

**Alma, Michigan
January 23, 2018**

Work Session began at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Mott.

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

ALMA PUBLIC LIBRARY – YOUTH SERVICES SURVEY

Lizzie Schab, the Juvenile/Young Adult Services Librarian is currently working on a survey for the library that will be a part of her final project/thesis for her Master's Degree in Library and Information Sciences through Kent State University. This study will assess the changing needs of families with young children in Gratiot County and help the Alma Public Library develop future goals and objectives for improving its services for youth. The survey questionnaire includes questions about families' use of the Alma Public Library, their satisfaction with the library, and direction for the future. Lizzie will be at the work session to give you more information about the survey and take any questions you may have. Lizzie has been an integral part of the Employee Development Team here at the City. We look forward to her bringing the results of her survey back to the commission in the near future. The Youth Services Survey is due on February 4, 2018.

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATE

The EDT on January 16th after taking a break over the holidays. He is pleased to let you know that team was able to jump right back in and move forward with the task of creating the employee value statement for the City of Alma. The team has narrowed the focus of the core values down to teamwork, respect, integrity, pride, and learning. In the latest session we added learning and combined honesty with integrity. Over the course of this week we have been kicking emails back and forth and finalizing a Value Statement that will hopefully be presented at the Goal Setting Session on January 22nd. The team agreed that when the statement is complete, we need to work on first publishing it internally, making sure all employees of the City of Alma understand that these are the values we will use to measure ourselves. Training will take place with all employees, then we will make the values public.

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF ASSESSING FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

Kathy Roslund has brought to his attention that the Michigan Department of Treasury announced the development and implementation of a one-day course titled Understanding the Basics of Assessing for Local Unit Officials. This one-day course will be offered free of charge to any Local Unit Official who wants to learn a little bit more about assessing and the Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements (AMAR) process. There currently are 7 sessions scheduled at various locations throughout the State (April – August). If you are interested in attending please let him know and he will get with Kathy Roslund who will coordinate the best available time for the training event.

COMPLIMENTARY GOVERNMENTAL TRAINING -YEO AND YEO

Ali Barnes from Yeo and Yeo has forwarded an invitation to City of Alma staff and commission for a complimentary training on governmental finances. The date of the training is Thursday, February 22nd at Luginuts Stadium in Lansing. The training begins at 9:00 am and runs until 3:00 pm. The agenda is currently being created. He will send that out to Commissioners when it is finalized. If you are interested please let Sheila or Matt know so we can make arrangements.

MASTER PLAN PROPOSAL

As you all know, local units of government are jointly working together to finalize their Master Plan. We have been

notified by the Gratiot Master Plan Steering Committee of the proposed plan as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. You can view the current draft of the proposed Master Plan by visiting the following link on our website: http://www.ci.alma.mi.us/1/307/files/gratiot_master_plan_draft_final_1-12-2018draft.pdf

This Master Plan will be available for review and comment for a 63-day period beginning January 12, 2018. The City of Alma will be responsible for advertising and holding a public hearing for final approval after the 63-day review period ends on Friday, March 16, 2018.

MERS MEETING

On January 9th staff met with our MERS representative for our annual meeting. Currently the City's fund ratio sits at 79%, which is healthy in terms of the new state legislation recently released. We understand this is an area that needs to be addressed in the upcoming year. There are a number of options available for us to explore that would allow us to continue to be healthy. It is a complex issue that will take a lot of our attention to ensure we are doing the right things for the future of our employees. The MERS representative extended an invitation to the City of Alma to return for a work session with the Commission to talk about some of the options. He believes having the subject matter expert take your questions would be very beneficial. If this is something you feel would be worthwhile, we can make that happen in the near future.

LEGISLATION TO CHANGE LOCAL MILLAGE ELECTIONS

Mayor Mapes sent this out to everyone early last week. Mr. Schooley wanted to give a heads up that the House Elections committee has posted a hearing for next week on a bill that would limit all local governments to only being able to offer a millage question on the November General Election date. This bill is now scheduled to be in front of the committee on Thursday, January 25th. MML staff will be testifying in opposition to the bill at this hearing.

Alternate language is being considered that would allow millage questions on any August or November election, as opposed to the original version limiting these questions to November even-year elections. Election consolidation already establishes three specific dates annually that are available for ballot questions and election law limits a local unit from bringing a question back in front of the voters repeatedly. Limiting when these questions can be considered by local voters ignores the existing expiration and scheduling of current local millages and will only serve to lengthen ballots for no legitimate public purpose.

Paul Lux, 531 N. State wanted to express his support for the Zoning change for the old Middle School property at Downie and Pine Avenue from R1 Single Family to R3 Multi Family.

Michael Selmon, 614 Gratiot addressed the Commissioners on the upcoming Ordinance Zoning Amendment to change the old Middle School property from R1 to R3. He is against this change and feels that the appropriate steps to bring a Zoning change were not followed. He will be pursuing this issue in the weeks to come.

The January 23, 2018, City Commission work session concluded at 5:57 p.m.

**Alma, Michigan
January 23, 2018**

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

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

Absent: Mott.

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 Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 regular meeting.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Allman to accept and approve the nomination of Commissioner Roxann Harrington as Vice-Mayor for the period through December 2018.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$5,450.00 to OBD Company for Fan, Bushings and collection hoses for the Leaf Vacuum Trucks.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the request for purchase in the amount \$2,130.50 to Detroit Salt Co. for 50 tons of Road Salt at the State Contract pricing.

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

No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for payment to Yeo & Yeo CPA's and Business Consultants in the amount of \$10,490.00 for the professional services rendered pertaining to the City's Annual Audit as of 12/31/2017.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$4,278.00 to Applied Imaging (formerly DocuWare) for the annual software maintenance and support renewal for the DocuWare Scanning program.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$1,809.23 to KCI-Kent Communications for the Processing, Printing and Mailing of Real and Personal Assessment Notices for the City of Alma.

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

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve a resolution designating Alan Leute, Public Services Director and David Ringle Assistant Public Services Director (alternate) as the single street Administrator for the City of Alma in all transactions with the State Transportation Department, as provided in Section 13 of Act 51.

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

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve a resolution providing that the City's filing requirements regarding nomination petitions for City Commission be amended to comply with the Election Law PA 276 of 2012 requiring that nominating petitions for city offices be filed with the City Clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on the fifteenth Tuesday before the August primary.

Yes: Ayers, Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman and Piccolo.
No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the introduction of Ordinance #795 to amend the zoning map of the City of Alma as it appears in Section 60-52 of the Ordinances of the City of Alma. The premises hereinafter described, Original Town, Block 10, City of Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan currently zoned as R-1, Single Family Residential to be rezoned to R3 Multi-Family Residential.

Yes: Ayers, Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman and Piccolo.
No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Ayers to approve the Agreement Regarding Athletic Facility Use of the Euclid Street ballfields between the City of Alma and Alma Little League, a chartered member of Little League Baseball, Inc. commencing on March 1, 2018 and ending on August 1, 2018.

Yes: Ayers, Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman and Piccolo.
No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Ayers as supported by Commissioner Allman to receive the following reports and place them on file: Code Enforcement report for December 2017 and the Alma Police report for November 2017.

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

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Ayers to remove the appointment of Aeric Ripley, Assistant City Manager/DDA Director as acting City Manager during the Interim City Manager Schooley's temporary absence. The Interim City Manager will be attainable and perform the duties of City Manager during his temporary absence.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to appoint Vice-Mayor Harrington to the Gratiot Area Water Authority Board for a two year term ending January 11, 2020.

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

No: None.

Interim Public Safety Director Mark Williams presented his findings and recommendation to the Vicious Dog Ordinance. Section 10-58 of the City Ordinance is the regulation determining breed specific dogs such as pit bulls as vicious dogs. Interim Director Williams researched data from the last three years and found that there were 11 dog bite incidents which only involved two pit bulls. In his over twenty years' experience with the Police Department this Breed Specific section of the Ordinance has never been enforced. There is no system in place to enforce it and this would be a heavy burden on the City Clerk who is the one responsible to license, take pictures of the animal and to make sure the animal is housed properly. He has spoken with the Animal Control Director, Tom Clark and Mr. Clark recommends that we remove this Section of the Ordinance. The State Legislature is also looking at a new regulation Act 741 that would make Breed Specific language illegal. Interim Public Safety Director Williams is recommending that this section be removed.

City Attorney Costanzo stated that this section was adopted in the early nineties and the process of naming breed specific dogs as vicious dogs has never been enforced.

Mayor Mapes wanted to thank the young women who brought this Breed Specific section of the Ordinance to the Commission's attention.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve Warrant No. 18-13 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

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

No: None.

Vice-Mayor Harrington wanted to thank the Commission for their endorsement and appointment as Vice-Mayor.

Interim City Manager Schooley advised that the Goal Setting Session went well. He felt that there was great discussions.

Mayor Mapes concurred. Everyone spoke freely and we are moving in a good direction. He wanted to again thank the young women for their efforts in changing the section of the Vicious Dog Ordinance.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comment.

Michael Selmon, 614 Pine Ave. addressed the City Commission on the possible change of the Zoning Ordinance from R1 to R3 for the old Middle School property. He understands the deep commitment the Commissioners have to the City. He respects the work that the Mayor and Commissioners are doing. This change is contrary to City and State codes. He feels that the rezoning does not preserve or protect single family neighborhoods. We need to conserve residential districts. It is the responsibility of the Commission to follow City and State codes.

Laurie Wilson, 839 W Superior reminded the Commission of the incident that happened to her with a Pit Bull. She was walking on Grafton when a Pit Bull on that street rushed at her barking. She would like to see "Beware of Dog" signs at homes that have Pit Bulls. Interim Public Safety Director Williams stated that we cannot regulate that but can ask the dog owners to place signs.

Madison Amlotte, of Alma College asked Ms. Wilson if she was truly afraid of the animal or was this just a reaction to a previous incident with a dog. She would like us all to focus on changing the predisposition that Pit Bulls are vicious.

Being no further 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 6:59 p.m.

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

No: None.

Gregory S. Mapes, Mayor

Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk