

City of Alcester  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 18th, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Council President Reppe called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Council members present: Kerry Hedden, Darla Reppe, Julia Sundstrom, Kendra Hatle, and Brian Johnson.

Others Present: Finance Officer David Hodgson, Deputy Finance Officer Kris Hedden, Anne McDole, Brenda Akland, Rich Akland, Jeff Christie, Dale Pearson, Doyle Fickbohm, Babe Merchant, Jeremiah Nilson, Jared Driesen, Trudy Hedden, Aaron Norman, Carter Roberts, LeeAnn Haisch, Deb Hughes, Zane Fickbohm, Tom VanRooyen, Christa Hamann, Jessy Paulson, Jaimey Schempp, Marvie Swanson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

J Sundstrom moved and B Johnson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. Unanimous.

No candidates presented themselves for the open Ward I Alderman seat or for Mayor at this time.

K Hedden moved and K Hatle seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes of Wednesday, June 5th, 2024. Motion carried. Unanimous.

For public input: Reva Sharples, new editor of The Republic newspaper introduced herself to the council and briefly discussed her background. Darla Reppe discussed conversations had regarding reducing annual pool pass rates once the pool opens for the year stating this will be brought forward at a future meeting once pool opening timeline is known. No other public input provided.

For Park Revitalization: Aaron Norman and Carter Roberts introduced themselves and their firm, Norman Engineering, as the firm hired by the park committee to work on the assessment and plans. They will be meeting with city staff and park committee volunteers on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm at the city office to begin discussions on the project. Then the group will tour the park area to evaluate current infrastructure and layouts. Future meetings with the public will be planned and announced and the two remained after the meeting for further questions from the public or council. Finance Officer Hodgson then announced that the park committee has been notified they were awarded the Community Impact Grant from Poet for \$2,000 to be used on the project.

For legal updates: Attorney Austin Felts had no updates other than stating they are finalizing a new ordinance for a future meeting as well as the ordinance on tonight's agenda. Deputy Jeff Christie the spoke on behalf of the Sheriff's office that they continue to meet or exceed their contracted hours and have had no major issues.

Jaimey Schempp, Branch Manager Premier Bank in Alcester, next presented to council a request from the bank for their remodel. The bank asks the council to consider allowing them to relocate the drive-up window to the east side of the bank. Doing so would require the city to either sell the sidewalk tract in that location or vacate the space in accordance with state laws. Plans from McLaury Engineering were presented to council and several questions were asked and answered about the specifics of the plans and designs. D Reppe mentioned that over the past week she had spent time downtown monitoring traffic and parking around the bank, mentioning she saw few cars parked in the proposed area. She mentions that the new design is much improved from previously brought forth. No action taken at this time and will be discussed further at next council meeting.

Finance Officer Hodgson then presented an update received from Code Enforcement Officer Tim Austin. Council reviewed and no questions brought forward at this time.

Attorney A Felts introduced Ordinance 2024-07 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8.01 General Provisions to the council and a brief explanation of what these changes were. After discussion and adding some additional clarification language K Hatle moved and B Johnson seconded to approve the first reading with amended language.

Finance Officer Hodgson and D Reppe gave an update on the pool repairs. It was discovered that all the PVC plumbing surrounding the pool was severely deteriorated and needed to be replaced. The supplies required were able to be obtained within the amount that was generously donated and are on site. Once the weather improves work will resume and the contractor is still hoping to be able to finish the work in the next several weeks. When asked about schedule for swimming lessons, they are tentatively scheduled for mid to end of July and early August for both sessions and will be announced once open.

Council was then presented with a city property inspection report with recommendations to be done. Finance Officer Hodgson explained that completing these recommendations will allow for a rebate on insurance premiums and that the city has 60 days

to complete or plan to complete these recommendations if they so choose and return the report to the insurance company. Brief discussion on the recommendation of re-siding the old clubhouse and what that would potentially cost with more information to be provided at the next council meeting. No action taken.

B Johnson then moved and K Hedden seconded to approve paying Banner Associates invoice 4249 in the amount of \$23,872.36 for work completed on the WasteWater Treatment Plant project through May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion carried. Unanimous.

K Hatle discussed with council the need for an additional full time seasonal employee within the Public Works Department being that many of the seasonal employees are older and with the work load it is difficult for everyone to keep up. Further discussion was had about possibly utilizing some of the older lifeguard staff this summer until a permanent job description and the budget can be completed for FY2025. D Reppe will discuss this with the pool staff.

Finance Officer Hodgson presented council with an updated year to date financial report, no questions from council at this time. Next, he presented the finalized fiscal year 2022 auditor's report from ELO CPA's. This report is available at the city office for anyone wishing to view it and finally he mentions that ELO will be onsite next week to begin 2023 audit.

For updates and reminders, city-wide rummage sale will be on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> with postings at Alcester Quickstop and Total Stop as well as city website and Facebook page, and chamber Facebook page. First Alcester Farmer's Market Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00PM. Vendors interested should contact the city office.

With no further business J Sundstrom moved and K Hedden seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Unanimous. D Reppe declared council adjourned at 7:02PM.

CITY OF ALCESTER, SOUTH DAKOTA

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Darla Reppe, Council President

ATTEST:

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David Hodgson, Finance Officer