

Mayor Greg Mapes called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:01 p.m. in the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Commission was present.

*Roll Call*

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

Absent: none.

**Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Piccolo, Pitts, Stahl, and Wernick.**

**No: none.**

Mayor Mapes led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Wernick, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2021, regular meeting, as presented. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Piccolo, Pitts, Stahl, and Wernick.**

**No: none.**

*Petitions*

*Communications*

*Hearings*

*Consent Agenda*

*Requests for Purchase*

*Recommendation on Bids*

*Resolutions*

**2021-0173 Motion by Commissioner Piccolo, seconded by Commissioner Pitts, to approve the sale of city-owned Lot 12 of Grace Sharrar Addition in the City of Alma (also known as Parcel ID No. 29-51-354-860-00) to Joshua Koppelberger for the amount of \$1,500, also to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a quit claim deed for the sale on behalf of the City of Alma.**

**Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Piccolo, Pitts, Stahl, and Wernick.**

**No: none.**

**Resolution declared adopted.**

*Ordinances*

*Agreements*

*Reports*

**Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Allman, to receive the Alma Transit October 2021 Report, the Alma Downtown Development Authority Minutes of August 12, 2021, and the Planning Commission Minutes of September 13, 2021 and October 4, 2021. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Piccolo, Pitts, Stahl, and Wernick.**

**No: none.**

Interim City Manager Aeric Ripley reviewed the following items in his report:

- Veterans Day activities scheduled for downtown Alma

- Alma Transportation Center

Lengthy discussion followed here regarding the October 18, 2021, recommendation from a joint meeting of the Transit Board and SLPR for an increase to transit driver wages. Some members of the Commission felt the raise was a long-term commitment to a short-term issue, and requested the issues be addressed as a whole, with all the other city departments, during budget preparation. Others felt there was an immediate need to increase wages to provide for easier recruitment and retention of drivers. Finance Director Curtis Dancer explained there is immediate short-term funding available that will be rescinded by the Dept. of Transportation if it is not utilized. Ideas were offered for other recruitment/retention options such as sign-on bonuses, incentives for bringing in new drivers, and incentives for reaching length of service milestones. Other ideas offered included cafeteria style insurance availability, insurance coverage options, or increasing the number of full-time drivers. Transit Director Brett Baublitz will research benefit packages offered by other agencies and develop a range of options that will help immediately but don't constitute a long-term commitment. The issue will be added to the next agenda for consideration. Ripley moved on to review other items in his newsletter.

- Gratiot County Commission ARPA Meeting
- Building Security Walkthrough
- Point Broadband

**Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Pitts, to receive the Interim City Manager's report. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Piccolo, Pitts, Stahl, and Wernick.**

**No: none.**

#### *Appointments*

#### *Unfinished Business*

Commissioners returned to a discussion from the previous meeting on a request for clarification of Resolution No. 2021-0153 (Approval of Hazard Pay for Current Fire and Police Personnel) with respect to payment of employee and employer taxes. Commissioner Pitts indicated that, after reviewing information provided by the Finance Director, that she did not wish to move for any additional payments. Discussion followed regarding the scenarios provided and the payment that had already been made.

**2021-0174 Motion by Allman, seconded by Stahl, to make one additional payment of 7.65% (employee portion of SS and MC taxes) of the previously approved total, to be distributed using the same formula used for the initial payment made in response to the approval of Resolution 2021-0153.**

**Yes: Allman, Piccolo, Pitts, and Stahl.**

**No: Harrington and Wernick.**

**Abstained: Mapes.**

**Resolution declared adopted.**

#### *New Business*

Commissioner Piccolo provided a brief update on the progress of the City Manager Hiring Committee. The group is working to secure approval from applicants before disclosing their names. They are also researching requirements for interviews, options for locations, and the possibility of using advisor groups. Discussion followed about setting a work session.