

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

**Absent:** Allman.

**Work Session began at 5:30 p.m.**

Interim City Manager Schooley informed the Commissioners:

#### **MEDICAL MARIJUANA - NEED TO KNOW SEMINAR**

On Tuesday August 15, 2017, I along with Mayor Mapes, Commissioner Piccolo, Aeric Ripley, Planning Commission members Ryan Pellerito, Jim Wheeler, and Ellen Richter attended a Michigan Municipal League sponsored seminar on medical marijuana. The seminar was very informative as the City Attorney from Kalamazoo presented information on state law and their new ordinance. A panel discussion followed with attorneys, entrepreneurs, and industry business people shedding light on some issues that every city should be looking at while making decisions about medical marijuana businesses in their community. Regulation was a major topic for the panel. Aeric Ripley had made contact with one of the panelists, Lenny Cusenza, who has agreed to come speak with us about how the Food Safety Act can be instrumental in the drafting of any ordinance in regards to medical marijuana.

#### **ALMA COLLEGE FOOTBALL VOLUNTEERS**

Over the weekend of August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> the Alma College football team spent 4 hours painting fire hydrants in the downtown and Michigan Avenue areas. Susan Psconda, who is the wife of head coach Greg, brought nearly 100 players from campus to volunteer for the project. The Saturday crew was made up of incoming freshman. Susan wanted to start a community service project for the players and thought an event downtown would be a great way to introduce the new students to the area. The players were able to paint over 150 hydrants over the two days. Obviously, this is a major time saver for city staff. We are hoping to make this an annual event for the football team. Thanks to the Pittsie Plan for helping to make the connection between the City and the team.

#### **BUDGET MEETING – SEPTEMBER 25TH**

As discussed last year, the budget process for FY2019 will begin earlier than in past years. There are some very difficult decisions to be made for the upcoming year and for that reason we will start the process with an Introductory Budget Meeting on Monday September 25, 2017 starting at 5:30 pm. The meeting will take place at the Alma Public Library and will be open to the public. Staff will be preparing a presentation to the City Commission outlining possible options to the Commission for the upcoming year. The options presented will assist the staff in preparing their budgets in early 2018.

#### **US 127 AUTO TOUR**

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual US 127 Motor Tour will once again roll into downtown from 1pm -3pm. Expectation is for nearly 300 vehicles to take part in the tour. It would be great to see a nice turnout from the community for this large group of visitors. Remember, you never know what will bring someone back to visit!

#### **ALMA GRAND PRIX OF CYCLOCROSS SPONSORED BY AVALON PONTOONS**

On Saturday, September 9, 2017, the City of Alma will be welcoming world class Cyclocross racers from across the country and the world for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual event. For those of you who haven't heard about Cyclocross it is described as steeplechase on bikes! Last year over 200 riders participated. The Alma GP of Cyclocross is now the kickoff event for the MICX Series of Michigan Cyclocross.

#### **INTERIM CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

He has completed his third full week now as the Interim City Manager. He would like to give the Commissioners an update. He has spent the first three weeks talking with as many people as he can. He has met with all the department heads on numerous occasions and with most the staff. There are still a few departments he needs to visit. Although he has been with the city for 26 years, he thought it was necessary to talk with people and get a feel for the culture

of the organization. His message has been consistent – he wants to create an atmosphere where everyone that works for the City of Alma feels good about their employment, and understands that we all work for the same organization. This week he has met with all department heads and he was given a crash course on the functions, formal and informal, of their departments. We discussed budgets, current staffing, projects, and the future. He appreciates everyone’s willingness to have open, honest discussions.

In September, he will be distributing an Employee Satisfaction Survey throughout the organization. He believes that to move the organization forward, we must understand where we are currently. After analyzing the data from the survey, he will meet with staff to present the results. The process of creating a vision for the City of Alma staff will begin in early October. This process will take some time, but he believes it will be beneficial not only to the staff, but to the Community.

Questions and brief discussion followed each topic. The August 22, 2017, City Commission work session concluded at 5:56 p.m.

**Alma, Michigan  
August 22, 2017**

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

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

**Absent:** Allman.

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 Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2017 regular meeting.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to approve the consent agenda requests for payment in the following amounts: \$3,000.00 to I.T. Right for the annual software maintenance program for use by the Alma Police Department; \$2,620.00 to BS & A Software for the Special Assessment System and the Access My Gov annual service and support maintenance contract and \$4,800.00 to Scholten Fant for legal services on General Labor issues for the month of June.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Piccolo approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$6,077.00 to Grainger for a 10 hp 120 gallon Horizontal Air Compressor for the Equipment Maintenance Garage.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Alldata for the annual subscription renewal for the Equipment Maintenance Garage.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Harrington to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$22,232.00 to Northern Concrete Pipe, Inc. for restocking inventory supply of various sizes of Concrete Adjusting Rings for Manholes.

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

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Harrington to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$3,177.00 to St. Regis Culvert, Inc. for 30 Underbody Blades for City trucks.

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

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$11,370.00 to Detroit Salt Co. for Road Salt using the State Contract pricing.

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

Motion by Vice-Mayor Nyman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$7,500.00 to Rowe, Inc. for the Topographical Survey for the 2018 Capital Improvement Program Projects, Hannah and Pleasant Avenue.

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

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve a resolution adopting Ordinance #792 to amend Chapter 60 of the Ordinances of the City of Alma through the addition of Section 60-188, to set forth the specific steps to be taken by the owner and/or insurance carrier relative to the restoration of property after demolition, regardless of the reason for the demolition.

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

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to authorize the execution of a three year contract with Winn Telecom for the internet fiber path service for City Hall and the Alma Public Library in the amount of \$250.00 per month.

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

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to authorize the execution of an Employment Contract with the Interim City Manager Matthew Schooley with the removal of item 10-C concerning the City purchasing long term disability insurance covering the Manager. The City Commissioners and Mr. Schooley agreed to this amendment to the contract.

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

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Ayers to receive the following reports and place them on file: Alma Police Report July 2017; Investment Report July 2017, and Code Enforcement Report July 2017.

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

**No:** None.

Katie Dennison of Ithaca, Bonnie Lord of Alma and Samantha Miller of Elwell from Girl Scout Troop 545 gave a presentation on the Hearts and Hands renovations planned for the Girl Scout Cabin. The girls started with the project background where the Troop decided because the cabin has special value to the scouts and with community use and need for the cabin and because the cabin was losing value over time, renovations have to be done. They established that the project should be done in two phases. Phase one will concentrate on upgrades to replacing windows and doors, bathroom remodel; a new furnace; electrical updates; flooring; kitchen appliances and a movable workspace. Phase two will be construction of a bunk room, having a workable fireplace and repaving of the parking lot. The windows and doors are the main focus with the bathroom, furnace, electrical and kitchen upgrades to come next. Total budget for phase one was established at \$40,000 with \$25,000 coming from fund raising and \$15,00 coming from In-Kind donations. Presently, \$48,000 has been raised for the Phase One Project. Fund raising has begun for the Phase Two Project. Since the cabin is on City Property, the Girl Scouts wanted to address the City Commission to keep them informed of the progress of the phases. At this point they are ready to order materials and to start the permitting process. They are hoping within the next month to start the renovations.

Mayor Mapes then asked Katie Dennison to come forward before the Commission.

Mayor Mapes presented a resolution of congratulations to Katie Dennison on receiving the highest honor in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

#### **Resolution of Congratulations**

**Whereas**, Katie Dennison being a member of Girl Scout Troop #51227 for nine years has focused more than 100 hours helping educate her peers on financial literacy and money management in order to complete the highest honor an individual can receive in Girl Scouting and,

**Whereas**, Katie as a Junior at Alma High School, felt strongly that students need to understand practical skills like budgeting, spending and saving as they prepare to graduate, attend college and get their first jobs and,

**Whereas**, Katie introduced these students to special speakers from local banks and credit unions to learn of investment and saving opportunities available to young adults and organized a "Teen to Teen" sale for the Middle and High School students for a hands on opportunity to buy and sell their own belongings and,

**Whereas**, Katie has learned how to manage her time, enlist volunteers and use her resources wisely while strengthening her own life skills. She has learned many other valuable life and leadership skills through her scouting experience such as First Aid, CPR, and Outdoor Survival. She has recently been chosen as the Michigan recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Outstanding Ambassador Award and,

**Whereas**, Katie earned her Girl Scout Silver Award by participating in the repainting of the playground equipment at Riverside Park. She has been a leader in the effort to rehabilitate the Girl Scout Cabin in Conservation Park by raising funds to make the cabin handicap accessible so that all scouts can have access to this scouting experience and,

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Alma City Commission and citizens of the City of Alma, Michigan hereby **commend and congratulate** Katie Dennison on earning the

**Girl Scout Gold Award**, the highest achievement of a Girl Scout and,

**Be It Further Resolved** that this resolution of congratulation be presented to Katie Dennison and that it be entered into the official minutes of the City Commission.

**Dated this 22nd Day of August 2017**

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve Warrant No. 18-03 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

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

**No:** None.

The Commissioners all wanted to thank and congratulate the Troop on their accomplishment with this Hearts and Hands Cabin Renovation.

Commissioner Harrington expressed how proud she was of the girls in putting this plan into action.

Commissioner Mott was very impressed with the number of badges Ms. Dennison had and expressed that a lot of exciting things are happening in Alma that we should be proud of.

City Attorney Costanzo was very pleased with the presentation. The girls were very poised and confident. He congratulated them on their achievements. He also wanted to thank Michelle Pitts, the Alma College football team, their coach Greg Psconda and his wife Susan who painted the fire hydrants in downtown.

Mayor Mapes also wanted the Girl Scouts to know of his appreciation for their accomplishments.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comment.

Les Rosan, 889 Mill has two items he wants to bring to the Commission. The first was concerns for the Pine River. He passed out a report that Alma College faculty and students participated in a study to confirm the presence of E.coli and fecal coliform in the Pine River. They found not only did the fish caught have E.coli but it was present on the anglers hands and fishing equipment. The Pine River is dangerous. The City needs to make this more aware to the public. Secondly he brought concerns about the decks of the Riverwalk being unsafe and is this going to be addressed.

Interim City Manager Schooley stated that this issue is being added to the list of priorities to be accomplished by City forces.

Mayor Mapes advised the Commission and those in attendance that the Healthy Pine River Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Get involved with the group. Talk to your legislators, it really helps to voice concerns with the legislature about the Pine River.

Laurie Ditto, 1360 Charles asked if the Commission knew what the holdup is in getting the Main Café, Pizza One and the Custard shop opened. Mayor Mapes stated that these are all private businesses who are working to complete their projects.

Laurie Wilson, 839 W Superior addressed the Commission with her concerns about the Drop-in Center not having fire drills on a regular basis. She wanted to congratulate the Girl Scouts on preserving the cabin.

There being no further Commissioner or public comment, Mayor Mapes asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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

**No:** None.

---

Gregory S. Mapes, Mayor

---

Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk