

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALCESTER CITY COUNCIL

The Alcester City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Monday, July 31, 2023. Council President Darla Reppe called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following Council Members present: Darla Reppe, Julia Sundstrom, Kerry Hedde, and Cyndi Peeples- Kendra Hatle was present via phone. Also present were Shelly Russ, Scott Conner, Jim Quick, Jon Selchert, Mindie Selchert, Shaleen Allen, Declan Allen, Officer Kleinschmit, Chief Thompson, Brian Johnson, Vickie Larsen, Tom Walsh, Michael Leuthold, Landon Nygard, Dick Dimmick, Bonnie Dimmick, and Abigail Moore. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kerry made a motion to approve the agenda with the exception of moving item 15, Old Clubhouse Discussion, item 5, Public Input, and item 6, Community Center Reservation discussion before item 4; Julia seconded. 5 voted aye.

For Old Clubhouse Discussion- Shelly Russ asked about the plans for the building, expressing interest in purchasing it to house her home décor business. Pre-build agreements were mentioned, and the Council agreed to review the agreements to clarify the expected use of the building after the completion of the new Community Center before discussing the sale of the building, but to set up a time for Shelly to inspect the Old Clubhouse. This concluded Old Clubhouse Discussion.

For Public Input- Vickie Larsen expressed that the Council should consider vetoing the decision of the City Attorneys to reject former Mayor Driesen's letter retracting his resignation. She also suggested that the Council, if they did not veto the decision, vote to appoint former Mayor Driesen back to the office of Mayor. Darla Reppe discussed a community member who was concerned about their mailbox being damaged by the snow plow over the winter, and that she had informed them that the Council would not be reimbursing those whose mailboxes were damaged. The community member also mentioned an issue with weeds growing in the streets. She continued to say that there were community members who contacted her regarding cemetery plots, and that they had never received a call back in the past when they requested purchasing plots. This concluded Public Input.

For Community Center Reservation discussion- Mindie Selchert spoke of her experience when making reservations at the Community Center Event Hall. She said that she was not on the schedule and the room was booked by another party despite calling and making a reservation, and that she experienced the same issue in 2022. Darla suggested potentially splitting the room with the other party or scheduling the event for a different date. Mindie also said that pricing is inconsistent, which gallery member Shaleen Allen agreed with. The Council suggested setting up a confirmation method for reservations, and creating a way to make reservations several years in advance. This concluded Community Center Reservation discussion.

At 6:30 PM, Cyndi made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1)-Alderman Interview. Kerry seconded. 5 voted aye. Council President Darla Reppe called the council out of Executive Session at 7:00 PM. Cyndi Peeples made a motion to appoint Brian Johnson as Ward II Alderman until next election. Kerry Hedden seconded. 5 voted aye. Council President Darla Reppe administered the Oath of Office; Brian Johnson was seated at the Council tables. This concluded Alderman Interviews.

For West Clark Street Building Permit discussion- no Executive Session was needed. City Attorney Sam Nelson stated over the phone that he and Austin Felts are working together to get the documents in order to be able to issue the permit. This concluded West Clark Street Building Permit.

For Fairgrounds Easement- Sam Nelson stated over the phone that he is working with the Farmer's Coop Society attorneys to write a public use easement for the fairgrounds. Darla made a motion to enter into an Easement with FCS in a form and manner approved by the City Attorney; Cyndi seconded. 5 voted aye. This concluded Fairgrounds Easement.

For Banner Associates- Michael Leuthold explained change order number three for the Wastewater Plant construction site, which would result in a \$5,328.23 decrease on the final project cost. The change order included research on a pipeline that was no longer needed, and the use of a different material for piping, as well as other repairs that were no longer necessary. He also discussed the invoices received by IPT and pay request number 4 to pay those. Kendra made a motion to approve pay request number 4 to IPT in the amount of \$356,810.56 from the Sewer Fund; Cyndi seconded. 5 voted aye. Kendra then made a motion to approve change order number 3, a decrease of \$5,328.23; Brian Johnson seconded. 5 voted aye. CDBG Drawdown payment request number 3 was discussed, which would be to receive \$126,871.46 for the Wastewater project. Cyndi made a motion to approve signing CDBG Drawdown Payment Request #3 in the amount of \$126,871.46 for the Sewer Fund; Kerry seconded. 5 voted aye. This concluded Banner Associates.

For Community Center/ Golf Course Updates- Landon Nygard discussed quotes from other providers regarding commercial freezers, but that they were either significantly more expensive or in poor condition. Kendra Hatle approved spending up to \$3000 for a double door freezer from the General Fund; Julia Sundstrom seconded. 5 voted aye. Landon continued by stating he had interviewed Cameron Squires and would like to hire him as a part-time cook at the Community Center. Julia made a motion to hire Cameron Squires as a part-time cook, at \$12; Cyndi seconded. 5 voted aye. This concluded Community Center/ Golf Course Updates.

For Police Department- Officer Kleinschmit reminded volunteers for National Night Out to arrive between 4 and 4:30 pm, with the event running from 5-9. Chief Thompson distributed his stats for July, and discussed increased wages for both he and Officer Kleinschmit. He stated they are signed up to attend training courses and are working on more certifications. At 7:47 PM, Brian made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1)- Personnel; Kerry seconded. 5 voted aye. Council President Darla Reppe called the Council out of Executive Session at 8:20 PM. Julia made a motion to approve setting full-time officer wage at \$21.50 with the contingency that there would be no Cost-of-Living increase in January; Brian seconded. 5 voted aye. Cyndi made a motion to approve setting full-time chief wage at \$29.12 with the contingency that there would be no Cost-of-Living increase in January; Brian seconded. 5 voted aye. This concluded Police Department.

For Homecoming Fireworks- the Chamber of Commerce requested authorization to set off fireworks using Lew's Fireworks Display for Homecoming on September 29, 2023. Kendra made a motion to approve signing Lew's Fireworks' Display Contract; Cyndi seconded. 5 voted aye. This concluded Homecoming Fireworks.

No Legal Updates were needed.

For Camera Quotes- the Council revisited the quote from Safe 'n' Secure to install cameras in City Hall. The discussion was tabled until Chief Thompson could meet with Safe 'n' Secure. This concluded Camera Quotes.

For Finance Officer Updates- Abigail Moore asked for a motion to approve advertising for a Finance Officer. Cyndi made a motion to approve advertising for a Finance Officer for the City of Alcester; Julia seconded. 5 voted aye. Julia Sundstrom made a motion to approve removing g Patricia

Jurrens and Lukas Driesen from all authorizations at Premier Bank; Cyndi seconded. 5 voted aye. Abigail discussed changing the hours of City Hall to allow her to close at noon on Friday, no motion was needed. The new hours will be posted on the door and on the City website. Paid Time Off and Sick Leave Payout were tabled until the August 16th meeting due to the amount of time Council had been in session. For reminders and updates, Abigail requested that the Council move the August 15th meeting due to her being out of the office. Cyndi made a motion to move City Council Meeting from August 15th at 6pm to August 16th at 6pm; Julia seconded. 5 voted aye. Other updates include National Night out on August 1, 2023 from 5-9pm, the Union County Fair from August 3-5 2023, and the Tractor Pull at noon on August 6, 2023. This concluded Finance Officer Updates.

No additional Executive Session needed.

Cyndi Peebles made a motion to adjourn Council; Brian Johnson seconded. 5 voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

CITY OF ALCESTER

Darla Reppe, City Council President

ATTEST:

Abigail Moore, Deputy Finance Officer