

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

Roll Call

Present: Roger Allman, Roxann Harrington, Greg Mapes, Larry Mott, Nick Piccolo, Michelle Pitts, and Audra Stahl.

Absent: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, to approve the minutes of the December 26, 2019 regular meeting, as presented.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Hearings

2020-00001 Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, to approve a resolution setting a public hearing for Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of determining whether the following described premises shall be designated and established as an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District under P.A. 146 of 2000: 110 E. Superior (also known as 29-51-031-254-00).

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Resolutions

2020-00002 Resolution of Appreciation

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Pitts, and seconded by Commissioner Allman:

Whereas, certain individuals give unsparingly and unselfishly of their time and talents to the City of Alma and its citizens and

Whereas, Bryan Dinwoody is one such individual who retired on December 20, 2019, after 43 years and 3 months of service with the Alma Public Library; and

Whereas, Bryan has been a hardworking, dedicated employee who has been very valuable at the Alma Public Library. Bryan's dedication, cooperative attitude and ability to get the job done, defined him, through his career with the City. Bryan hired in as the Director of the Alma Public Library on September 15, 1976, at the age of 26.

Bryan attended Macomb County Community College where he earned his Associates Degree, Wayne State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and then earned his MSLS—Master of Science in Library Science from Wayne State University and

Whereas, Bryan has, during his tenure as the Director of the Alma Public Library, exemplified what it means to be a community leader and a 21st Century librarian through his service to his patrons and his involvement in community organizations; and Bryan made an impressive list of accomplishments, including:

- The acquisition of the Library's first automated circulation and cataloging system (Dynix 1997)
- The acquisition of the Library's first Integrated Library System (ILS, The Library Corporation (TLC 2006)
- The Library public computing access grants (first award through the Gates Foundation, 2006); second award (2007-upgrade); round two, computer award (2010, State of Michigan/MSU)
- The County-wide Library microfilming program which began in 1977; Alma became the depository for local and reference film reels; The acquisition of the Gratiot County Journal project in 1978 which David McMacken was the lead negotiator. Most recently the purchase of a computer-assisted microfilm reader in 2017.
- Implementation of the Library's publishing programs. The Library has published four titles under the Alma Public Library imprint and has brokered three other titles through its bookstore.
- Establishment of the Alma Public Library Endowment fund created through Library Board initiative and municipal statute in 1982.
- He was instrumental in the successful outcome of the 2013/2014 Gratiot County tax levy and associated ballot issue.; and

Whereas, through Bryan's direction the Library has seen two major renovation and expansion projects. The first was to add a new meeting room in 1985. The second expansion and renovation project took our library from 7,800 square feet to 26,000 square feet in 2005. The new Library is equipped with the most up to date technology needs. The new Library's design incorporates open children's spaces and provides separate quiet reading spaces for adults.; and

Whereas, Bryan's guidance and vision have equipped the Library to implement new technologies and have allowed patrons and staff to conduct more and better research. The new Library has been a huge hit with the community and will offer a unique, comfortable community space for many years to come.; and

Whereas, Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that Mayor Mapes, members of the City Commission, City staff and Alma citizens commend Bryan Dinwoody for a "job well done" and express their heartfelt gratitude and extend best wishes for an enjoyable, well-deserved retirement.; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be presented to Bryan Dinwoody and that it be entered into the official minutes of the City Commission.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Pitts, and seconded by Commissioner Piccolo:

Whereas, the City of Alma has been and is fortunate to have dedicated and exemplary employees who give unselfishly of their time and talents to Alma and its citizens,
Whereas, Sheila Letourneau is one such individual that has conscientiously served our citizens, City Commission, and City Departments of Alma since July 12, 1994; and
Whereas, Sheila began her career working as a part time clerk/typist in the Building and Grounds Department where her abilities and commitment led to her being hired full-time on September 11, 1995; and
Whereas, Sheila's dedication, commitment, and cooperative attitude led to her promotion as the Finance/Public Services Secretary on April 6, 1998; and
Whereas, Sheila continued to prove herself as one of the City's indispensable employees when she was promoted to the City Clerk/Human Resource Manager on January 6, 2016; and
Whereas, Sheila, as City Clerk, consistently provided timely and accurate minutes of over 70 City Commission meetings, as well as meetings of the Rural Urban Fire Board, and the Gratiot Area Water Authority; and
Whereas, Sheila has assisted hundreds of customers and residents during the course of her tenure, calmly answering any and all questions regarding any City issue and many non-city issues, such as "what are the hours at the Farm Market?" and "what time does the parade start?"
Whereas, Sheila was instrumental in the hiring of many of the current employees of City; and
Whereas, Sheila's calm, cool and collected manner has provided peace amidst many storms; and
Whereas, the residents and employees of the City of Alma have benefited greatly from the foresight, services, counsel, and guidance of Sheila Letourneau.
Now therefore be it resolved that Mayor Mapes, members of the City Commission, City staff and Alma citizens commend Sheila for her time spent serving so many and express their heartfelt gratitude and extend best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.
Be it further resolved that this resolution be presented to Sheila Letourneau and that it be entered in to the official minutes of the City Commission.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

2020-00004 Proclamation of African American History Month

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Allman, and seconded by Commissioner Piccolo:

WHEREAS: Carter G. Woodson as a trained historian from Harvard, knew like W. E. B. Du Bois did previously, that reason would prevail over prejudice and that the truth of African American's contributions to civilization and the United States would come to fruition. He hoped to raise awareness of African American's contributions to the United States and civilization was realized when he and the organization that he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week

in 1925. February 7, 2019, marks the Ninety-third anniversary of Negro History Week; created by Carter G. Woodson and which became celebrated among African Americans and honored their American heritage. In 1976 on the Bicentennial of the United States of America President Gerald R. Ford honored African American history further by dedicating an entire month to the history and culture of African Americans.¹

WHEREAS: Public Law 99-244 designated February 1986 as "National Black (Afro-American) History Month." This law noted that February 1, 1986 would "mark the beginning of the sixtieth annual public and private salute to Black History." The law further called upon the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe February 1986 as Black History Month with the appropriate ceremonies and activities.

WHEREAS: It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to the many African American citizens of the United States and their sacrifices and contributions to our great nation. Therefore, we honor this memorable anniversary; and the African American people whose culture, sacrifices, and honor defended and shaped our great Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Gregory S. Mapes by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of City of Alma, Michigan do hereby proclaim the Month of February 1st through 29th as African American History Month AND ask our citizens to honor the ideals, sacrifices, culture, and contributions of the African Americans who helped build and shape our nation. May these citizens and all they have done for the United States of America never be forgotten. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 14th day of January 2020.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

2020-00005 Resolution Authorizing Participation in Michigan CLASS for Investment Purposes

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Vice-Mayor Harrington, and seconded by Commissioner Piccolo:

Whereas, certain governmental units have entered into an interlocal government agreement also known as the "THE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT" for the purposes of pooling together and investing surplus funds under the appropriate statutes of the State of Michigan and;

Whereas, the PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT that has been entered into has been reviewed as to content and legality and;

Whereas, the investment policy of the City of Alma includes investment in this type of pool and;

Whereas, the City of Alma acknowledges that the current CLASS Board of Trustees, existing custodian and participants may change in accordance with the participating agreement,

Now, Therefore, It Is Hereby Resolved, that the City of Alma shall enter into the interlocal agreement for pooling of investment resources under the participation agreement and that the Treasurer shall cause to be delivered to MBIA Asset Management (as administrators of Michigan CLASS), the required documentation to establish participation in Michigan CLASS.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Treasurer may invest surplus funds pursuant to state law under said participation agreement.

Be It Further Resolved, that the City of Alma recognizes the appointments of the Board of Trustees, custodian and participants to the extent that they may be changed during the life of the PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT and that such appointments shall not affect the City participation under such agreement.

Be It Further Resolved, that the City of Alma authorizes Kathrine Phillips, Matthew Schooley, Sara Anderson, and Brooke Siefka as designated signatories.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

2020-00006 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve a resolution for release of securities pledged to collateralize Mercantile Bank deposits with the following CUSIP numbers and amounts pledged.

CUSIP	Description	Maturity	Pledgee	Orig. Face
3130A9WW7	MER2-FAMCA Agency	11/17/2036	CITY OF ALMA	1,000,000.00
3128MCP25	MER2-FHLMC 15 YR	05/01/2020	CITY OF ALMA	2,000,000.00
313381Z57	FHLB AGENCY – QTRLY	02/11/2021	CITY OF ALMA	1,000,000.00
			CITY OF ALMA Total	4,000,000.00

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

2020-00007 FY 2021 Resolution of Intent

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Mott, and seconded by Commissioner Pitts:

Whereas, pursuant to Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended (Act 51), it is necessary for the Alma Transit Center (hereby known as THE APPLICANT) established under Act 279 to provide a local transportation program for the state fiscal year of 2021 and, therefore, apply for state financial assistance under provision of Act 51; and

Whereas, it is necessary for the governing body, to name an official representative for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51; and

Whereas, it is necessary to certify that no changes in eligibility documentation have occurred during the past state fiscal year; and

Whereas, the performance indicators have been reviewed and approved by the governing body.

Whereas, the application, has reviewed and approved the proposed balance (surplus) budget, and funding sources of estimated federal funds \$564,482, estimated state funds \$1,196,033, estimated local funds \$1,290,739, with total estimated expenses of \$3,051,254.

(Note: local funds include fare box and any other local revenue)

Now Therefore, be it resolved, that the Applicant hereby makes its intentions known to provide public transportation services and to apply for state financial assistance with this annual plan, in accordance with Act 51; and

Hereby, appoints Brett Baublitz as the Transportation Coordinator, for all transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51 for 2021.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

2020-0008 Resolution to Set the Maximum Asset Standards to be Eligible for a Poverty Exemption

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Pitts, and seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington:

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Maximum Asset Standards is required of the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994 the City of Alma, Gratiot County states that the poverty exemption guidelines established by the governing body of the local assessing unit shall include an asset level test; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alma adopts the following Maximum Asset Standards for a household to be eligible for a **POVERTY EXEMPTION**. The below asset levels **DO NOT** include the value of your homestead. (Per Tribunal ruling 08-13-97, Docket #236230, and the equity of the homestead should not be included within the asset test to be valid).

Combined assets to the total household may not exceed \$5,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated Maximum Asset Standards in granting or denying an exemption and that if your household assets exceed the above stated Maximum Asset Standards you are NOT eligible for a **POVERTY EXEMPTION**.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

2020-00009 Resolution for Poverty Exemption

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Vice-Mayor Harrington, and seconded by Commissioner Pitts:

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the City of Alma, Gratiot County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year *or a signed State Tax Commission form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit.*
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed \$5,000. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but by 5:00pm, one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
- 8) It is recommended that the applicant appear before the board of review for purpose of answering questions the board may have to make a proper determination.

The following are the 2020 federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions

Size of Family Unit	2020 Poverty Guidelines
1	\$12,490
2	\$16,910
3	\$21,330
4	\$25,750
5	\$30,170
6	\$34,590
7	\$39,010
8	\$43,430
For each additional person	\$ 4,420

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Ordinances

2020-00010 Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, to approve a resolution introducing Ordinance #815, an ordinance 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 Ordinance is to rezone the property at 270 Purdy Drive from R1 Single Family Residential District to CI Campus Institutional District, subject to the conditions set forth in the Conditional Rezoning Agreement.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Agreements

2020-00011 Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, to approve a resolution to enter into a lease agreement with Dalton Properties LLC for the lease of cold storage space at property owned by the City of Alma, commonly known as 6524 N. Jerome Road, for the term of one year.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Reports

2020-00012 Motion by Commissioner Piccolo, seconded by Commissioner Allman to approve a resolution to receive the following reports and place them on file: Alma Transit December 2019 Report, Buildings Permits-December and Annual Reports, Police Department December 2019 Report.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Appointments

2020-00013 Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, to approve a resolution to re-appoint Roxann Harrington to the Gratiot Area Water Authority Board for a two year term.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Appropriations

2020-00014 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, for a resolution approving Warrant No. 20-13 and authorizing the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

Resolution declared adopted.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Stahl noted there is a Family Carnival & Expo fundraiser scheduled for January 25, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to support Child Advocacy. The carnival will be held at the YFC Campus Life building on Cheesman Road.

Commissioner Mott also offered thanks to Aeric Ripley and Jeff Naessens for their kind comments about him during the Come Home for the Holidays celebration in December.

All of the commissioners offered good wishes to Sheila Letourneau and Bryan Dinwoody and thanked them for many years of dedicated service. City Manager, Matt Schooley, also offered heartfelt thanks, as well as the City Attorney, Tony Costanzo.

Invitation to Public

No public comment was offered.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo, seconded by Commissioner Stahl, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.

No: none.

Gregory S. Mapes, Mayor, City of Alma

Sara Anderson, City Clerk, City of Alma