

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

Roll Call

Present: Roger Allman, Andrew Bare, Roxann Harrington, Laurie Harrison, Greg Mapes, and Daniel Wernick.

Absent: Michelle Pitts.

2023-0006 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Wernick, to approve the agenda as amended to include a Planning Commission appointment. Motion carried.
Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.

Members of local Scout troops led those present in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

2023-0007 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington, to approve minutes of the December 27, 2022, regular meeting, with a correction on page three. Motion carried.
Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.

Resolutions

2023-0008 Resolution of Appreciation in Recognition of the Retirement of Jeffrey Hedrick

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick served as a police officer with the Alma Police Department, a law enforcement agency dedicated to the protection of life and property of the citizens of Alma; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick provided 34 years of service to the citizens and community of Alma as a police officer beginning July 1, 1988, and ending September 16, 2022, with his retirement from the Alma Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick was awarded a Life Saving Award for his actions on 5-14-14, saving the life of an Alma citizen under circumstances where lack of action would most likely have resulted in the citizen not surviving; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick was promoted to the position of Detective beginning April 14, 2017, and until the date of his retirement; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick was awarded a Life Saving Award for his actions on 9-25-18, saving the life of an Alma citizen under circumstances where lack of action would most likely have resulted in the citizen not surviving; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on 10-18-21, performing an extraordinary act of heroism that went above and beyond the normal call of duty and was carried out at great risk to personal safety, to protect fellow officers, city staff, and citizens of Alma; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick was recognized by the Child Advocacy Center of Gratiot County in 2022 for participation on the Gratiot County Multi-Jurisdictional Team; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick supported his community throughout his career, participating in numerous community events, such as Shop with a Hero, Toys for Tots, Youth Police Academy, Community Fall Clean Up, and fundraising through the annual Pig Out Event; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick was integral in the design and maintenance of the patrol vehicle fleet for numerous years; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Hedrick assumed the duty as Union President for numerous years; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Alma hereby expresses its great appreciation to Jeffery Hedrick for his dedicated and distinguished service to all citizens within the City of Alma and County of Gratiot; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Mapes, members of the Alma City Commission, City Staff, and citizens of the City of Alma extend an expression of gratitude to Jeffrey Hedrick in the form of this Resolution of Appreciation, in honor of his retirement as a police officer from the Alma Police Department, and that an original copy be presented to Jeffrey Hedrick.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner Allman and seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.

No: none.

Absent: Pitts.

Resolution declared adopted.

2023-0009

Resolution of Appreciation in Recognition of the Retirement of Steve Frost

WHEREAS, STEVE FROST served as a firefighter with the Alma District Fire Department, a public agency dedicated to the protection of life and property from loss by fire and other emergency situations; and,

WHEREAS, STEVE FROST has provided 25 years of service to the District and community as a firefighter beginning December 20, 1996, and ending February 28, 2022, with his retirement from the District; and,

WHEREAS, STEVE FROST has experienced many memorable calls throughout his fire service career, some of which include the Windstorm of '98, and the Downtown Fires of the opera house on October 14, 2010, the 100 block of West Superior on April 25, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, STEVE FROST was promoted to Class B Firefighter on December 20, 1997, promoted to Class A Firefighter September 1, 2000, and fulfilled the role of Engineer, a vital position in helping the District during critical times, and also played a significant role in the training of probationary firefighters, especially in the field of extrication, in 2006 joined the Gratiot County Dive Team; and,

WHEREAS, STEVE FROST honorably represented the Fire Department instructing Fire Prevention in area schools, Shop with a Hero, and in service to his community participated in the Tim Karr Memorial Softball tournaments, finished Fifth Place as part of an Extrication Team Challenge in 2001, finished as a Finalist the first time competing in the Team Combat Challenge in 2002, and organized the Water Ball Tournament in 2019 in celebration of the City of Alma Sesquicentennial; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Alma hereby expresses its great appreciation to STEVE FROST for his dedicated and distinguished service to all citizens within the Alma District Fire Department jurisdiction of Gratiot County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Mapes, members of the Alma City Commission, City Staff, and citizens of the City of Alma extend an expression of gratitude to STEVE FROST in the form of this Resolution of Appreciation, in honor of his retirement as a firefighter from the Alma District Fire Department and that an original copy be presented to STEVE FROST.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner Allman and seconded by Commissioner Wernick.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.

No: none.

Absent: Pitts.

Resolution declared adopted.

2023-0010 Resolution of Appreciation in Recognition of the Retirement of Bob Beard

WHEREAS, BOB BEARD served as a firefighter with the Alma District Fire Department, a public agency dedicated to the protection of life and property from loss by fire and other emergency situations; and,

WHEREAS, BOB BEARD has provided 37 years of service to the District and community as a firefighter beginning January 16, 1984, and ending January 31, 2021, with his retirement from the District; and,

WHEREAS, BOB BEARD was a founding member of the Gratiot County Dive Team in 1985 and diver until his retirement; and,

WHEREAS, BOB BEARD has experienced many memorable calls throughout his fire service career, some of which include the Flood of '86, a plant fire at Total Refinery in '92, the Windstorm of '98, and the Downtown Fires of the opera house on October 14, 2010, the 100 block of West Superior on April 25, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, BOB BEARD was instrumental in writing Standard Operating Procedures for the Fire Department in 2000 which served as a foundation to current procedures; and,

WHEREAS, BOB BEARD has excelled through the ranks of Lieutenant and Captain, achieving the position Deputy Chief, a leader helping the District during critical times, twice attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and also played a significant role in the training of probationary firefighters; and,

WHEREAS, BOB BEARD honorably represented the Fire Department in Shop with a Hero, instructed Fire Prevention in area schools; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Alma hereby expresses its great appreciation to BOB BEARD for his dedicated and distinguished service to all citizens within the Alma District Fire Department jurisdiction of Gratiot County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Mapes, members of the Alma City Commission, City Staff, and citizens of the City of Alma extend an expression of gratitude to BOB BEARD in the form of this Resolution of Appreciation, in honor of his retirement as a firefighter from the Alma District Fire Department and that an original copy be presented to BOB BEARD.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Vice-Mayor Harrington and seconded by Commissioner Allman.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.

No: none.

Absent: Pitts.

Resolution declared adopted.

2023-0011 Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Bare, to adopt a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the 2022 Application for Certification for the community of Alma to be officially certified as a Tree City USA, having achieved the standards set forth by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.

No: none.

Absent: Pitts.

Resolution declared adopted.

Ordinances
2023-00012

Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington, to approve a resolution to adopt Ordinance No. 838, an ordinance to amend Section 30-22 of the Code of Ordinances to allow for the use of injunctive relief in municipal civil infraction cases.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.

No: none.

Absent: Pitts.

Resolution declared adopted.

Reports

2023-00013 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington, to receive the Alma Police Department December 2022 Report and the 2022 Year-End Building Permits Report. Motion carried.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.

2023-0014 Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Allman, to receive the FY 2023 2nd Quarter Finance Report and the City Manager's Report.

Finance Director Curtis Dancer provided a brief overview of his report. Dancer noted the Parks and Cemetery department are showing higher costs due to a lower number of seasonal employees. Discussion followed about difficulties in finding seasonal workers and resulting higher costs.

City Manager Aeris Ripley reviewed items in his report. Discussion followed and Commissioners came to a consensus for eliminating the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee in favor of full board review of issues.

Motion to receive reports carried.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.

Appointments

2023-0015 Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Wernick, to adopt a resolution to appoint the City Manager Aeris Ripley and the Mayor Greg Mapes to the Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. Board of Directors for a one-year term expiring December 31, 2023.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.
Resolution declared adopted.

No action was taken on the agenda item for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Alma District Fire Board. Discussion was held regarding current Fire Board meeting times. Commission members agreed to check personal schedules and revisit the issue at a later date.

2023-0016 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington, to postpone appointment to the Finance Committee indefinitely. Motion carried.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.

2023-0017 Motion by Commissioner Bare, seconded by Commissioner Allman, to adopt a resolution to appoint William Gorton to the Alma City Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2026.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.
Resolution declared adopted.

Unfinished Business

2023-0018 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington, to ratify a Conditional Zoning Agreement for 224 E. Center Street, pursuant to the adoption of Ordinance No. 837 on December 13, 2022, re-zoning the parcel from Zone B-1, Central Business District, to Zone R-1, Single Family Residential.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.
Resolution declared adopted.

Appropriations

2023-0019 Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Wernick, to adopt a resolution approving Warrant No. 23-13 and authorizing the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.
Resolution declared adopted.

Commissioner Comments

Vice-Mayor Harrington mentioned a scheduling issue with a student's commute using Alma Transit and asked for assistance. Staff will investigate. Harrington thanked everyone for their support. Other Commissioners offered congratulations to the Mayor and Vice-Mayor and welcomed newcomers. Mayor Mapes Commissioners and staff for support and also thanked Scouts for attending the meeting.

Public Comment

No comments were offered.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Harrison, seconded by Commissioner Allman, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Motion carried.

Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Pitts.

Greg Mapes, Mayor, City of Alma

Sara Anderson, City Clerk, City of Alma

Date of Approval