked Mr. Eldridge for his presentation on the Bushwhacker Challenge and all his efforts to make the event a big success.

Commissioner Dancer reminded everyone of the downtown Spring Fling on Saturday, April 19, 2008.

Commissioner Ayers & Vice-Mayor Mapes commented on what a nice weekend we had with regards to the spring weather.

Mayor Nyman stated that the Bushwhacker Challenge and the Verlan Krueger Memorial will be a very big event for the mid-Michigan Area.

Cal Timmons, Riverview Drive, addressed the City Commission. He has been having problems for the past 22 years with water and sewage in his basement during heavy rain storms. He would like the City to investigate and solve the problem.

Ray Borowicz, 901 Riverview Drive, also stated that he has been having problems with water and sewage in basement for many, many year. He met with city officials 2 years ago and has been told what problems are but nothing is being done to correct them. He asked the City Commission to explore the solutions and then take action to correct them.

Max McGee, Downie Street, addressed the City Commission and audience. Mr. McGee retired from City in 2000 after 25 years of service in various City departments. Mr. McGee wanted to address the problems with the "readiness to serve" charge on water bills and the unfairness of this charge on the people making minimum wage.

Charlotte Schmidtke, 755 Mill advised that there are still tickets available for the upcoming Friends of the Library program, "Mentioning the Unmentionables" on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 12:30 & 3:30.

Barb Lang, Luce Road, addressed the City Commission with her concerns regarding the demolition of the Community Center. Mrs. Lang thinks it would be good for the City to have a building like the Community Center to provide a source for community events.

Jim Schmidtke, 755 Mill St., advised he too was concerned about community center and saving the building, until he read the recent Morning Sun. When he read that it would cost at least \$500,000 to fix the existing building, and then it would still be just a cinder block building that looks like something out of the 1950's. He stated that he thinks the City is doing the right thing in demolishing the building and hopes that in the future, if the economy permits and a community center is needed, that the City will seriously consider rebuilding.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Vice-Mayor Mapes to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

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

No: None.

Melvin A. Nyman, Mayor

Barbara A. Gager, City Clerk