

Regular Meeting of the Alcester City Council

Unapproved Minutes

The Alcester City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday January 4th, 2024.

Mayor Driesen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following Council Members present: Darla Reppe, Kerry Hedden, Kendra Hatle, and Julia Sundstrom. Brian Johnson was absent. Also, present were City Attorney Sam Nelson, Officer Kyle Kleinschmit, Finance Officer David Hodgson, Deputy Finance Officer Kris Hedden, Wanda Halverson, Farrell Anderson, Jon Serck, Lonnie Johnson, David Larsen, and Howard Closson.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Darla made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye

No Alderman interviews were needed. Motion was then made by Kerry and seconded by Darla to approve the meeting minutes from December 19th, 2023 meeting. All voted aye.

For Public Input Howard Closson discussed the letter he received regarding the request to inspect his home and the previous inspection. He stated that the previous inspection warrant was expired and that nobody was going to inspect his home. He did state he had made some improvements to the home as his limited retiree income has allowed him. He allowed Attorney Sam Nelson to read the letter he was sent by Attorney Felts and further discussion was held with no action taken at this time. Next Jon Serck discussed the sewer back-up that happened at his home on October 28th. He understands that the city is not reimbursing his expenses for the after hours call to a service to inspect his sewer line but asks that in the future the city has an after-hours emergency service number posted for townspeople to call. Discussion was held regarding how best to distribute that number other than the website and he suggested including it on the postcard sent with utility bills. He also mentioned that the city office voicemail has been full and he was unable to leave a message at the office for anyone. Next Dave Larsen discussed he felt the city should consider raising the fees for the golf course to better align the city with courses in nearby towns. This concluded public input.

For Water Meter Project Farrell Anderson from Metering Technology Solutions introduced himself and his company. He presented several options to the council for water meters with cellular capable technology that the city council had previously looked into several years ago. He also presented them with a proposal for each meter option. Further discussion was held and that the city would have to hire a plumbing company to install either meter if they chose this option. No action was taken at this time.

For Legal Updates Attorney Nelson had no updates at this time. Darla asked a question regarding how an inspection would work for properties and this process was explained by him.

For 2024 Retainer Agreement proposal given to the city for approval Attorney Nelson discussed the proposal. He explained the rate increase from \$150 per hour to \$175 per hour. He discussed way for the city to lower their costs by limiting their services and only attending meeting when necessary and only for portions their input was required rather than for entire meetings. Also discussed was the importance of effective communication being able to limit their time and billing. Kendra asked how their billing is done and this was explained. Motion was then made by Kendra to approve the Retainer Agreement with Frieberg, Nelson, & Ask for 2024. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye.

For 2024 Official Newspaper Darla made a motion to approve Alcester-Beresford-Hudson Republic as official newspaper for City of Alcester for 2024. Seconded by Kendra and all voted aye.

For 2024 Official Bank a motion was made by Kerry to approve Premier Bank as Official Bank for City of Alcester, 2024. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye.

For Finance Office Finance Officer discussed the upcoming election. The City will combine with the school again for this year's election and he mentioned when petitions can be started for those running. A motion was made by Darla to approve December Warrants. Seconded by Kendra and all voted aye. Salaries – FO 4561.38, Police – 5837.31, Street – 4232.42, Snow – 91.88, Water – 3470.12, Sewer – 4000.00, Library – 1227.64, Solid Waste – 180.95, Golf Course – 11601.13, Mayor – 370, Council – 1878.63, Bomgaar's \$391.76, Axel Ericson Electric – \$378.83, Alcester Fire Department - \$1,400.00, Core & Main – \$960.00, One Office Solution - \$322.35, Olson's Ace Hardware - \$288.92, Anderson Brothers Construction – \$343.60, Chestermans - \$588.10, Reinhart/Performance Food Group - \$3,630.51, Muller Auto Parts - \$241.36, Ingram Library Services - \$535.79, New Century Press - \$316.12, Sysco - \$10,852.90, Appeara - \$532.17, Iowa Information Group - \$319.70, Banyon Data Systems - \$4,010.00, South Dakota Municipal League - \$5,032.00, Banner Engineering - \$7968.02, Sun Life Financial - \$52.11, Mid-American Energy - \$3,028.81, G&R Controls - \$150.00, Alcester Towing - \$232.65, Alcester Industrial Park - \$1,000.00, SD Dept of Revenue - \$1,117.58, Southeastern Electric - \$1,741.06, VFW Post #6149 - \$25.00, City of Alcester - \$100.08, L.P. Gill - \$1,831.97, Haugan Heating & Air - \$2,050.00 (Community Center Fund), Dustex - \$40.94, Equipment Blades Inc - \$239.86, Boyer Machine - \$112.45, Verizon Wireless - \$80.02, Ecolab - \$83.42, A-H Schools - \$2760.00 (library computer reimbursement from library fund), Wellmark - \$2,919.98, Airgas - \$364.24, Industrial Process Technology - \$161,731.35, USPS - \$612.00 (postcard stamps), Water Patron deposit refund - \$150.00, Square Inc. - \$191.16, Visa - \$1,762.92, J.P. Cooke - \$ 163.75, Loffler - \$216.02, Loren Fischer - \$160.34, Alliance Communications - \$629.00, Pete's Produce - \$389.41, Bluestone Landscape - \$417.51, Alcester Quickstop - \$33.04, South Lincoln Rural Water - \$5,775.90, Jack's Uniforms - \$125.95, Total Stop Food - \$635.90, Your Daily Dose - \$4.66, Premier Bank (HSA Contribution) \$600.00, Premier Bank (ACH filing fee) - \$20.00, C&R Supply - \$230.61, John Conkling Dist. - \$277.40, Dakota Beverage - \$581.55, Johnson Brothers Dist. - \$424.95, IRS (Payroll taxes) - \$8,467.46. Finance Officer presented the proposed resolution and increases that were made from the prior year. Motion was then made by Darla to approve Resolution for City of Alcester, 2024 Resolution of Fees. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye. A motion was then made by Julia to approve April 9th 2024 as the date of the annual election at Alcester City office. Seconded by Kerry and all voted aye. Finance Officer discussed

that a vacancy notice has been sent to the newspaper for publication. For 2024 salaries a motion was made by Darla to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2-1 Personnel. Seconded by Kerry and all voted aye. The council was declared in Executive Session at 7:05pm. The council was declared out of Executive Session at 7:31pm. A motion was made by Darla to approve the 2024 Salaries. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye.

For the City Website Update Finance Officer presented that the present webhost company, Catalis, originally was not going to charge the city for time in 2024 until the change to the new website, now they have invoiced the city and will refund once the change happens. This will be prorated by the month. Further discussion was held on the state of the new website and Julia has been working on this and is close to being ready to have the new site go live. Some things will require ongoing work to get them completely updated. After further discussion a motion was made to approve payment to Catalis in the amount of \$780.90 for 2024 website hosting services. Seconded by Darla and all voted aye.

For Golf Course a proposal for a new Fairway Mower and Greens Roller was presented by Lonnie Johnson. After this was discussed, a motion was made by Julia to approve the purchase of a 2012 Toro 5210 Fairway Mower from Hiawatha Golf Club in Canton for \$8,000.00 and a 2017 Tru Turf RB48 Greens Roller from Dakota Custom Turf for \$7,900.00 from the 2024 Golf Course equipment budget. Seconded by Darla and all voted aye.

For Garbage Collection Contract Update Finance Officer mentions that the contract was advertised for bidding and no new companies presented proposals. A motion was made by Kendra to approve re-signing Loren Fischer contract for 2024 through 2025. Seconded by Kerry and all voted aye.

For Public Safety the monthly stat report was presented to the council and discussed. Several incidences were discussed. One regarding a person tapping on someone's windows at night and a second where a citizen had all four tires on three of his vehicles slashed. Officer Kleinschmit added that this investigation is ongoing and had no further input. A motion was then made by Kendra to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2-4 Contract Negotiations. Seconded by Kerry and all voted aye. The mayor declared the council in executive session at 7:51pm. The council was declared out of Executive Session at 8:43pm. A motion was then made by Kendra to contract with Union County for police services, subject to the terms and conditions negotiated with the Union County Sheriff's office, by a roll call vote. The mayor called a roll call vote with Julia, Darla, Kendra, and Kerry voting aye. The motion was passed.

No further Executive Session was needed and Darla made a motion to adjourn the City Council. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye. The mayor declared the council adjourned at 8:45pm.

The following are 2024 salaries (per hour): Mayor \$200 per month & \$50 per meeting, Alderman \$100 per month & \$40 per meeting, Hannah Ahart \$7.87, James Anderson \$17.44, Rhonda Bushby \$10.11, Curt Gilbertson \$15.37, Dale Jorgensen \$15.37, Jeffery Jackels \$15.37, David Larsen \$15.37, Geoffery Fillingsness \$25.75, Custodian \$12.00, Kelsey Erickson \$18.02,

Michael Croy \$17.42, Dale Pearson \$26.50, Lonnie Johnson \$27.00, Paige German \$16.20, Landon Nygard \$18.02, Kris Hedden \$16.96, Dave Hodgson \$26.50, Dee Cole \$15.00, Ella Erickson \$7.87, Emma Erickson \$7.87, Wanda Halverson \$8.43, Eldean Hartman \$13.78, Devin Hongslo \$7.87, Zach Kemner \$13.78, Ava Kingma \$7.87, Keagan Klemme \$11.66, Jenna Manning \$7.87, Mitch Merrick \$17.44, Joni Schempp \$8.43, Jenna Smith \$16.00, Blake Wielenga \$13.78, Pool: Lifeguard (1st year) \$12.00, Lifeguard (2nd year) \$12.50, Lifeguard – WSI (1st year) \$13.00, Lifeguard – WSI (2nd year) \$13.50, Lifeguard – WSI/Pool Manager \$14.00, Eldean Hartman \$13.78, Mitch Merrick \$17.44,

City of Alcester

Lukas Driesen, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Hodgson, Finance Officer