

Present: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

Absent: Ayers & Mapes.

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

City Manager Phillip Moore reported that at the last City Commission meeting, a resident asked a question about the use of motorized wheelchairs on Alma Dial-A-Ride buses. We allow motorized wheelchairs on our lift-equipped buses. Customers are expected to be able to maneuver their chairs to get on or off the bus. Handicapped people may have one care attendant with them to assist them getting on and off the bus. The attendant rides the bus for free. Due to weight restrictions, only one person can ride the lift at a time. For people needing more assistance, we do offer the specialized service which cost a bit more.

Mr. Moore has appointed Mark Williams to the interim Director of Public Safety when David Walsh retires. He anticipates that it will take six to eight weeks to complete the search for a replacement Director.

The City has several vehicles that we would like to sell. We do not have enough vehicles or other items to warrant having an auction. Staff thinks that this might be a good time to use an on-line auction service. Many communities have adopted this method of selling surplus equipment and vehicles. These pieces of equipment are specialized. The on-line approach may reach more potential buyers. If this concept is acceptable to the City Commission, on the next agenda, we will place the vehicles we want to sell at auction on-line for approval. Commissioner Mott asked if the Republic Fire truck could be placed on the list to sell.

Under our agreement with Gratiot County, we have agreed to adopt their fee schedule for building permits. We have the same fee structure throughout the county. Recently the County adopted a lower rate for the construction of storage units. I have placed this item on the agenda for approval.

At the last work session, we discussed how the state was likely to assert themselves into municipal asset management. On April 3rd, Governor Rick Snyder signed an executive order to start a pilot project to start the statewide asset management. The pilot program will take a year. At the end of the pilot project, the Governor wants a set of recommendations about how to implement asset management for streets, water, sewer, storm water, broadband, energy and communications. He wants a standard rating system for each asset class along with a state-wide reporting system to track the condition of each asset class. The plan is to develop a standard for data reporting to the State data base. Mr. Moore believes, that once the standards are set, it will take the state two to four years to develop the software and training program for all infrastructure owners.

The City has received a schedule from Crawford Contracting for the construction of the raw water main. The project is scheduled to begin on Monday, April 17, 2017 at the water plant. They plan to start with one crew and head west down Center Street. The first phase will be from the water plant to Philadelphia. According to the schedule this phase will be completed by June 2. Completed means that the street will be paved before the second phase starts. The second phase will begin on June 3rd until July 10th. The second phase will start at Center and Philadelphia and end at Purdy and Superior. While the contractor has the entire project scheduled out, he is reviewing his options. He may subcontract a second crew to start at the wells to head north and east. He is also considering boring portions of the project. They will, of course, pick the options that are best for them and with meeting the deadlines.

We will be hosting a meeting with the property owners for Phase 1 and 2 on Thursday, April 13th in the City Commission chambers. Since the timeline and the construction process is still being finalized by the contractor, we will host another meeting for the more western property owners once the details are known and the key dates for their section are more firmly established.

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

Present: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

Absent: Ayers & Mapes.

Vice-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 Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017 regular meeting.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Mott to receive the communication from the National Arbor Day Foundation announcing that the City of Alma has earned the recognition as a 2016 Tree City USA.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Harrington to set times for the purpose of reviewing the proposed FY 2018 Annual Budget.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to set a Public Hearing for May 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to review the proposed FY 2018 Alma City Budget and related property tax millage rates.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the following item on the Consent Agenda for payment: \$22,487.00 to the State of Michigan to reimburse MDOT for Overpayment on FY 2014 Formula-Local Bus per the State's final audit.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Mott to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$35,900.00 to Chippewa Valley Equipment, Inc for a Champion 1996 Road Grader.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$43,469.00 to Cannon Truck Equipment to place the front plow mount and underbody scraper from Truck #209 and add a new dump body, hydraulics and controls to a new replacement cab and chassis.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to receive and award the bid for the Sewer Inspection services for the 2017 CIP streets: Ely and Euclid. The bids were received on April 5, 2017.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Northern A-1 Environmental Services, Kalkaska</i>	<i>\$1,848.30**</i>
Dependable Sewer, Bay City	\$2,287.50
Greenscape, Lake	\$2,745.00
Elite Pipeline Services, Allendale	\$3,111.00

****Recommended bidder**

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to receive and award the bid for the purchase of 30 trees for planting throughout the City of Alma. The bids were received on April 3, 2017.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Kluck Nursery, Inc., Saginaw</i>	<i>\$4,410.00**</i>
Twin Lawn, St. Louis	\$5,720.00

****Recommended bidder**

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to receive and award the bid for the purchase of a 108 SD Cummings Freightliner cab and chassis for the Public Works fleet. The bids were received on April 3, 2017.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>D & K Truck Company</i>	<i>\$78,298.00**</i>
Grand Rapids Freightliner, Grand Rapids	\$80,422.00
D & K Truck Company (114 SD)	\$80,663.00
Capital City, Lansing	\$82,371.00
Kenworth, Saginaw	\$86,268.00
Wieland, Saginaw	\$87,477.87

****Recommended bidder**

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

The following preamble and resolution was offered Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo:

Whereas, Sections 22-62 and 22-63 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alma, Michigan, provides for the determination of a public nuisance and a method to recover the entire cost or expense to abate such a

nuisance, and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the City Commission of the City of Alma, Michigan, does hereby declare that the uncontrolled growing of noxious weeds is a public hazard or nuisance, dangerous to the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the City Clerk give notice by publication in the Morning Sun, that the owners of all lots be required to abate such nuisance before May 7, 2017, and

Be It Further Resolved, that if at the expiration of the time limit set in said notice, the owner of the lot or lots has not complied with the requirement thereof, that the City Manager be directed to cause said nuisance to be abated and the cost thereof assessed by special assessment against the premises upon which said hazard or nuisance is located.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Mott:

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 than 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 trees within the City of Alma.

Now, Therefore, the City Commission of the City of Alma does hereby proclaim April 28, 2017, 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: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to adopt a resolution approving the Gratiot County Building Permit fee schedule as of March 21, 2017.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Harrington to receive the following reports: Alma Police Department March 2017 Report and the Code Enforcement March 2017 Report and to place them on file.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

City Manager Phillip Moore presented the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget to the City Commission.

The fiscal health of the State of Michigan in regards to the other states in the nation shows Michigan as last, 50. The U. S. census for the period 2002 to 2012 shows that the percentage of General revenue for each state indicates that Michigan has the lowest percentage in growth. Municipal revenue from State sources shows Michigan as being one of 4 States with decreasing revenue and Michigan being the last State with decreasing revenue. There is no expectation of increases in Revenue Sharing from the State of Michigan. The losses in Revenue Sharing have had an impact on the budget. FY 2017 fund balance was used for operations. FY 2018 budget is balanced recognizing the severity of long term revenue trends.

Proposed revenue sources will be near 11.4 million. An increase of 7% will be in wastewater rates, water rates are pending due to the Gratiot Area Water Authority meeting of April 22, 2017 and solid waste rates will increase by \$1.05 . Homestead Millage will be 46.0928 mills per \$1,000 assessed value and Non-Homestead Millage will be 64.0928 mills per \$1,000 assessed value.

Proposed expenditures will total \$10,770,708. The expenditure overview includes; Water Well expansion, SAW Grant, reconstruction of Euclid and Ely streets, reconstruction of Lincoln Avenue, reduction in police force and the termination of involvement in the cable consortium.

The future holds no change in revenue trends. The General fund revenues will stay the same. We need to prepare for the future. An Income tax or Special assessments for services is the only way to bring in more revenue. We need to explore options such as regional/countywide collaboration in police, fire and other departments. Should Alma and St. Louis become one City?

Details of the budget will start on April 18, 2017 at the first budget review meeting. This has been a tough budget to present but it is balanced.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to receive the FY 2018 Annual City Budget presentation.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Mott to approve Warrant No. 17-19 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Vice-Mayor Nyman asked for Commissioners comments.

Commissioner Piccolo thanked Mr. Moore for the presentation and understands the Commission will have a lot to think about.

Commissioner Harrington stated that the Commissioners will be discussing the budget issues. She would like to see if there are other ways to save then to cut police positions. She is worried about losing capable people.

City Manager Moore stated that he has met with Public Safety Administration and will continue to meet with them.

Commissioner Mott spoke that we have smart people residing in Alma and hopes that they will contact the Commission with their ideas. We need your help.

Commissioner Allman urged citizens to come to the budget review meetings. We are facing tough budget decisions. It is important for the future.

City Attorney Costanzo wanted to express his gratitude for Public Safety Director, David Walsh on his retirement. He was always innovative, a great asset to the City. We need certain things to run the City. Layoffs are a never ending cycle downward. No one likes to pay taxes but we need to step up.

Vic-Mayor Nyman asked for Public comments.

Laurie Wilson of 1575 Wright liked the idea of combining both Alma and St. Louis Fire Departments. She is worried that if people get laid off we won't have safety. She has been working with the clients at the Drop-In center on how to use the crosswalks at E Superior and Pine Ave., she would like drivers to be aware of pedestrian traffic.

Jeff Hederick, President of the Police Officer Union wanted the Commission to look at every possible option in regards to police layoffs. We would have minimum road coverage, staff is lean now. The two officers, School Resource officer and the Magnet officer are very important in the prevention of crimes. Drug crimes are on the rise. We need a specialized team. He hopes that the Commission will listen to Police Administration to find other options. He is available, if the Commissioners want to discuss the issue.

Zak Everitt, Alma Attorney encouraged the Commission to consider the possible revenue associated with the Michigan Medical Marijuana program. Michigan municipalities have passed Ordinances to allow medical marijuana facilities in their communities. The Industrial Park would be a site for this type of business. He hopes that discussions will be held on this option for additional revenue.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Melvin A. Nyman, Vice-Mayor

Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk