

**Present:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.  
**Absent:** Piccolo.

**Work session of Alma City Commission began at 5:30 p.m.**

City Manager Moore reported to the Commissioners on recent topics. The Solid Waste contract was awarded by the Gratiot Solid Waste Authority to Republic Services.

The City's Auditor selection was placed out for bids for the annual audit and single audit services. The City received bids from nine firms. All nine firms appear to be qualified. Auditing is a professional service. The City is not required to select the lowest bid price. Other factors can be reviewed. Mr. Moore stated that the awarding of the bid will be on the agenda and the Commissioners will have to choose the auditor from the listing of the bidders. He is making a soft recommendation that the City should stay with one of the local bidders. However, the City Commission should bear in mind that this is really their choice. They need to pick the firm that they feel is best qualified.

His next item concerned a recently released report from the nonpartisan think tank "The Citizens Research Council". In the report, the CRC documents that most counties and most municipalities are still in the recovery mode from the 2008 recession. The CRC says, "The combination of lost property tax base and reduced state revenue sharing leaves many local governments and counties struggling to maintain the levels of services expected of them by the state and their residents." In Michigan the employment sectors of the economy have grown the last six years except government which has shrunk. The public sector has continued to shed jobs through the economic recovery.

President Trump has released his Federal budget priorities in a short document. The bigger budget document is scheduled to be released in May. The larger report will provide more details about the actual cuts being proposed. In reviewing the document, there are number of areas where we could feel the impact in Alma. As all our elected officials in Washington, DC will point out, President Trump's budget document is just his recommendation. The House and the Senate are the legislative bodies that must make the appropriations.

Mayor Greg Mapes, Vice Mayor Mel Nyman and Mr. Moore attended the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference this week. The conference held sessions concerning topics that effect municipalities. One was the need for middle tier housing. Another was Asset Management and what that holds for the future of municipalities. The general session on municipal finances was very sobering. They pointed out that successful cities are key to economic vitality and success. Unfortunately, the current system for financing cities in Michigan is broken and cities are failing. The session on autonomous cars was interesting. The self-drive cars will change our views towards car ownership, the need for parking lots, and the design of roads. The change is coming. The State is hoping to make Michigan the center of this change. Senator Emmons was at the conference and indicated she would like to come to a City Commission meeting. Mr. Moore will schedule this with her.

In April, the Alma Public Library will be holding several events.

Mayor Mapes called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:07 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

**Present:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**Absent:** Piccolo.

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

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Harrington to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2017 regular meeting.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**No:** None.

Mayor Mapes asked to pull the request for payment of \$1,750.00 to E & S Graphics for Alma Transportation Center web site development and email hosting for 2017 from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda for payment: \$3,170.00 to Gratiot County Equalization for the 2017 GIS Membership dues; \$1,575.00 to Scholten Fant for Legal Services for February 2017; \$2,200.00 to Gongwer News Service, Inc. for January-December 2017 Reports; \$7,415.00 to Great Lakes Central Railroad for the annual maintenance of traffic control devices at Woodworth, Ely, Smith Rd. and Park Street; \$1,703.04 to Great Lakes Central Railroad for the annual maintenance of traffic control devices at Iowa Street; \$3,402.50 to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. for support services for the Water Ordinance Revisions; \$1,556.06 to Hasselbring Clark for copier charges for the period 12-26-2016 to 03-25-2017 on the Municipal Building Color Copier; \$264,957.00 to Chase Bank for the principle and interest due on Water and Wastewater loans from 11/01/16 to 04/30/17 and \$101,212.50 to US Bank for principle and interest due on Capital Improvement Bond Series 2011, Special Assessment Bond 2006 and General Obligation Bond 2006 from 11/01/16 to 4/30/17.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**No:** None.

Mayor Mapes asked why the Alma Transportation Center would need to use a different web site developer than the one presently used by the City? City Manager Moore responded that this web developer can offer more for potential riders by scheduling pick ups and paying for the service online which the City's web site cannot provide.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to approve the request for payment in the amount of \$1,750.00 E & S Graphics for Alma Transportation Center website development and email hosting for 2017.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Nyman as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$3,000.00 to SME for Soil Boring Services for the 2017 CIP street reconstructions.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$130,540.00 to JBS Contracting, Inc. for the Public Works Building Roofing Project as per quote dated March 22, 2017.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Mott to approve a request for purchase in the amount of \$10,375.00 to MacAllister Rentals for a Model 1930 Genie Scissor Lift for the Public Works Department.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott as supported by Commissioner Harrington to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$2,750.00 to Gilbert Sales & Service, Inc. for a Power Washer for the Fire Department.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$16,614.00 to Universal Laundry Machinery for an industrial grade washer and turnout gear dryer for the Fire Department.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Mott to receive and award the bid for the annual audit and single audit with the condition to change the Company Partners for final review to:

BIDDER	FY2017-FY2019
Clark Schaefer Hackett	\$75,750.00
Rehmann	\$80,200.00
Gabridge & Co.	\$81,540.00
<b>Yeo &amp; Yeo</b>	<b>\$84,450.00**</b>
UHY LLP	\$87,000.00
Abraham & Gaffney	\$88,500.00
Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC	\$97,825.00
Dennis, Garland & Niergarth	\$133,500.00
Plante Moran	\$170,370.00

**\* \*\*Recommended bidder**

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to adopt a resolution approving the request of Diane Capen for the use of a Bouncy House and Canopy as part of the Park Shelter Reservation on June 3, 2017 at the Hicks Picnic Shelter at Wright Park.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.  
**No:** None.

Motion by as supported by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Mott to approve a resolution adopting the Controlled Substances and Alcohol Misuse Testing Policy for the City of Alma and the Federal Transportation Administration.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to receive the following report and place it on file: February 2017 Investment report.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Harrington to approve Warrant No. 17-18 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks for payment of all claims.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**No:** None.

Commissioner Ayers stated that the Cherry Blossoms were in bloom in Washington DC, so spring is not far away; he is glad to be home.

City Manager Moore stated he was in Washington DC two weeks ago during the blizzard of 1 ½ inches of snow.

Mayor Mapes reported that he and Vice-Mayor Nyman and City Manager Moore attending the Michigan Municipal League conference this week. We received a lot of good information and learned that we are not the only City enduring budget restraints. We need to contact our State Representatives and Senators on the subject of funding for municipalities.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comment.

Laurie Wilson of 1575 Wright wanted to make a complaint about Dial-a-Ride. Dial-a-Ride won't take on riders in wheelchairs, walkers and amigos without help. She has a friend who is in an amigo and has no one to help her on the bus so she cannot ride the bus.

The Commission noted that having a Dial-a-Ride driver help load riders that are in wheelchairs, walkers and amigos is a liability issue. Commissioner Allman says that the amigo also might be too heavy for the bus lift. City Manager Moore will check with the Alma Transportation Center Director on this policy.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:33p.m.

**Yes:** Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott & Nyman.

**No:** None.

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Gregory S. Mapes, Mayor

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Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk