

Regular Meeting of the Alcester City Council

The Alcester City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday December 19th, 2023.

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 Finance Officer David Hodgson, Geoff Fillingsness, Terry Christensen, Jess Christensen, Curtis Wagner, and Austin & Augustine Schuller.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Julia made a motion to approve the agenda with moving Item 7 Public Hearing in front of Item 6 Public input. Motion was seconded by Darla and all voted aye.

For Public Hearing Kendra made a motion to adjourn as City Council of Alcester and meet as the Planning and Zoning Board. Seconded by Darla and all voted aye and the council adjourned at 6:02pm. Terry & Jess Christensen introduced themselves and explained that as the owners of 201 Dakota St they are asking the Council to grant them a conditional use permit for mixed use Commercial/Residential. The building has the space for them to convert the offices into living space and would require minimal construction. After little further discussion on the project the mayor asked for any public input. There was no public input offered so Julia made a motion to recommend approval of conditional use permit to Terry & Jessica Christensen for 201 Dakota St for mixed use Commercial/Residential. Seconded by Darla with 3 members voting aye and 1 voting nay. The motion passed. Darla then made a motion to adjourn as the Planning and Zoning Board and reconvene as the City Council. Motion seconded by Kendra and all voted aye. Planning and Zoning Board adjourned at 6:06 and reconvened as the City Council. Darla then made a motion to approve a conditional use permit to Terry & Jessica Christensen for 201 Dakota St for mixed use Commercial/Residential. Motion was seconded by Kendra and the Mayor called for a roll call vote. Voting aye were Julia, Kendra, and Darla with Kerry voting nay. Motion to approve conditional use permit passed.

For Legal updates Attorney Austin addressed that letters were sent to 2 property owners to address issues and an inspection warrant is pending for a third home. Curtis Wagner was present and addressed his home on Broad St with the Council. He described how due to financial difficulties it has been a struggle to continue progress on the house and he is appreciative of the city's patience with him. He stated he has all the windows to replace in the house but is still needing to purchase the siding citing personal financial issues causing the delay. He is planning to look into getting a loan in the spring so he can speed up the process of finishing the home. Code Official Geoff Fillingsness next addressed the council on the home and stated that the work done is structurally very good but nothing has been done for the past year. He has received complaints about the camper trailer still being allowed there after a year when it was previously agreed to be a temporary solution. Geoff also mentions that the camper has

an illegal sewer connection that has been allowed and that the Owner needs to finish the home and get the camper off the lot. His recommendation is to make some portion of the home habitable now and move the camper to a park/camp spot. Geoff also mentions that the building permit has now expired and will be required to reapply for permit to restart construction. Attorney Austin asked Curtis what he thought his timeline would be and Curtis responded saying the home still needs plumbing, electrical, and AC but then stated he agrees to unhook the propane tank and move it off site but that the camper can stay. He also at this time states that he never had intentions of living in the home but planned to remodel it and then sell it. Mayor Driesen asked the council at this time what they would like to see for a timeline and after discussion agreed to have Attorney Austin send the owner a letter with their proposed timeline and a checklist of progress that will be required to complete in that timeframe. Lastly, Code Official Geoff addressed the door hangers he has issued recently and that many of them have been taken care of and that he continues to follow up with them.

For 1 More Bar Darla motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(4). Motion seconded by Kerry and all voted aye. Mayor declared the council in Executive Session at 6:26pm. The Council was declared out of Executive Session at 7:07pm by Mayor Driesen. Darla then made a motion to approve the 2024 operating agreement with One More Bar LLC. Motion seconded by Kendra and with no discussion 3 voted aye with Julia abstaining.

For Public Safety Kendra made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1&3). Motion seconded by Julia and all voted aye. Mayor declared the City Council in Executive Session at 7:09pm. Council was declared out of Executive Session at 7:38pm with no further action taken.

For Committee updates:

Street Dept – some of the posts from the old street signs have yet to be removed.

Cemetery – No updates

Water – new billing software installed and hope to have it live for January billing cycle

Wastewater – no updates

Library – no updates

Golf Course/Community Center – new soap dispensers and AED have been installed

Park/Pool – Council asked by Finance Officer to start looking into forming committee of the public early next year to research park revitalization

Finance Office – no updates

Liquor Store – no updates

Public Safety – no updates

For the clubhouse Finance Officer Hodgson presented several advertising options that have been found. First option is 3 designs for a sign at the entrance by Pride Neon and second is a billboard opportunity north of Beresford on the interstate. No action was taken at this time. Motion was then made Julia to hire Blake Wielenga as a part-time cook @ \$13.00 per hour effective immediately. Motion seconded by Darla and all voted aye. Motion was then made by Kendra to approve the purchase of a safe for the clubhouse in the amount of \$60. Motion seconded by Kerry and all voted aye. The council then discussed the request to purchase gift cards for the clubhouse staff and at the end of the discussion no action was taken.

For the Finance Office Attorney Austin updated that even though normal bidding window was missed the Garbage Collection Contract still needed to be bid and he had advised the Finance Officer to post the bidding in the approved paper. This has been done and at the close of the bidding time a new contract would have to be done. Finance Officer Hodgson gave an update on the annual audit and that it is still in progress but ELO is nearing complete and they hope to have a report for the city soon. Next the Council discussed the next regularly scheduled meeting falling the day after a holiday. The next meeting will be changed to Thursday January 4th due to this. Finance Officer Hodgson then addressed that the city is still in search of a City Custodian and that no new applicants have applied despite advertisements.

No other Executive Session was required and the mayor then reminded everyone the City Office would be closed 12/25 for Christmas and 1/1/24 for New Years Day, that due to Christmas city payroll would be pushed back 1 day to 12/27, and that all pet registrations are due to the City Office by January 31st to avoid a fine.

Motion was then made by Kerry and seconded by Darla to adjourn the City Council and all voted aye. Council was adjourned at 8:22pm

City of Alcester

Lukas Driesen, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Hodgson, Finance Officer