

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, Laurie Harrison, Greg Mapes, Michelle Pitts, and Daniel Wernick.
Absent: Roxann Harrington.

2023-0074 Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Wernick, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrison, Mapes, Pitts, 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.

2023-0075 Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve minutes of the March 14, 2023, regular meeting and closed session, as presented. Motion carried.
Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrison, Mapes, Pitts, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Harrington.

Resolutions

2023-0076 Motion by Commissioner Bare, seconded by Commissioner Pitts, to adopt a resolution approving the Alma Highland Festival Committee's request to operate their entertainment tent from 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Friday, May 26th, noon to 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 27th and 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday May 28, 2023, pursuant to Ordinance No. 695 which allows the City Commission to approve the three-day variance to the noise ordinance.

Mayor Mapes advised he would be abstaining from the vote as he is currently a member of the Highland Festival Committee.

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

Reports

2023-0077 Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Bare, to receive the Planning Commission Draft Minutes of March 20, 2023. Motion carried.
Yes: Allman, Bare, Harrison, Mapes, Pitts, and Wernick.
No: none.
Absent: Harrington.

2023-0078 Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Allman, to receive the City Manager's Newsletter.

City Manager Aeris Ripley provided information on bids received for a sanitary sewer project and advised the options presented for water and sewer rate increases will need to be revised. Discussion followed about the five-year plan options presented and Ripley asked for direction. Commission members asked for an additional option that would be a median of the first two options for rate increases. Ripley agreed to send additional information.

Ripley reviewed information requested at the last meeting regarding transit drivers. Discussion followed. There were no objections to approval of the pay grade level change.

Ripley reviewed applications for recreational marihuana establishments and noted the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Ripley asked if the Commission preferred to create a subcommittee or work together as a whole for scoring and licensing. Commissioners agreed to do individual scoring and provide scores to the City Clerk for tallying. Mayor Mapes advised he will abstain from the process as one of the properties in question is currently owned by his employer.

Ripley briefly reviewed scheduling for budget presentation, review and approval.

Motion to receive the City Manager's Newsletter carried.

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

No: none.

Absent: Harrington.

New Business

2023-0079

Motion by Commissioner Bare, seconded by Commissioner Pitts, to receive a report concerning the establishment of Special Assessment District #2023-1 for construction of sanitary sewers leads and Special Assessment District #2023-2 for construction of sidewalk on Harvard Avenue in conjunction with the 2021 Capital Improvement Project, and Special Assessment District #2023-3 for construction of sanitary sewer leads in conjunction with the North of Washington sanitary sewer replacement project. Motion carried.

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

No: none.

Absent: Harrington.

2023-0080

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

Whereas, the City Commission has ordered the City Assessor to prepare a special assessment roll on as-built costs for the purpose of assessing the special assessment district's share of the cost of the **Harvard Avenue Construction Project Sewer Leads in Special Assessment District No. 2023-1 and Sidewalks in Special Assessment District No. 2023-2.**

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that:

1. The City Commission shall meet at the Commission Chambers in the Municipal Building in the City of Alma on April 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll.
2. The special assessment roll and the report of the City Manager concerning said public improvement shall be filed with the City Clerk and shall be available for public examination.

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

No: none.

Absent: Harrington.

Resolution declared adopted.

2023-0081

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

Whereas, the City Commission has ordered the City Assessor to prepare a special assessment roll on as-built costs for the purpose of assessing the special assessment district's share of the cost of the **North of Washington Sewer Leads Construction Project in Special Assessment District No. 2023-3.**

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that:

1. The City Commission shall meet at the Commission Chambers in the Municipal Building in the City of Alma on April 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll.

2. The special assessment roll and the report of the City Manager concerning said public improvement shall be filed with the City Clerk and shall be available for public examination.

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

Mayor Mapes suggested taking public comments prior to moving into closed session.

Appropriations

2023-0082 Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Allman, to adopt a resolution approving Warrant No. 23-18 and authorizing the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

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

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Wernick suggested placing requests for closed session at the end of an agenda as a matter of course in the future. Commissioner Harrison offered thoughts and prayers for those affected by the school shooting in Nashville. Commissioner Pitts offered condolences to Mr. Stuckey's family.

Public Comment

Chris Maltby of Alma, shared information about a proposed pump track for Conservation Park.

Unfinished Business

2023-0083 Motion by Commissioner Allman, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to enter into a closed session, permitted under Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act MCL 15.268, at 6:57 p.m. regarding the purchase or lease of real property.

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


City Commissioners and staff left Chambers and entered an adjoining meeting room to conduct the closed session.

Commission members and staff returned to Chambers at 7:05 p.m. and the regular public meeting was reconvened.


Adjournment

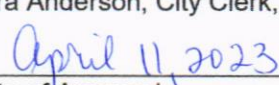
Motion by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Wernick, to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried.

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



Greg Mapes, Mayor, City of Alma



Sara Anderson, City Clerk, City of Alma


Date of Approval