

Regular Meeting of the Alcester City Council

The Alcester City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday October 3rd, 2023.

Mayor Driesen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following Council Members present: Darla Reppe, Kerry Hedden, Cyndi Peeples, Kendra Hatle, Julia Sundstrom, and Brian Johnson. Also present were Finance Officer David Hodgson, Deputy Finance Officer Abigail Moore, and city attorney Austin Felts. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cyndi made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of adding an executive session to #8. Motion was seconded by Brian. All voted aye.

Motion was made by Kerry and seconded by Julia to approve the minutes from the September 12th and September 19th meetings. All voted aye

Cyndi made a motion to approve the July through September warrants. Motion seconded by Brian. All voted aye.

Public input – Vickie Larson spoke about a document she had distributed to the council and a prior FOIA request that was made about the city Visa credit cards. She noted there were rewards points available and that in some cases those can be redeemed for cash. She asked that the city be aware of this fact as well as the possibility that some credit cards have the ability to take cash advances on them. Lastly, she pointed out that a work from home app had been purchased prior and asked that the council look into the access to that app. Vickie was made aware that all passwords to all city related programs and accounts have been changed to protect access. Kyle Kleinschmidt addressed the council about his desire to come back to the police department as a part time officer and related circumstances of his resignation. No other public input.

Motion was made by Brian to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel and seconded by Kerry. All voted aye and Council entered executive session at 6:10p.m. Mayor Driesen declared the council out of executive session at 6:44p.m. A motion was made by Darla and seconded by Julia

to hire Abigail Moore part time up to 20 hours per week effective October 7th until October 31st at \$25.00 per hour. All voted aye.

Motion was then made by Darla and seconded by Brian to remove Abigail Moore as authorized user from all Premier Bank accounts and ACH payment authorization. All voted aye.

Motion made by Brian and seconded by Cyndi to add David Hodgson as an authorized user of the ACH payment token for purposes of direct deposit of payroll. All voted aye.

Chief Thompson presented his monthly stats update for September 2023. A motion was made by Cyndi to enter into Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel and seconded by Kerry. All voted aye and the council entered into executive session at 6:50pm. Mayor Driesen declared the council out of executive session at 7:04pm. A motion was then made by Cyndi and seconded by Kendra to hire Jason Baker as part time police officer at \$25.00 per hour. All voted aye.

Discussion regarding the renewal of the city website was presented as the contract to renew is now due. Julia discussed a rough draft template she was able to put together. Council agreed to continue to work on this and readdress at the October 17th council meeting. No further action taken at this time.

Legal updates were presented by city attorney regarding nuisance properties. Discussion about if the city is going to enforce ordinances for one residence, then should enforce on all. Mayor Driesen discussed the ordinance violation letters that were sent out earlier in the year and the need for follow up with these for checking compliance. Council was in agreement that Mayor Driesen with work with the Code Enforcer on follow up with these.

Alderwoman Darla gave an update about the summer rec program and the long-standing agreements with the city. Would like to invite a member of the summer rec board to a spring 2024 City Council Meeting to learn more about the cooperation between the two entities.

Mayor Driesen then addressed the recent leak of the fire sprinkler system at the community center. Service First Fire Sprinkler was called to fix and was able to make the repairs. During the repair process the technician noted that there were no inspection tags present on the system. He did an inspection at that time and

tags were placed appropriately by him. The current inspection is valid through August of 2024 and a proposal was given to the city from Service First Fire Sprinkler for an annual inspection. The council tabled this proposal at this time to look into further before making their final decision.

Mayor Driesen presented an update from the street department that their John Deere 544H loader is in need of repairs. A bid for these repairs, at an approximate cost of \$7,250.00 had been previously approved. These were held while the council looked into the cost savings benefit of trading the current loader in for a newer one versus proceeding with the repairs. At this time the council agreed that it is in the best interest to proceed with previously approved repairs.

Finance officer David Hodgson presented an idea for the Council, Police Department, and all City department heads to host an open forum night for the city at the community center this winter. This would allow all citizens to meet their representative, mayor, and other city officials affording them the opportunity to ask questions or give input. David will discuss with community center and present several date options at the next council meeting.

Alderwoman Darla gave a brief update to the city's current insurance policies and coverages. She discussed that the insurance company focuses of being proactive with safety measures and signage.

Mayor Driesen reminded everyone that the next regular city council meeting would be held on Tuesday October 17th at 6p.m. Also reminded everyone that city wide cleanup is this month and the Loren Fischer dumpsters would be available in the gravel lot next to the police department October 6th through the 16th. It was also mentioned that this year citizens are able to place scrap metal and old appliances next to the dumpster for disposal. The council asks that all metal and appliances be placed on one side of the dumpsters only as to not block access to the dumpsters to the remainder of the public and to maintain safety for all. Lastly, the school district is still in the works of tearing down the two-story portion of the old school building and they hope to be able to complete this work yet this fall.

Motion was made by Cyndi and seconded by Brian to adjourn the Council meeting. All voted aye and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58p.m.

Warrants approved at this meeting are: Southeastern Electric \$4,260.66 & \$2,419.70; HSA contributions \$300.00; Kristen Voegeli \$303.05; Cell Phone stipend \$60.00 to Kelsey Erickson, Landon Nygard, Lonnie Johnson, Kyle Kleinschmidt, Jared Thompson, Dale Pearson, Abigail Moore; Cell Phone stipend \$20.00 to David Hodgson; South Lincoln Rural Water \$9,516.00; Ingram Library Services \$964.72 & \$666.43; Muller Auto Parts \$20.74 & \$76.95; American Engineering Testing \$1,986.50 & \$3,519.75; Critters Dive Bar Pizza \$840.00; New Century Press \$358.16; Myrl & Roy's Paving \$16,137.65; One Office Solution \$473.33; Patricia Jurrens \$127.31; L.G. Everist \$284.35; Fast Signs \$408.40; O'Connor Company \$517.78; Olson's Ace Hardware \$19.98; Waterman Backhoe \$2,015.30; Grossenburg Equipment \$60.43; Lonestar Enterprises \$150.00; Ecolab \$83.42; Justice Fire & Safety \$1,007.60; Frieberg, Nelson, & Ask LLP \$9,615.00; SiteOne Landscape Supply \$1,410.40; Electronic Engineering \$116.45; Bluestone Landscape Supply \$350.00; Central Square Technologies \$462.08; Hawkins Inc \$12,584.95; GovOffice \$736.70; Water Deposit refund \$64.49 & \$150.00; Verizon Wireless \$80.02; USA Blue Book \$180.25; Truesell Oil Company \$2,079.07; Total Stop Foodstores \$900.62; Sysco Foods \$4,935.35; Sam's Club \$769.08; Pete's Produce \$234.73; Mr. Golf Car \$1,410.00; MidAmerican Energy \$2,828.69; Loffler \$246.02; LP Gill Landfill \$4,574.32; Iowa Information Inc \$229.00; Demco \$130.05; Core & Main \$1,553.57; Chestermans Company \$1,204.20; Barry Deem \$213.75; Alliance Communications \$1,321.00; Alcester Quickstop \$549.31; Wellmark BCBS \$8,846.62

City of Alcester

Lukas Driesen, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Hodgson, Finance Officer