

## Regular Meeting of the Alcester City Council

The Alcester City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday November 21st, 2023.

Mayor Driesen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following Council Members present: Darla Reppe, Kerry Hedden, Kendra Hatle, Julia Sundstrom, with Brian Johnson absent. Also present were Finance Officer David Hodgson, city attorney Austin Felts, Vickie Larson, Shaleen Allen, Clayton Jacobson, Boe Boyer, Tanya Miller, Cheryl Johnson, and Trudy Hedden. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Julia made a motion to approve the agenda with no changes. Seconded by Kerry, and all voted aye.

No Alderman candidates for the Ward I vacancy were present. Ward I vacancy remains open until filled.

Kendra made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Seconded by Darla and all voted aye

For public input Vickie Larson stated that her blog and the views contained within it are hers alone and that if any person has issues with that, they should discuss with her and not the city. No other public input.

The council moved on to agenda item 10 at this time due to being ahead of schedule for the public hearing.

For the finance office Kerry made a motion to approve applications for abatement of property taxes for addresses: 505 Ofstad, 204 Ofstad, and 103 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Seconded by Darla and all voted aye. A motion was made by Darla to approve payment of taxes still due after abatement on properties 505 Ofstad, 204 Ofstad, and 103 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St in the amount of \$321.64 from the General Fund. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye. Motion was made by Kendra to approve purchase of Banyon software per their proposal to include UBLite, UBLite Online Pay module, and annual support costs in the amount of \$4,010.00. Seconded by Kerry and all voted aye. Motion was made by Kendra to approve purchase of discounted Banyon software for fund accounting for \$3,196.00 and payroll software for \$1,836.00 through the SD Municipal League discount program. Seconded by Darla and all voted aye. Items e & f were tabled for future discussion.

For the Waste Water Treatment Plant a motion was made by Darla to approve change order 5. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye.

For city utilities a letter from L.P. Gill Landfill was read notifying the city of the increase in rates effective January 1, 2024. Next finance officer discussed that the current contract for garbage services with Loren Fischer expires at the end of December. Due to the turn over in the office,

the window to advertise for bids was missed and a new 3-year contract was sent to Loren Fischer to serve the city through the end of 2026.

For legal updates attorney discussed that he had a conversation with code official Geoff Fillingsness regarding nuisance properties and that they are coming up at the end of the term provided by the city to come into compliance. Also discussed was snow removal and that the city can hire contract labor for snow removal and bill the property owner if they do not comply with snow removal ordinances. Motion was then made by Darla to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALCESTER, SD, AMENDING THE REVISED MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES CITY OF ALCESTER, SOUTH DAKOTA BY AMENDING CHAPTER 7.04 SPEED RESTRICTIONS– 2014 REVISED ALCESTER MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALCESTER, SOUTH DAKOTA. Seconded by Kendra and all voted aye. Motion was then made by Darla to amend previous motion to read Ordinance 2023-09 as it was typed wrong in the agenda.

For public hearing on Phase I Sanitary Sewer Collection System Improvements Tanya Miller from Banner Engineering introduced Phase I of the project. This project would include the sewer collection pipe under Ofstad St, in the alley between Ofstad St and Union St, in the alley between Union St and Broad St, and First St from Ofstad St to the alley East of Iowa St. Work would begin with cleaning and televising of the system. Replacement/rehabilitation of the vitrified clay tile piping laid in approximately 1939 would consist of two options: a cured-in-place pipe rehabilitation or a conventional open-cut replacement. She next described the costs associated with both options. Cured-in-place rehabilitation would cost an estimated \$2,825,000.00 and the Open-cut replacement would cost an estimated \$3,777,000.00. Next Harley Ferguson from the South East Council of Governments presented the way the project would be funded. Funding sources include a Community Development Block Grant application, loan from the state revolving loan fund, and an increase in sewer rates. Harley discussed that depending on the option chosen the increase for a household using 5000 gallons per month would be approximately \$22.93 to \$49.29. After further discussion and input about exploring all options further once funding availability was known a motion was made by Darla to approve application for public funding for Phase I Sewer Collection System Improvements with CDBG grant and state revolving loan fund with Banner Engineering. Seconded by Kendra and all voted aye.

For public hearing for variance request Clayton Jacobson introduced himself and relayed that he wished to build a detached garage behind his house. Boe Boyer, contractor spoke more about the size and location of the garage. Upon further discussion more information is needed prior to moving forward with a variance request at this time.

For the Old School Building a motion was made by Kendra to approve entering into 6-month lease agreement with Alcester Industrial Park board for city office space in the amount of \$1,000.00 to include gas and electric utility costs. Motion was seconded by Julia and after further discussion all voted aye.

For the clubhouse Kendra mentioned that she has made a new employee packet for all new hires to provide a better on-boarding process going forward.

A motion was then made by Kendra to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3). Seconded by Darla and all voted aye. Mayor Driesen declared the council in Executive Session at 7:00pm. The council was declared out of executive session at 7:42pm.

A motion was made by Darla to adjourn the city council. Seconded by Julia and all voted aye. Meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm

CITY OF ALCESTER

Lukas Driesen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dave Hodgson, Finance Officer