

City of Alcester  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Mayor Driesen

Others present: Finance Officer David Hodgson, City Attorney Austin Felts, Tanya Miller, Lisa Hodgson, Landon Nygard, Tom Van Rooyen, Interim Union County Sheriff Jim Prouty, and Deputy Sgt Jeff Christie

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Johnson moved and K Hatle seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried. Unanimous.

K Hatle moved and J Sundstrom seconded to approve the minutes from the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

D Reppe asked to set the Equalization Board Hearing for Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the City Offices located at 500 Dakota St. J Sundstrom moved and K Hedden seconded to set the Equalization Board Hearing for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried. Unanimous

Council President asked if there was any public input. Tom VanRooyen asked if the council ever allowed public input on other agenda items at meetings. Darla mentioned concerns brought to her regarding the condition of Beck Dr and that she had recently conducted the annual review of the City Librarian. No other public input brought forward.

For the Water Meter Project, discussion on the proposals from Metering Technology Solutions and Core & Main were reviewed by council. Several questions were brought up and discussed. At this time council wished to have these questions addressed further before making a final decision. K Hatle volunteers to reach out to both companies to discuss and will bring back to the council at the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. No action taken at this time.

Finance Officer Hodgson gave a reminder that election petitions are due to the City Office no later than 5:00p.m. Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Finance Officer then asked council to consider for hire Donald Cline for the position of City Custodian. K Hatle moved and K Hedden seconded hiring Donal Cline for City Custodian at \$12.00 per hour effective immediately. Motion carried. Unanimous.

J Sundstrom gave an update regarding the new city website stating that is near completion and should be ready to go live before the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Finance Officer Hodgson mentioned that we will need to add the TextMyGov page and widget prior to the change. J Sundstrom and Finance Officer Hodgson will coordinate and finalize this to get the page live.

Attorney A Felts presented that he is working with city code official Geoff Fillingsness to send out nuisance letters now that the weather is improving. Interim Sheriff J Prouty presented that the Sheriff's Office continues to meet or exceed their contracted patrol hours for the city and that there have been no major incidences to report.

D Hodgson told council that a citizen had reported a city snow plow had broken their mailbox. Discussion was had by council and A Felts was asked if he could draft an ordinance on this topic. After more discussion the council agreed that the precedent was set last year that as of now the council will not reimburse damaged mailboxes.

Discussion was next held regarding city property located at 101 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. D Reppe mentions that she has been approached by several people that would like to purchase the building to re-open it as a bar but that none of them

are interested in leasing it from the city. A Felts was asked several questions regarding selling versus leasing the property and if the city would be required to sell with sealed bids or if they are able to list the property with a realtor to sell. After research A Felts informed the council that they can do either option. After further discussion the council wishes to proceed with the appraisal that was previously approved and is currently scheduled for February 29<sup>th</sup> and a final decision will be made regarding the property at the March 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

A Felts next discussed the chip sealing project and informed the council that due to the budget being under the \$100,000 threshold they are not required to do sealed bids. D Hodgson reminded council that the budget for chip sealing for 2024 is \$64,200. Council discussed upcoming road projects and what needs to be done. No action taken as not necessary to set a hearing for bidding the project.

D Reppe next told council that she, D Hodgson, and K Hedden met with Sgt J Christie and Chief M Schurch from the Beresford PD to go through the surplus items at the police department. D Reppe mentions that for now all furniture, computers, and other office supplies will remain in the building and continue on the city inventory lists. After organizing some of the inventory it was decided that the Sheriff's Office would continue to organize and verify the provided inventory list from the outgoing Chief of PD and then re-meet with council to discuss the final disposition of the surplus items. D Hodgson informs council that regarding the Police Truck currently stored at the city garage the value of selling the vehicle is lower than anticipated and that the city could consider stripping the law enforcement lights and equipment and retain the vehicle for city use. Once final inventory completed with Sheriff's Office this will be re-visited. No action taken at this time.

D Reppe then told council that Superintendent Lonnie Johnson had requested a one-time burn permit for the golf course creek bed and pond area. K Hatle moved and B Johnson seconded approving the one-time burn permit. Motion carried. Unanimous.

L Nygard addressed the council regarding the Clubhouse Grille wanting to purchase a Portable Oil Filter Machine. This would allow them to filter and re-use the oil from the fryer. Further discussion was held and at this time the equipment budget does not allow for this purchase. This will be re-addressed with the next fiscal years budget.

L Nygard then addressed the video lottery payout box and that they need to increase the amount of cash available. D Hodgson informed the council that there is a Golf Course account at the bank with a current balance of \$2,176.50 available for this purpose if council would choose. After further discussion K Hatle moved and B Johnson seconded to close the Golf Course account and add these funds to the video lottery payout box. Motion carried. Unanimous.

D Hodgson then informed council that the Alcester Community Foundation has approved a \$10,000 donation to the clubhouse to assist with the purchase of the new digital sign from FastSigns.

D Reppe provided an update regarding the city library and that National Library Week is April 7<sup>th</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup>. City librarian P German has many events scheduled for 2024 and that these can be found on the City Library web page or Facebook page. B Johnson then moved and J Sundstrom seconded appointing Darla Reppe to the Library Board with her term to expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Tanya Miller with Banner Engineering addressed the council regarding the WasteWater Collection Phase I project. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources felt that the amount on the initial funding application of \$3,777,000 would place too costly a burden on the citizens, increasing their sewer rates in excess of \$100 per month. DANR requested the project be scaled back to pursue a Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) replacement at a cost of \$1,530,000.00. After further discussion K Hatle moved to approve the proposed amendment to revise the Facility Plan letter amendment for the collection system improvements. Motion carried. Unanimous.

*Banner recommends the City pursue cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) replacement, instead of open-cut replacement, to rehabilitate the existing sewer and reduce the footage of sewer in Phase 1 to reduce the project cost to \$1,530,000.*

*Amendment Tasks:*

*1. Task 100A: Adjust Recommended Project Phasing*

*Revise the phasing to reduce the Phase 1 project cost for Alternative 2: CIPP Improvements to \$1,530,000. The footage removed from Phase 1 will be placed in the Phase 2 project scope. It is difficult for Banner to break the Phase 2 project into multiple phases as the condition of the pipe is unknown. A future facility plan amendment can prioritize the Phase 2 sewer repairs after sewer televising is completed.*

*2. Task 300A: Revise Facility Plan Letter Amendment*

*Revise the September 29, 2023, letter to the DANR amending the 2020 Facility Plan. Reduce the recommended project cost to \$1,530,000 by reducing the footage of rehabilitated sewer and using CIPP to complete the improvements.*

*Deliverables:*

*This amendment would provide the City with the following:*

- 1. Revised letter to the DANR amending the September 2020 Facility Plan for Wastewater System Improvements with the updated recommendation, project scope, and project cost. The amendment will include an updated phasing exhibit and rate impact.*

D Reppe then told the council that a decision would be needed on the final disposition of the city offices at the end of the 6-month lease previously agreed to in December, 2023. Discussion was held by council about location potentials and the possibility of temporarily locating to the old clubhouse after the lease until a permanent location was secured. No action taken at this time.

Next regular council meeting Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

With no Executive Session needed, J Sundstrom moved and B Johnson seconded the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

City of Alcester  
Lukas Driesen, Mayor

ATTEST:  
David Hodgson, Finance Officer