

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, Michelle Pitts, and Daniel Wernick.

Absent: none.

2023-0020 Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Pitts, to approve an amendment to the agenda removing presentation of a resolution of appreciation for Commissioner Piccolo, and postponing the action to the next meeting. Motion carried.
Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, Pitts, and Wernick.
No: none.

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

2023-0021 Motion by Commissioner Harrison, seconded by Vice-Mayor Harrington, to approve minutes of the January 10, 2023, organizational meeting with corrections, and the January 10, 2023, regular meeting, as presented. Motion carried.
Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrington, Harrison, Mapes, Pitts, and Wernick.
No: none.

Resolutions

2023-0022 RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Whereas, Audra Stahl has faithfully served the City of Alma as a City Commissioner since January 1, 2019, and

Whereas, Audra has played a key role in the economic and community development of Alma throughout her tenure on the Commission and through such projects as the neighborhood street projects on Hannah Ave., Pleasant Ave., Ferris Street, approval of a Planned Unit Development for the former Middle School property, the City Park Restroom Reconstruction/Rehabilitation project, development in the downtown area including the Wright Leppien Opera House, creation of new upper story apartment units, a hotel, and the rehabilitation of the parking lots 4 and 8, which included the first two electric vehicle charging stations, and

Whereas, Audra has supported intergovernmental relations within the county with neighboring City of St. Louis, City of Ithaca, and Pine River Township in the expansion of the Alma Transportation System through a voter approved millage in those communities and served on the Local Advisory Committee working closely with SLIPR ensuring the success of the expanded service area, and

Whereas, Audra supported the successful passage of a new 6-Year Neighborhood Street Improvement Initiative, and grants strengthening the Alma Public Safety, Public Works, Library, Information Technology, and Transportation departments, and

Whereas, Audra carried out her fiduciary responsibilities during COVID, one of the city and nations' most trying times, serving the community virtually to maintain transparency and the services provided by the city to its citizens, and

Whereas, Audra supported the many community events, including by not limited to the Alma Highland Festival and Games, Lucky MacDuck, the US127 Car Tour, the Back to the Bricks Tour, the Alma College and Alma High School Homecoming parades, the Alma All Class Reunion, Come Home to Alma for the Holidays, the newly created Alma Alive!, and the MSU Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference, bringing over 75 communities to Alma for a day and a half of learning, and

Now Therefore Be It Proclaimed that Alma City Commission, City staff, and citizens of the Alma community express their heartfelt gratitude for the contributions of Audra Stahl throughout her tenure as an elected official for the City of Alma and further extend their wishes for her continued success as she once again becomes a "private citizen" following the expiration of her term on December 31, 2022, and

Be It Further Proclaimed that this resolution be presented to Commissioner Audra Stahl at the January 24, 2023 City Commission Meeting and that this resolution be entered in the official minutes of the Alma City Commission.

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

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

No: none.

Resolution declared adopted.

2023-0023

CITY OF ALMA POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

Whereas the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the City of Alma Commission; and

Whereas, the principal residence of persons, who the Assessor and Board of Review determines by reasons of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under Public Act 390, 1994 (MCL211.7u); and

Whereas, pursuant to PA 390, 1994, City of Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan 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 of the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner or and occupy as a homestead property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File Form 5737 Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption.
- 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 homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 5) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
- 6) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
- 7) Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
- 8) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review.
- 9) The property in question contains enough acreage that at least one or more buildable lots could be split from the main parcel under the land division act, the township will count the value of any additional parcel that could be split when calculating the applicant's total assets.
- 10) Total assets shall not be more than \$2,000.00.
- 11) Fixed assets shall be limited to one house and one vehicle for the claimant and no house and one vehicle for each adult person residing with claimant.

The following are the 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.