

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALCESTER CITY COUNCIL

The Alcester City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2023. Council President Darla Reppe called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM with the following Council Members present: Darla Reppe, Kerry Hedden, Cyndi Peebles, Julia Sundstrom, and Brian Johnson- Kendra Hatle was present via phone until her arrival at 6:44 PM. Also present were Scott Conner, Vickie Larsen, Landon Nygard, Chief Thompson, Officer Kleinschmit, Lonnie Johnson, Abigail Moore and Sam Nelson. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cyndi made a motion to approve the agenda; Brian seconded. 5 voted aye.

For Mayor Interviews- Sam Nelson expressed his opinion that former Mayor Driesen resigned at the time specified on his original resignation letter, stating that the retraction letter does not stand. He said Darla Reppe has been operating appropriately as President. Vickie Larsen presented a case in a West Virginia school district where a resignation was not accepted and the individual was permitted to return. Sam replied that while that is an accurate case, it does not apply to the City's current issue. The conclusion reached was that Lukas Driesen may not return without the proper appointment. This concluded Mayor Interviews.

For Public Input- Scott Conner asked Sam Nelson for further clarification on the vacancy and if former Mayor Driesen had officially resigned. Sam responded by saying that even though in the past the Council had voted to accept resignations there was no statute stating that this was necessary, and as such the resignation stands. This concluded Public Input.

For General Policies Discussion- Vickie Larsen expressed a need for legal transparency. She asked for details on projects where Patricia Jurens, Geoff Fillingsness and Sam Nelson worked together, and how much time was spent on those. She also requested that all legal opinions from the attorneys be presented in written form. The next item for discussion was the artwork that had been displayed in City Hall and is still displayed in some City entities, and whether the City made a profit from or were billed for displaying them. Mrs. Larsen stated that the Council should consult with local tradesman when beginning a project. She then stated that the Finance Office should have a simple filing system, so that the Council Members could find items as easily as those working in the office. Next, she asked that the Council Committees have members who have an expertise in the particular department, and for regular meetings to be held within the department. Mrs. Larsen requested that all documents to be discussed at the meetings be posted on the City Website along with the agenda, and finally expressed concern with a Council Member working in the Finance Office. This concluded General Policies Discussion.

For Community Center/ Golf Course Updates- Landon Nygard presented the Council with a profit and loss for recent Mondays, and expressed that we have been losing money on those days rather than making a profit. It was discussed that the Clubhouse remain open on Mondays until Labor Day with Wanda Halverson working the morning and potentially leaving a payment box for green fees after her shift. Cyndi made a motion to approve spending under \$1000 to have the carpet cleaned in the event hall; Julia seconded. 5 voted aye. Brian made a motion to approve advertising for part-time servers and bartenders; Kendra seconded. 5 voted aye. Darla discussed renting the dining room to Mindie Selchert on the night of graduation for \$50, no motion was needed. She then stated that the construction crew did not arrive for the Community Center final walk-through, and that they would be attempting to contact them. If there is no follow-up from the crew the Council may seek legal action. Landon received 2 quotes for removing a damaged tree on the golf course. One was from Scott Persing for \$2000 and he would haul the tree away, and the other was from Lukas Driesen for \$1000 if the City hauled away the tree. Kendra made a motion to approve paying Lukas Driesen \$1000 to remove the tree and to have the Street Department

haul the parts away; Kerry seconded. 5 voted aye. This concluded Community Center/ Golf Course Updates.

For Police Department- Darla said that item a., Bike Incident Discuss, was no longer needed. Officer Kleinschmit thanked the volunteers for National Night Out and estimated the event had a turn out of about 150 people. This concluded Police Department.

For Legal Updates- Sam Nelson stated that there is no ordinance for construction setbacks in the front yard of homes, but that the 25-foot back yard setback should be amended. He said that an amendment will be written regarding all setbacks, including fences. Kendra made a motion to appoint Abigail Moore and Darla Reppe as authorized officials to act on behalf of the City pursuant to Ordinance; Cyndi seconded. 5 voted aye. For yard nuisances, Sam recommended the City write a letter of warning first to the home, and further action would be taken by the Mayor and/or Code Enforcement Officer if necessary. The final step would be issuing a fine, and if the fine is not paid the property could be cleaned by the City and billed to the homeowner. This concluded Legal Updates.

HRC Updates was no longer needed, as Sam said that Darla Reppe would be authorized to sign the sale paperwork without a motion.

For Wass Funeral Home- Kerry made a motion to place two Handicapped parking spaces at the corner of Iowa and Main Street; Cyndi seconded. 5 voted aye. Further research would be done regarding who is authorized to place the signs and the fees involved. This concluded Wass Funeral Home.

For Camera Quotes- Chief Thompson discussed the camera positioning for City Hall with the SafeNSecure representative, and believed that a camera in the main hall and a camera in the North East corner of City Hall would be sufficient. Further discussion was tabled until the next Council Meeting. This concluded Camera Quotes.

For Old Clubhouse- Darla showed the Old Clubhouse to the interested party, and stated that she would be at the next Council Meeting to present her plans and discuss possibilities with the Council. This concluded Old Clubhouse Discussion.

For Banner Associates- Tanya Miller was present over the phone to discuss the amendment for the sewer project contract. The amendment allows Banner to apply for more funding in October in order to cover improving the collections system in the City. The fees would include advertising for a Public Hearing, the applications for the funding, and meetings. Kendra made a motion to propose to complete the described Engineering Services for the hourly amount including reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$8,200, plus taxes; Brian seconded. 5 voted aye. The Council will approve the application for funding and the amendment at the September 5th meeting. Julia made a motion to approve paying Banner Associates \$9547.37 from the Sewer Fund for services already completed; Brian seconded. 5 voted aye. This concluded Banner Associates.

For Pool Updates- Darla Reppe discussed potential fund raising for a new pool, and reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce for assistance. This concluded Pool Updates.

For 2024 Budget Review- Kendra Hatle presented the current figures for the 2024 budget in progress, and will have a full outline by the September 5th Meeting. She discussed changing over to a new software system that was recommended by Kristin Voegel, the Finance Officer of Centerville. The new system, Banyon, would allow the water billing, payroll and accounting software to function on the same program. She also mentioned potentially creating a new City website that could be integrated with this software to be more user-friendly. This concluded 2024 Budget Review.

For Finance Office Updates- Abigail Moore stated that there has been minimal interest locally in the position of Finance Officer, and that she would look into posting the job on larger online services. Cyndi made a motion to approve paying \$25 per hour to Kristin Vogel for Finance Office Help; Julia seconded. 5 voted aye. Sam expressed concern regarding Cyndi Peebles being an employee of the City as well as an Alderman and said he would research further the laws allowing her to work in the office. Brian made a motion to approve paying Cyndi Peebles \$13 per hour as Finance Office help; Kerry seconded. 4 voted aye, Cyndi abstained. This would be payment for hours already worked. Kendra received 2 applications for Custodian and would reach out to interview the individuals. Paid Time Off and Sick Leave Payout discussion was tabled until the next meeting. A Planning and Zoning meeting was held on August 21, 2023 at 6PM, the next Council Meeting will be held September 5, 2023 at 6PM and Alcester-Hudson started classes August 17, 2023. This concluded Finance Office Updates.

Cyndi made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 9:25PM and requested a police officer be present; Kendra seconded. 5 voted aye. Council came out of Executive Session at 9:41PM. Kendra made a motion to accept the resignations of Lukas Driesen as Mayor and Kyle VandenHull as Alderman; Cyndi seconded. 4 voted aye, Kerry voted nay. Motion passed.

Kendra made a motion to adjourn Council; Brian seconded. 5 voted aye. Council adjourned at 9:42PM.

CITY OF ALCESTER

Darla Reppe, City Council President

ATTEST:

Abigail Moore, Deputy Finance Officer