

Alma, Michigan
April 14, 2009

City Clerk Gager 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, & Mott.

Absent: Mapes & Nyman.

City Clerk Gager asked the City Commission and members of the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Due to the absences of Mayor Nyman and Vice-Mayor Mapes, City Clerk Gager asked the City Commission for an appointment to preside over the evening's meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to appoint Commissioner Legene to preside at the evening's meeting.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2009 regular meeting.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to receive the communication from Mr. Stanley "Skip" Pruss, Director of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth congratulating the county-wide steering committee and the Gratiot County Planning Commission for unanimously approving a county-wide Wind Energy Zoning Ordinance.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott seconded by Commissioner Dancer to receive and approve the communication and requests of Manley McDonald for 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 and additional trash containers on Sunday August 16, 2009.

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

No: None.

A Public hearing to review and approve the 2009-2014 City of Alma Parks' Master plan was held.

Mr. Aeric Ripley, Assistant City Manager addressed the City Commission and audience. Mr. Ripley advised that every five years, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan must be updated and submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, East Central Michigan Planning and Development Program and the Gratiot County Planning Department. Without an updated Master Plan, the City would not be eligible for MDNR grand funds. Mr. Ripley presented the project list for the next five years, with the highest priority item of Scotland Yard Park. The improvements would include comprehensive development of a skate park area, parking lot and lighting (total project cost: \$580,000 (\$150,800 City funds, \$429,200 grand funds)). Medium

priority projects include comprehensive upgrades to Wright Park consisting of making the park handicap accessible, paving the west, east and south parking areas, new restrooms and storage, walking paths, retaining wall repairs and signage (total project cost: \$798,000 (\$207,440 City funds, \$590,520 grant funds)); Trail head development consisting of restrooms/mechanical room, lighting, shelter area, site development (total project cost \$519,000 (\$134,940 City funds, \$384,060 grant funds)); Pine River Park upgrades consisting of making the park handicap accessible, parking on the west and east side of the road, restroom improvements, electrical in the shelter and development of a soccer/athletic field (total project cost: \$410,000 (\$106,600 City funds, \$303,400 grant funds)); King Park upgrades consisting of making the park handicap accessible with sidewalk connections, parking lot, restroom improvements, basketball court and relocation of play equipment (total project cost: \$150,000 (\$39,000 City funds, \$111,000 grant funds)); Holiday Park upgrades consisting of a picnic shelter, sidewalks, parking on the east and south sides of the park (total project cost: \$120,000 (\$31,200 City funds, \$88,800 grant funds)). Mr. Ripley thanked the City of Alma Parks Board members, Robyn Anderson, Rodys Dancer, Tito Fuentes, Laurie Lowe, Dean Pybus, Matt Schooley, Sara Wassenaar, Robert Yates, Bob Albrecht and Phillip Moore. The Plan will be submitted and grant applications for the various projects will be submitted in the appropriated program years. 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 6:18 p.m.

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

No: None.

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

Whereas, the purpose of this master plan is to provide a framework for action for future planning, development and programming of park facilities and recreational programs in the City of Alma, and

Whereas, the Community Parks and Recreation Plan was developed with the assistance of the City of Alma City Staff, and

Whereas, the Alma City Commission desires to preserve and protect the scenic natural, historic, and environmentally sensitive or unique areas, and

Whereas, the Alma City Commission intends to pursue grant-in-aid funding assistance for the development of all parks from all available sources, and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Alma City Commission does hereby support the adoption of the City of Alma's Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan as updated in April 2009.

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

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to set public hearing for May 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to review the Proposed FY 2010 Annual City Budget and related property tax millage rates.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Ayers to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda for payment: \$2,015.83 to Wallaceburg Bookbinding for library binding services and other repair/refurbishing work for the Alma Public Library collection; \$6,000 to MMNet for annual internet access renewal for the Alma Public Library; \$2,658.32 to Morning Star Publishing Company for March publications; \$164,320.00 to Firstbank-Alma for principal and interest for the Warwick Drive and Heather Lane General Obligation (\$87,295.00) and Special Assessment (\$77,025.00) bonds;

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott seconded by Commissioner Ayers to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$6,226.81 to Dueco, Inc. for one rotation bearing and related supplies and labor to the Department of Public Works hi-ranger truck.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$1,589.12 to JDE Equipment for one Werk Brau spring loaded coupler w/pins for the Department of Public Works backhoe.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve the request to purchase 3 John Deere X540 M-T turf mowers with 42" deck in the amount of \$9,334.86 from Bader & Sons.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott seconded by Commissioner Comer to approve the request to purchase in the amount of \$4,322.67 from Jefferson Fire Safety for three pairs of bunker pants, two red tails coats and one white tails coat for use by the Alma Fire District.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve the request to engage NTH Consultants in the estimated amount of \$43,725, to assist the City of Alma with collection of additional data to further document compliance with Section 7a (324.21007a) and Section 14 (324.201 14 obligations in regards to the Euclid Ballfields.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve the request to purchase in the amount of \$2,190.00 from Putt, Inc. 120 yards of hardwood bark for use at City buildings, parks and parking lots.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to approve the request to engage Rowe Inc. in the amount of \$16,750 to provide engineering services for the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant disinfection systems.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve the request to purchase in the amount of \$2,006.32 from East Jordan Ironworks 16 cast iron detectable warnings for sidewalk ramps.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to receive the bids for the purchase of one 928HZ Wheel loader with high dump bucket and JRB hitch and to award the bid to Michigan Cat, Saginaw, MI for the bid amount of \$118,800.

Perry Strimbeck, JDE Equipment Company addressed the City Commission regarding the bids. His base bid for the machine was \$119,000. He expressed his opinion that it is more important than ever to buy an American made product. He also expressed that his product would over time, save money. He asked the City Commission to over ride the current bid recommendation for Michigan Cat and award the bid to JDE Equipment.

Craig Willaims, AIS Construction Equipment addressed the City Commission regarding his product. His bid is approximately \$1,700 higher but he feels his bid is the best value.

Mr. Moore advised that all bids met the bid specifications, and staff's recommendation is that the City Commission award the bid to the low bidder.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to receive the bids for the annual tree planting program and to award the bid to Twin City Landscape, St. Louis for the bid amount of \$3,655.00 using the Local Purchase Preference Policy.

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

No: None.

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

Whereas, In 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more that a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

Whereas, the City of Alma has been recognized as Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting ways, and

Whereas, the City of Alma will be planting twenty-five trees at various locations within the City of Alma.

Now, Therefore, the City Commission of the City of Alma does hereby proclaim April 30, 2009 as ARBOR DAY in the City of Alma, and urges all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support our city's urban forestry program, and

Further, we urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well being of present and future

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

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

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

Whereas, certain employees give unsparingly and unselfishly of their personal time and talents to make the Alma community a better place to live and work, and

Whereas, Hal F. Smith has been employed by the City of Alma for 35 years, 11 months, originally as a firefighter and since 1978 as the Director of Inspection Services, and

Whereas, as Director of Inspection Services, Hal served in the key positions of Building Inspector, Director of Code Enforcement, Director of Planning and Zoning, Fire Inspector, Rental Housing Inspections and Licensing, and Floodplain Officer, and also served as lead staff person for the Alma Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Construction Board of Appeals, Airport Zoning Board, Airport Zoning Board of Appeals, and Chair of the City of Alma Safety Committee for several years, and

Whereas, during his tenure as Building Inspector, Hal has overseen the construction of thousands of buildings within the City; more notably the Bed Tower Addition to Gratiot Health Systems; Alma College's Heritage Center, Stone Recreation Center and Wright Hall; the Lobdell Emery Building addition, now home to Merrill Fabrication; the relocation of Alma Iron and Metal; the dismantlement of the Total Petroleum Refinery; and numerous additions and improvements to Masonic Pathways, and

Whereas, as the Director of Planning and Zoning, Hal has reviewed numerous project site plans such as the Alma North Industrial Park; Countryside Apartments; Gratiot Medical Plaza; Sisters of Mercy Conference Center and various housing projects along with assisting with the negotiation of P.A. 425 Conditional Land Transfer Agreements with neighboring townships to support development projects, and

Whereas, Hal has contributed countless hours to the health, safety and welfare of the community through his multiple roles with the City of Alma and notably as Fire Prevention Officer, making hundreds of presentations to school children to teach them the importance of fire safety.

Now Therefore Be It Proclaimed that the Alma City Commission, City Staff and citizens of the Alma community expresses their heartfelt gratitude for the contributions of Hal F. Smith throughout his thirty-six year tenure as Director of Inspection Services and Fire Lieutenant and further extend their wishes on his retirement, and

Be It Further Resolved that this Resolution of Appreciation be entered and recorded into the official minutes of the Alma City Commission meeting of April 14, 2009 and that the original resolution be presented to Hal F. Smith, Director of Inspection Services.

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

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

Hal Smith addressed the City Commission and audience and thanked the City Commission, City staff, and City Attorney for their support throughout his tenure. He thanked Dan Stasa and Carol O'Donogue, his support staff, for their assistance and support; Brian Dancer, City Assessor, and the Police Department for their help with code enforcement. He especially thanked the Fire Department, the most professional and best trained firefighters he has ever met. He expressed that he is very proud to be a part of this department.

The City Attorney provided a brief overview of the Ordinance process. He advised that the process of adopting ordinances is a two step process. Ordinances are introduced at one meeting and then there is at least a fourteen day comment period. Normally due to the City's meeting schedule, comments are taken for approximately 30 days. Comments may be made verbally or written and will be considered prior to an ordinance's adoption.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt Ordinance No. 712 to amend Chapter 24 of the Ordinances of the City of Alma to prohibit the construction, use, or operation of outdoor furnaces.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt Ordinance No. 713 to amend Section 30-24 of the Ordinances of the City of Alma to provide a civil fine for the violation of Section 24-23 related to the construction use or operation of outdoor furnaces.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution introducing Ordinance No. 714 to amend the Zoning Map of the City of Alma as it appears at Section 60-52 of the Ordinances of the City of Alma to rezone the premises commonly referred to as 517 & 525 W. Center Street from R-1a, Single Family Residential to R-2, Two Family Residential.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution introducing Ordinance No. 715 to amend Section 60-60(J) and 60-60(K)(3) to permit the establishment of tattoo parlors and body piercing establishments in the B-1 and B-2 Zoning District, as special uses.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution introducing Ordinance No. 716 to amend Section 60-94 of the Ordinances of the City of Alma regarding the regulation of body piercing establishments.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution introducing Ordinance No. 717 to amend Section 60-94 of the Ordinances of the City of Alma regarding the regulation of tattoo establishments.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer 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 2009 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, & Mott.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott seconded by Commissioner Ayers to adopt a resolution authorizing City Manager Moore and City Clerk Gager to complete the required documents to enroll the City of Alma in the National League of Cities Prescription Discount Card Program.

The NLC Prescription Discount Card program allows the City to offer city residents who are without health insurance or a traditional pharmacy benefit plan, or have prescriptions not covered by insurance a discount card that provides average savings of 20% of the retail price of prescription medication. There is no cost to the City to provide the program.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to adopt a resolution approving an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Alma DART and Roscommon County Transportation Authority to allow the respective entities to coordinate and assist each other when appropriate in providing safe, meaningful and cost effective transportation services.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adopt a resolution approving an agreement between the City of Alma and Gratiot County for the provision of building inspection services.

With the retirement of Hal Smith, the Gratiot County has agreed to contract with the City for building inspection services. The County Building Inspector will now also serve as the City's Building Inspector.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to receive the following reports and place them on file: Alma Police Department March reports; Alma Fire District March report; DART & Depot March reports; Alma Planning Commission meeting minutes of 3/2/2009; Alma Public Library Board meeting minutes of 3/25/200; Alma Public Library 2008 Annual Report; March Investment Report.

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

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>
04/02/2009	07/02/2009	\$200,000	91	0.61%	\$304.16	Commercial Bank	CDARS
04/02/2009	10/01/2009	\$200,000	182	0.91%	\$907.51	Commercial Bank	CDARS

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

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 and assumed revenue sharing as frozen. Mr. Moore noted that from FY 1998 to FY 2010, the General Fund revenues have only grown by .03%, while the Consumer Price Index has risen by 35.2%. Mr. Moore also reviewed the taxable value components and proposed revenue sources totaling \$9,595,918.

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, DART and solid waste rates.

Proposed expenditures by program total \$9,379,678. Mr. Moore advised that many maintenance project funded under the General Fund will be deferred. Major capital projects include: Prospect Ave., Pine Ave., new roofs for water, mausoleum, Post Chapel, sewer line by Pine River, generator for lift station #8 and the completion of the Transportation Center on Bridge Ave. 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. During the past few months, employee meetings contributed many cost saving options that have already been implemented, including a revised snow plan, fire hall furnaces, the merging of the Street & Buildings and Grounds divisions, lawn maintenance and yard waste pickup. The long term implications include reviewing revenue options and all service levels and assets maintained.

City Manager Moore presented the following times to review the proposed FY 2010 budget:

April 21, 2009	Budget Review Session (special meeting)	5:30 p.m.
April 28, 2009	Budget Review Session (regular meeting)	5:30 p.m.
	Adopt resolution of proposed FY 2010 millage rates	
May 12, 2009	Budget Review Session (regular meeting)	5:30 p.m.
	Budget hearing	6:00 p.m.
May 19, 2009	Budget Review Session (special meeting)	5:30 p.m.
May 26, 2009	Budget Review Session	5:30 p.m.
	Adoption of FY 2010 Budget	

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Dancer to receive the FY 2010 Annual City Budget as prepared by the City Manager.

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

No: None.

Barbara Daniels asked why the staff was cut at the Cemetery. Mr. Moore advised that this was actually a suggestion of the employees and with the combination of the Street Department and Buildings and Grounds Department staff is cross trained and this has saved the City much money. She also asked what happened to some of the decorations that were removed from the graves. Bob Albrecht, Public Works Superintendent, advised that some decorations were removed in error and that they do still have them, for her to contact his department and he will assist her.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to set a budget review meeting for April 21, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Comer seconded by Commissioner Dancer to approve Warrant No. 09-13 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

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

No: None.

Commissioner Comer reminded everyone of the upcoming Tartan Day activities on April 18, 2009.

Commissioner Mott thanked Hal for his service and commended the Alma Fire Department for the fantastic job they do.

Commissioner Dancer thanked Hal for his service and Aeric Ripley and Phil Moore for their presentations.

Commissioner Legene thanked Hal for his service.

Barbara Daniel, Grove Street, inquired about junk being left on her street. Mr. Moore advised that he would send someone to check it out.

Mr. Moore said he would miss Hal Smith very much; he was a very fair and kind person performed his job very professionally and will be greatly missed.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers seconded by Commissioner Comer to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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

No: None.

Melvin A. Nyman, Mayor

Barbara A. Gager, City Clerk