

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

Absent: None.

Work Session began at 5:30 p.m.

Interim City Manager Schooley informed the Commissioners of the following items:

REBUILDING ALMA'S WRIGHT DREAM PARK - RENDERINGS

Andi Whitmore from the Rebuilding Alma's Wright Dream Park Committee sent in an email to the City the renderings for the Rebuilding the Dream Park project. This is merely just to update on what is happening with the project and to show the direction their committee is going. These are not final renderings, but close.

ALMA FIRE DISTRICT BOSSES NIGHT

On September 19th, Interim Public Safety Director Mark Williams and the Alma District Fire Department hosted a dinner for the bosses of the Alma Firefighters. Including bosses and fire board members, more than 30 people attended the dinner at the Alma VFW. Bosses night was a staple of the Alma Fire Department for years, but had been discontinued some time ago. It was great to see that the Fire Command Staff thought it was important to recognize this group. Due to their support the community is a much safer place. We all got a sense of the life of a firefighter and their families when the department was called out to an accident just as dinner started! The good thing is most were able to get back rather quickly to enjoy the meal.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BORLE'S RESIGNATION/FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance Director Paul Borle has tendered his resignation with the City of Alma effective October 13, 2017. Paul has accepted a position with the City of Mason. I wish Paul all the best in his new venture and appreciate the professionalism he has shown during a very difficult time. The current plan calls for Controller, Cynthia Michels to take the lead role in the finance department. She has started the audit process with Yeo and Yeo for FY2017 and we are working on a plan to restructure the finance department.

EMPLOYEE SURVEY

On September 11th, I handed out the attached City of Alma Employee Survey to 117 employees. I asked that the surveys be returned by September 20th. This survey was not mandatory, but I am pleased to announce that nearly 71% of the employees responded. Thanks so much to Ron Turner for developing a spread sheet to record the data and to Sara Youngs for inputting the results. Understand that this is not a scientific survey. It was meant to get an overall idea where the employees are and to give them input about the organization. The data will be looked at and a report generated with the results. My goal is not to use the information as a positive or negative, but to truly identify areas for growth. The tentative plan at this point is to conduct an all-city employee meeting on October 24th where the survey results will be discussed and the start of a planning process will be implemented.

TRANSIT EXPANSION PILOT

The one year Alma Transit Center Expansion Pilot will be ending on September 30th. The pilot was put in place to measure the need and desire to expand transportation services to other areas in Gratiot County. I will be preparing a report in the coming month that I know justifies the needs for residents to travel to key areas in the county. Funding, as always, is the main issue. Starting in October the transit system will continue to provide transportation to those outside areas in the county, but only on a contract basis. Gratiot Integrated Health Network has been a substantial consumer (nearly 70% of out of Alma/St. Louis rides). We have already spoke on their renewal. I believe there is still substantial interest in expansion, but there must be a more significant planning process prior to moving forward.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PARTY

Staff has made the decision to discontinue the annual Employee Recognition Party that has taken place in early December. We understand that is a busy time of year, and a very difficult obligation for staff. We are in the process

of working on the ways to still recognize employees for their service to the city, whether it be at a commission meeting or some other public recognition.

DEPARTMENT HEAD HIRING PROCESS – UPDATE POLICY

One of the areas of concern for the commission in the sub-committee report in July was the development of a department head hiring process. I have started the task of working on that policy. He attached the first draft of a policy concerning the recruitment and hiring of department heads for the City of Alma. The intent is to get some input on the draft and have a policy ready for the next Commission meeting.

Questions and brief discussion followed. The September 26, 2017, City Commission work session concluded at 6:04 p.m.

**Alma, Michigan
September 26, 2017**

Mayor Mapes called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

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

Absent: None.

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 September 12, 2017 regular meeting.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the consent agenda request for payments in the following amounts \$22,337.53 to Chase Bank for the interest due on Water and Wastewater loans from 05/01/17 to 10/31/17; \$14,682.50 to US Bank for interest due on Capital Improvement Bond Series 2011, Special Assessment Bond 2006 and General Obligation Bond 2006 from 05/01/17 to 10/31/17; \$4,950.00 to MMNET for the annual Internet Access and Email hosting for the City of Alma; \$6,000.00 to MMNET for the annual Internet Access and Email hosting for the Alma Public Library and \$2,356.13 to Airport Lighting, LLC for repair to the west REIL lighting at Gratiot Community Airport.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Mott to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$2,240.00 to Country Rocks for Playground Fibar for the Public Works Department.

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

No: None.

A Request for Payment to Yeo & Yeo, CPAs & Business Consultants for consultation assistance and education regarding Bank reconciliation was tabled until the next meeting in order to get an itemized statement of the charges.

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

Whereas, on September 27, 2011 the Public Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act also known as Public Act 152 of 2011 became effective; and

Whereas the new law requires public employers either contribute less than the “hard cap” towards the medical benefit plan or that the employees of the public employer contribute at least 20% of the cost of the medical plan; and,

Whereas, the City of Alma contributes significantly less than the “hard cap” towards the medical benefit plan and is in compliance with the new law; and,

Whereas, there are financial penalties for failing to properly comply with the law; and,

Whereas, the Alma City Commission endeavors to protect the City of Alma’s financial interests and to limit future costs related to proving compliance,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that pursuant to Section 8 of Public Act 152 of 2011, the City of Alma hereby exempts itself from the requirements of Public Act 152 of 2011 for the calendar year 2018.

Yes: Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman and Piccolo.

No: None.

Absent: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

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

Whereas, the Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan 2017 represents the collaborative efforts of all the local units of government in Gratiot County by joining together to develop a shared master plan, and

Whereas, the Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan 2017, including its maps and other descriptive materials, is to be individually adopted by each local unit of government, and

Whereas, the Alma Planning Commission received and reviewed the final draft of the Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan 2017 at its regular meeting on September 11, 2017 and voted to submit the final draft to the Alma City Commission for review and comment, and

Whereas, pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008, MCL 125.3841(1), the process of adopting the Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan 2017 shall not proceed further unless the City Commission approves the distribution of the proposed plan as called for in the above referenced Act.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the City Commission of the City of Alma approves the distribution of the Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan 2017 and notifies the Secretary of the Alma Planning Commission as required by statute, to wit MCL 125.3841(2), and

Be It Further Resolved that the distribution of the Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan 2017 shall be as required by statute, to wit MCL 125.3839(3) which includes distribution by electronic mail and a link to a website on which the Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan 2017 is posted, as such website is accessible to the public free of charge, and

Be It Further Resolved that after allowing the appropriate period for responses, the Alma Planning Commission shall, after the giving of notice pursuant to statute, conduct a public hearing for the purpose of adopting such Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan 2017 Plan.

Yes: Allman, Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman and Piccolo.

No: None.

Absent: None.

Resolution Declared Adopted.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Mott to proclaim Tuesday, October 31, 2017 as "Halloween" in the City and to set the trick or treat hours between 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve the execution of an Easement for Electric Facilities with Consumers Energy Company. This allows Consumers to secure permission to cross City property adjacent to 3076 W Van Buren in order to supply electrical service to the property.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve a resolution to execute an Addendum to the existing Audit Engagement letter between the City and Yeo & Yeo, CPAs & Business Consultants for assistance with the net pension liability reconciliation.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Allman to receive the following reports and place them on file: Alma Police Report August 2017; Alma Transportation Center reports for July and August 2017; Noxious Weed August 2017 report; Building Permit August report 2017 and the August 2017 Investment report.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to ratify the September investment of City Funds: \$1,000,000 in a 364 day CDARS with Isabella Bank and \$1,000,000 in a 364 day CDARS with Mercantile Bank.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve Warrant No. 18-05 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

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

No: None.

Commissioner Allman wanted to thank everyone who helped celebrate the Gratiot County Players 50th Anniversary this past weekend with the Block Party. He believes that over 200 people attended.

Commissioner Mott stated that Habitat for Humanity is team with Clinton County in a project called Rock the Block

on October 14, 15 and 16th, to work on section of Hannah Street off Michigan Avenue. Looking for volunteers, more information will be forthcoming.

Interim City Manager Schooley wanted to express his thanks with the Community and the Keep Alma Beautiful Committee for the work they did in downtown Alma at the Fall Cleanup day.

Mayor Mapes wanted to thank the groups of students from Alma College who are working with the City to get the fire hydrants painted. They did a wonderful job on Fall Cleanup day. Lots of people in town working together.

Mayor Mapes also informed the public that the American Red Cross will be having an Open House at the Library to celebrate their 100 Anniversary of service to Gratiot County on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comment.

Lynne Ludy 111 Wheeler wanted to thank the community for all their help with the annual used book sale. The sale went well. They had over 80 volunteers from around the County helping. The Book Sale raised between \$9,000 to \$10,000 dollars.

Ray Borowicz, 901 Riverview wanted to compliment the painting of the fire hydrants. It is making the town look wonderful.

Laurie Wilson, 839 W. Superior wanted to thank all those that helped with her friend who was hit on her bike last week. She is in rehab and doing well. Ms. Wilson wanted to remind drivers to drive safely . Be on the lookout for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Tim Lambrecht, County Commissioner wanted to report to the Commissioners that the County has been working on the budget. They have refinanced the pension, dealt with a 20% increase in Health care and managed the new depreciation schedule for the Windmills. He is working with Greater Gratiot Development in the funding and administration of the Airport. He is also talking with the County Parks Board on including helping City's parks in Gratiot County.

Mayor Mapes thanked him for listening and talking to the citizens of Alma. We want to be working partners.

Officer Tyler Kinsey addressed the Commissioners that he will be leaving the employment of the City for a job in St. Johns. He is from St. Johns. It is home to him. He wanted to thank the City for all their help and leadership during his employment with the City.

Mayor Mapes on behalf of the City wished him the best in his move to St. John's.

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 6:40 p.m.

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

No: None.

Gregory S. Mapes, Mayor

Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk