

Mayor Greg Mapes called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Commission was present.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Roxann Harrington (arrived after roll call).

2022-0013 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion carried.

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

No: none.

Absent: Harrington.

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

2022-0014 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Wernick, to approve minutes of the January 11, 2022 regular meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

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

No: none.

Absent: Harrington.

Petitions

Communications

2022-0015 Motion by Commissioner Piccolo, seconded by Commissioner Pitts, to receive communications regarding the City Manager position. Motion carried.

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

No: none.

Absent: Harrington.

Hearings

Consent Agenda

2022-0016 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Piccolo, to approve a request for payment to the State of Michigan in the amount of \$42,713.00 for a balance due following a final audit of Alma Transit's FY2018.

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

No: none.

Absent: Harrington.

Resolution declared adopted.

Vice-Mayor Harrington arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Requests for Purchase

Recommendation on Bids

Resolutions

2022-0017 Resolution to Set the Maximum Asset Standards to be Eligible for a Poverty Exemption

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Piccolo, 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**.

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

No: none.

Resolution declared adopted.

2022-0018 Resolution for Poverty Exemption

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

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 Form 5737 Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption with the Assessor or Board of Review.
- 3) File Form 5739 Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty.
- 4) File all required additional documentation (such as federal/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*).
- 5) 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.
- 6) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 7) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.