

Work Session began at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

City Manager Schooley informed the Commissioners of the following items:

#### MAGNET FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Schooley attached a letter from the commander of the Mid-Michigan Area Group Narcotics Enforcement Team (MAGNET) seeking financial support from the City for the team. D/Lt. Michelle Taylor of the Michigan State Police is seeking an annual financial commitment of \$9,383 (\$1per capita). D/Lt. Taylor would like the opportunity to come and speak to the commission to talk about MAGNET's importance to our community. D/Lt. Taylor. D/Lt. Taylor informed the Commissioners that MAGNET is still working in Gratiot County even with the loss of an Alma Police Officer to the team. She is requesting a financial commitment to generate revenue to keep the team going. MAGNET does receive funding from forfeitures but this amount is decreasing. They apply for Federal grants and are supported by the State of Michigan by her membership on the team and with vehicle leases. In 2016 the team was involved in 184 cases where 41 were in Alma, They recorded 15 arrests. In 2017 again we're involved in 184 cases but only 30 cases were in Alma, down because of the loss of the Alma officer, but they did record 30 arrests. Mayor Mapes wanted to know what the other entities committed to in 2017. D/Lt. Taylor had a list of the contributors that she gave to the Commissioners. City Manager Schooley reported that the City doesn't have the resources to do investigations, we need MAGNET to be this resource.

#### CAPITAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

The Michigan Municipal League has announced the agenda for the 2018 Capital conference to be held March 20-21 at the Lansing Center. He attached a copy of the Conference Workshops that are held on Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup> along with the General Sessions and Breakouts for Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>. He understand that Sheila has already registered a few for the conference. If anyone else is interested, confirm with Sheila in the next week, we will be sure to get everyone registered.

#### GOAL SETTING: PRIORITIZATION

The administrative staff met last Monday to discuss finalizing our goals for the next year. An interesting thing happened on that journey. He was hoping to come up with two or three goals in each of the themed areas we had developed over the past 2 months (1. Organizational Effectiveness/Employee Engagement, 2. Community Engagement, 3. Development/Infrastructure, and 4. Funding/Finance).

During our discussion it became apparent that our immediate focus needs to be on #1 and #2. The major goal in theme #1 was to "Speak with One Voice". Staff wanted to emphasize that means the entire organization – Commission, administrators, staff. This does not mean there are not disagreements or discussions. Speaking with One Voice means getting everyone on the same page, working towards the same goals, and understanding that sometimes contrary ideas or opinions will have more merit for the organization. When we decide an issue, we will back each other. It doesn't matter which department you work in. We are in this together – working toward our values.

In discussing the community engagement theme, it was apparent that we need to create an active community communication plan that allows the City to inform the public about the business of their government. We discussed many things that need to go into such a plan: social media, town meetings, informal contacts, newsletters, website.

Staff understands that there will be major items that need to be taken care of in development, infrastructure, and finances, but recognized the fact that we need to focus on Speaking with One Voice to our community using a communication plan that involves the citizens. We will be putting more specific goals into action in the coming weeks (budget) but we are going to begin working on those goals immediately.

#### CITY POLICY MANUAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Schooley has completed a draft of a new personnel policy manual for the City. It will be sent out to the Employee Development Team for review in March and hope to have it completed by April 1. Other city policies have been created by a resolution of the commission or by specific departments over the years. Sara Youngs (Public Services) has started a "sorting process" to compile files of policies by department, then deciding what is most current, applicable, or no longer valid. Our goal is to eventually complete this process for all departments in the city. Sara is also working on a format that will make our policies easy to use for staff and citizens.

#### DANGEROUS, VICIOUS ANIMAL BILLS HELD IN COMMITTEE

The plan is to have the amended Vicious Dog ordinance for the commission at the first March meeting. We will be recommending that section 10-58: Presumption be removed. During our last meeting you were informed that there was a bill in the legislature that would prohibit local governments from using breed specific language in their ordinances. Below is an update to that bill:

**SB 709** would make significant changes to 1988 law governing the confinement and destruction of dangerous animals. The bill would allow rather than require a dog's owner to show cause for it not to be found to be a vicious dog and have the person filing a complaint having to provide the burden of proof. A court could also have a dog owner comply with requirements rather than having it disposed of.

**SB 708** would amend sentencing guidelines for animal related offenses.

**SB 710** would allow for a process to have an animal control agency or professional to check a dog and determine the appropriate course of action.

**SB 741** would prohibit local units of government from enacting or enforcing ordinances, policies or resolutions regulating a dog based on breed or perceived breed.

COMMITTEE CHAIR SEN. RICK JONES (R-GRAND LEDGE) SAID "THE VOTES ARE NOT THERE" AT THIS TIME AND THE BILLS WILL BE HELD UNTIL BILL SUPPORTERS SPEAK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO AMEND THE BILLS IN A WAY THAT LAWMAKERS WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF REPORTING.

#### ROAD FUNDING UPDATE

Just an update to Governor Rick Snyder's proposed \$175 million in extra road funding we discussed at the earlier February meeting. It appears the funding is going to be available immediately instead of in the 2018-19 fiscal year under a supplemental spending bill that cleared the House Appropriations Committee on February 21<sup>st</sup>. and was expected to move later that day to the House floor.

The bill would appropriate \$175 million to the Department of Transportation for the current fiscal year. The City of Alma is set to receive an additional \$67,631.

## ALICE TRAINING

Interim Director Williams represents the City on the School Safety Alliance of Gratiot County. The Alliance is comprised of county superintendents and law enforcement leaders. The Alma Police Department and the Alma Public Schools implemented the ALICE protocol for active shooter response in 2014. ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) is a change in the way that students and staff have been traditionally trained to deal with such encounters. The major difference is that ALICE gives permission to the individual to survive. Mark has taken the lead to bring this concept and training to the schools in the Gratiot Intermediate School District. These discussions were in place prior to the tragic events in Florida last week. We have also had discussions of putting on a similar training for city staff. ALICE is a simple, common sense approach. Times have changed, and our response needs to reflect that change. Being progressive and always evaluating your options is key in today's world.

## PUBLIC HEARING FOR DRAFT MEDICAL MARIHUANA FACILITIES ORDINANCE

A special meeting of the Alma Planning Commission is scheduled for Monday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to hear public comments on the Draft Medical Marihuana Facilities Ordinance. A copy of the draft ordinance, and the draft to amend the zoning ordinance is attached. He encourages all to attend this meeting. As we know this is a topic that has generated a lot of public interest. He believes it is best for members of the Commission to hear the public's opinions on the issue first hand if possible.

## UPCOMING REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Aeric will be requesting a public hearing on Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup> to:

- Submission a Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Grant application for the replacement and rehab of park restrooms located in Wright, Riverside, and Pine River/Conservation Park. He will be giving a presentation on the program at the Meeting on Tuesday.
- Consider and application for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for Gemini Capital Management, LLC at 210 E. Superior St. The purpose of the OPRA is to assist with the creation of three new upper story apartments. The OPRA District was established November 9, 2004.
- Consider the creation of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for the property located at 408 Woodworth Ave., for the purpose of creating upper story apartments.

The February 27, 2018, City Commission work session concluded at 5:55 p.m.

**Alma, Michigan  
February 27, 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, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

**Absent:** Ayers.

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 Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 Executive Closed Session and the February 13, 2018 regular meeting.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Mott to set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. to consider an application for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for Gemini Capital Management, LLC at 210 E Superior Street commonly known as the Church Block. The purpose of the OPRA is to assist with the creation of three new upper story apartments. The OPRA District was established on November 9, 2004.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to set a public hearing for Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 6:05 p.m. to consider the creation of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for the property located at 408 Woodworth Avenue, for the purposes of creating upper story apartments.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Mott as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to set a public hearing for Tuesday, March 27 at 6:10 p.m. to review and consider submission of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Grant application for the replacement and rehab of park restrooms located in Wright, Riverside, and Pine River/Conservation Park.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the consent agenda items for payment in the following amounts of \$3,159.00 to Gratiot County Equalization for the 2018 GIS Authority membership; \$10,412.49 to Mid-Michigan Area Cable Consortium for the fourth quarter final franchise fee payment; \$11,326.06 to the State of Michigan for the annual principle and interest Brownfield Redevelopment Loan payment; \$4,235.00 to Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. for the annual maintenance of traffic control devices on Republic and Adams Streets.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Mott to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$4,650.00 to contract Wonsey Tree Service for the removal of 5 trees too large for the Forestry Department.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Mott to approve the request for purchase in the amount \$24,500.00 to Shultz Equipment, LLC. for the purchase and installation of a wing blade for the large snowplow truck Unit #235.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to receive and award the bid for the Household Hazardous Waste program contract for years 2018-2022 to Stericycle Environmental Solutions of Detroit in the amount of \$6,336.60 per year costs for five years.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Mott to adopt a resolution authorizing street closures and banner placement in conjunction with the 2018 Special Community Events use of the State Highway right-of-way.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to rescind the introduction of an Ordinance 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:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman and Piccolo.

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to adopt a resolution approving the amendatory agreement between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Alma for the purpose of amending the Master Agreement No. 2017-004. These changes will revise the dollar thresholds in the competitive procurement requirements and to add a retainage requirement to the prompt payment language.

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

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Nyman to receive the following report and place it on file: Alma Planning Commission minutes of February 5, 2018.

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

**No:** None.

Received a presentation from Aeric Ripley, Assistant City Manager/DDA Director on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Grant application for the replacement and rehab of park restrooms located in Wright, Riverside, and Pine River/Conservation Park.

Mr. Ripley began with the goal of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Priority #1 is the Wright Park Bathroom. The Committee recommends replacement of the whole structure with a new facility, to provide 4 universal designed, single occupancy restrooms. The plan is to model after the new restroom on Charles Avenue. The estimated cost would be \$150,000. An additional project is to update the electrical to the pavilions and do needed sewer work. Priority #2 is the rehab of Pine River/Conservation Park bathroom. This structure also houses a wastewater lift station. Wastewater Funds will be used to do repairs on the roof and brick in the amount of \$40,500. An another \$50,000 est. will be used to rehab the bathroom into 5 universal designed single occupancy restrooms. Priority #3 is to rehab Riverside Park bathroom into 2 universal designed single occupancy restrooms and to paint the roof and exterior at a cost of \$45,000. Priority #4 is the King Park bathroom. The Committee recommends to demo this. The structure is obsolete and hasn't

been used for years. May be able to apply for State grant in the future, if the need is there to get King Park a bathroom.

The total cost for the three bathroom facilities will be \$245,000. Requesting 65% from MDNR in the amount of \$159,250. The remaining 35% will need to come from the General fund grants, etc. in the amount of \$85,750. A Public Hearing is scheduled for March 27, 2018 and the application is due April 1, 2018.

Mr. Ripley also noted that the cost for outfitting the parks with portable restrooms would cost the City, for the useful life of a restroom structure 40 years, \$102,000. per park. The Spring of 2020 is the estimated time line for completion of this rehab and reconstruction of Park bathrooms.

The Rebuilding Alma's Wright Dream Park is working on raising \$50,000 in matching funds to receive a \$50,000 MEDC Placemaking Grant. They have 29 days left to raise the funds. If you would like to donate individually please Visit: PATRONICITY website and Search for: Rebuilding Alma's Wright DREAM Park to make a donation.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve Warrant No. 18-15 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

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

**No:** None.

City Manager Schooley wanted to express his appreciation to the Commission for approving him as the City Manager. He pledges to continue to move forward, we have a great staff. He wanted to thank Aeric for the presentation and all the work he has put forth to get the Park bathroom rehab and reconstruction Grant application ready.

Mayor Mapes wanted to offer his thanks to the Park Committee for their work and Aeric for the presentation. He welcomed Matt Schooley to the City Manager position.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comment.

Laurie Wilson, 839 W Superior asked if sidewalks to the Wright Park bathrooms are in the plans for the reconstruction? The handicap have a hard time getting to the bathrooms. Mr. Ripley stated that a new sidewalk from the parking lot will go to the bathrooms. She also thanked everyone for doing a great job with the park improvements.

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

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

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

**No:** None.

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Gregory S. Mapes, Mayor

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Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk