

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

**Absent:** Harrington.

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

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

#### ALMA CYCLOCROSS

Back in early September the 2017 Avalon Pontoons Alma Grand Prix of Cyclocross race was held in Alma on the property behind the Transit Center. The race was an overwhelming success that the city should be proud to host. Attached is a survey and economic impact report prepared by race organizer, JB Hancock. Please make note also of the drone footage JB made available. JB discussed the survey and the race during the work session.

#### TRANSIT MDOT COMPLIANCE AUDIT

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Michigan Department of Transportation – Office of Transportation compliance auditor paid a visit to the Alma Transit Center to conduct the triennial audit. This triennial audit analyzes the following operational aspects of the transit center for compliance: Americans with Disabilities (ADA) including vehicle lifts and securements, Title VI proficiency, vehicle maintenance, equipment/facility maintenance, drug and alcohol policies, and procurements. The transit center did quite well on the audit and had only minor issues with documentation that needed to be tightened up.

#### RON TURNER RETIREMENT PARTY

Public Services Director Ron Turner will be retiring on December 1<sup>st</sup> after over 20 years of service to the City of Alma. There will be a party honoring Ron on November 29<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-5pm here at City Hall. Please take the time to stop by and wish Ron well as he starts his retirement and continues to work on his Bucket List!

#### PIG OUT FOR WRIGHT PARK

The Alma Police Officers Association, Alma Firefighters, and the Alma Elks Lodge would like to invite you all to join them for a “Pig Out” on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5pm-11pm. Proceeds from the pulled pork dinner and auction will go towards the Rebuilding of Alma’s Wright Dream Park Project. Tickets are \$10 at the door (\$5 for kids, 10 and under are free). It’s great to see our police officers and firefighters working together to support a fantastic community project.

#### SPECIAL ASSESSMENT - OUTLINE

In September, we held a special meeting to discuss potential options for the upcoming FY2019 Budget. At that meeting, we discussed a number of options including a city income tax, use of our fund balance, cuts in service, a police millage, and a police special assessment. An outline of a process for a police special assessment was presented with a more detailed version. The assessment is an option that would allow the city to stabilize the funding for the police department and help ease the overall burden on the general fund. He believes we are reaching a critical point in the decision-making process for the upcoming FY2019 Budget cycle.

#### Process for Special Assessment:

Police services are valuable, but costly. Last year we made significant cuts due to the impact of the downturn in the economy and revenue sharing over the past decade. A special assessment will allow the City of Alma to preserve the general fund allocation to police at a sustainable level and the shortfall in those cost of services will be made up with a special assessment.

1. Staffing Levels for Police Department
  - a. Determine the minimum number of police officers needed to provide professional service to the community

- b. Structure of Department – How should the department be structured that allows police and fire both to provide the best possible service
  - i. Public Safety Director/Police Chief (current)
  - ii. Public Safety Administrator – Police and Fire Commander
  - iii. Eliminate Public Safety – Police Chief and Fire Chief
2. Determine Budget for Each Type of Department along with analysis of effectiveness
3. Measure shortfalls in current budgeting structure (overall)
4. Assess at rate that meets the shortfall for current period and future needs

Obviously, there will be much more detail as we progress should the commission feel this is a viable option. Staff has already been working on details for a special assessment. We feel this is the best option for our community and its future. Commissioners agreed that they would like more information

Questions and brief discussion followed. The November 14, 2017, City Commission work session concluded at 6:10 p.m.

**Alma, Michigan  
November 14, 2017**

Mayor Mapes called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:10 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

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

**Absent:** Harrington.

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 Ayers as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2017 regular meeting.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to approve the consent agenda requests for payment in the following amounts \$1,798.20 to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Media for October publications and \$1,800.97 to White Pine Library Cooperative for the annual subscription fee for OverDrive services for the Library.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$4,500.00 to Tyler Technologies for the migration to and software for the new server for City Hall.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$11,030.00 to Crawford Contracting Inc. for sand and gravel for the Public's Works Department.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$3,020.56 to Revistas for the annual renewal of the Alma Public Library serial subscription service.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$13,584.00 to Mainstream Computers for the new server to replace the 2012 server that runs the Tyler Technologies software.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve a resolution to adopt the Alma Rental Inspection Policy.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to adopt a resolution to approve the Budget Amendment request to increase the Equipment Budget line item in the FY2018 Budget for the Rural Urban Fire Board by \$5,526.00 and to increase the Private Donations Budget line item in the FY2018 Budget for the Rural Urban Fire Board by \$5,526.00.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Allman to adopt a resolution approving Ordinance #793 to amend the zoning map of the City of Alma as it appears in Section 32-32 of the ordinances of the City of Alma, this rezoning will affect a newly created parcel. The premises hereinafter described, currently zoned as R-1, Single Family Residential to OS, Office Services.

Legal Description of Division Parcel of Parent Parcel located at 325 Warwick Drive:

Part of the Northwest ¼ of Section 34, T.12 N-R.3 W., City of Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan described as: Beginning on the North line of East Warwick Drive, S.00°15'40" W., 575.46 feet and N.89°27'04"W., 500.00 feet from the North ¼ corner of said Section 34, thence along said north line of East Warwick Drive, N.89°27'04"W., 170.00 feet; thence N.00°24'52"E., 336.72 feet; thence N.89°27'04"W., 321.54 feet; thence N.00°24'52"E., 238.96 feet to the North line of said Section 34; thence along said north section line, S.89°26'16"E., 490.00 feet; thence S.00°15'40"W., 575.57 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.00 acres, more or less.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve the final Change Order #1 to Ward's Excavating for the Grafton Watermain Abandonment Project decreasing the contract amount by \$7,414.15 and to approve the Final Pay Application #2 in the amount of \$3,585.30.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Vice-Mayor Nyman to approve the final Change Order #1 to Harsh Excavating for the Scotland Yard Parking Lot Improvements increasing the contract amount by \$1,112.25 and to approve the Final Pay Application #2 in the amount of \$3,104.08.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to receive the following reports and place them on file and to remove the City of Alma, City Manager Search and Selection Timeline for further discussion:

1. Alma Police Department October 2017 Report.
2. Code Enforcement Report for October 2017.
3. Alma Transportation Center October 2017 Report.

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

**No:** None.

City Clerk Letourneau expressed that the timeline items to be resolved by November 28, 2017 will be hard to accomplish with the Thanksgiving holiday. Commissioner Piccolo and Mayor Mapes indicated that these dates were a suggested timeline and those dates could be moved until December 4, 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the City of Alma, City Manager Search and Selection Timeline report and place it on file with the suggestion to change the target dates of November 28, 2017 to December 4, 2017.

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

**No:** None.

A presentation on Breed Specific Legislation in Alma from the students of Alma College Public Affairs. Madison Amlotte and Angel Hall addressed the Commission on the section 10-58 of Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances dealing with Animals, specifically vicious dogs. A brief history was presented on this section of the ordinance dealing with vicious dogs. Section 10-58 states that there is a presumption that pit bulls are a vicious breed. An owner of a pit bull because of this vicious status must comply with licensing requirements. Why is this a problem? It is discriminatory towards pit bull owners, unfair to the animal and outdated. Breed Specific Legislation has not proven to lower rates of dog related crime or punish abusive or irresponsible dog owners and punishes responsible dog owners on the basis of breed. There has been successful repeals of Breed Specific Legislation in the USA and Internationally. Closer to Alma in Hazel Park, Michigan the legislation was repealed after a pit bull stopped the abuse of the dog's female owner. Pit bulls are being used as service dogs which means the Americans with Disability Act needs to be in compliance. The media portrays pit bulls as vicious dogs. Ms. Amlotte and Ms. Hall have found in their research that Breed Specific Legislation has proven to be ineffective and outdated, under enforced. Now, pit bull perception is changing. Pit bulls are not a vicious breed and other cities have begun to amend their vicious dog ordinances. These Alma College Students proposed to the Commission that Section 10-58 be stricken from the Code of Ordinances. Ms. Amlotte and Ms. Hall thanked the Commission for allowing them to bring this matter before them.

Mayor Mapes asked Interim Public Safety Director, Mark Williams and Interim City Manager, Matt Schooley to have staff investigate this request.

Commissioner Ayers felt there was merit in looking into this request.

Mayor Mapes asked the students to check back on the progress of their request.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve Warrant No. 18-08 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Allman to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

City Clerk Letourneau took a roll call vote to enter into executive session at 6:44 p.m.

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

**No:** None.

Commissioners returned to the regular meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Allman to authorize Interim City Manager Schooley to enter into final negotiations for the position of Public Services Director.

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

**No:** None.

Mayor Mapes and the Commissioners thanked the Alma College students for their presentation.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comment.

Les Rosan, 889 Mill hoped that the Interim City Manager's name sign for the dais has been ordered. He wanted to again mention the repairs needed for the Riverwalk lookouts. He has met volunteer, David DeGroft and commends him on the repairs he has made. He would like to see the other lookout fixed but feels the City is not working timely with Mr. DeGroft in getting the materials prepared. He also wants to remind all that the City Commission meetings need to continue to be televised.

Being no further Commissioner or Public comment Mayor Mapes asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Allman to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:09 p.m.

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

**No:** None.

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Gregory S. Mapes, Mayor

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Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk