

Almena City Council

The Almena City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, June 5th, 2023 by Mayor, Tracy Stutsman. Answering roll call were Amy Chandler, Bob Hawks, and Ethan Hays. A quorum was declared. It was moved and seconded to approve the May 1st, 2023 Minutes. MOTION CARRIED. The agenda was adopted without changes.

Fire Chief Report – No fires to report

Visitor Recognition-

- Jeff Callaway (Fire Chief) and Ryan Keith (Assistant Fire Chief) were present to determine if burning off of yards would be allowed in the City of Almena. It was decided that burning of yards would not be allowed.
- Jarrod Davis requested that we eliminate the ban on certain breeds of dogs. Due to recent problems with those breeds of dogs, the City determined that Ordinance # 401, would be enforced.
- Dallas Gosselin was present to submit Brian Sproul's name as a new member to the NCED Board of Directors. Brian Sproul was appointed by the council.

New Business

- Livestock in City limits- review of current regulations was discussed along with possible new parameters to create an updated ordinance to be presented.
- Executive Session- Council went into executive session to discuss personnel from 7:35pm to 7:44pm. It was decided to increase wages, Chandler's HC Stipend by 100/mo and allow for a cell phone stipend for AP, CR, SS.
- Fire Truck Grant- Grant funds were transferred to Almena Rural Area FD
- Pit Bull Complaint Resolved- Dog was removed from City

Old Business

- Letters addressing Ordinance #401 (removal of specific breeds of dogs) will be sent out to residents who have those breeds, informing that they will have 7 days to remove dog/s from City.
- Update on 516 Main- No Progress from owners. Demolition will commence on July 1st, 2023.
- 301 Washington- a request was made for the City to pull back a portion of the assessment, if the owner is committed to sell.

Attorney Discussion/Report (Attorney not present)

City Operator Report

- Street Repairs- City council voted to spend a maximum of \$50,000 in street repairs.
- Siren- a quote from VLS Communications to upgrade siren was presented. Tabled at this time.
- Water leaks at 401 Ives and 523 Main (Prairie Dog Press) were repaired
- Well #13- Peerless Co. from Kearney will check/repair/replace valves and pump
- Household trash at compost dump- there has been 2 new incidences of household trash at compost pile. Violators will be prosecuted as posted.
- 207 Main- Sewer backed up City contracted Johnson and City of Norton to assist resident with blockage. Cost was \$1,260.96. No problem found on City side, so resident will be billed.

City Clerk Report

- Water tiered rates – Council voted an approval to increase water rates. An ordinance will be passed at next meeting.

Deputy City Clerk Report –

- Compliance Tracking Update: 503 Wager-Closed, various Weed and Grass violations resolved, 311 Washington-progressing
- Delinquent accts update

Financial Report

- Approve Bills MOTION CARRIED.
- Balance Sheet
- Check register

With no further business it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm. MOTION CARRIED.
The next meeting will be Monday, July 10th at 7PM. Annette Puente, Deputy City Clerk

Minutes are not approved until next meeting.