

ALTURA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2023

- Call to Order Mayor, John Mask called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Brad Brouwer, Paige Ellinghuysen, and Yvonne Ruhoff were present. Kathie Burns was absent. Joan Jensen, Dan Horvat, Jessica Romine, Dave Schwantz, Kathy Berry, Bill Monahan, Erick Hilke, Ray Badillo, Trisha Badillo, Scott Herber, Michelle Herber, Tori Gudmundson, Seth Hilke, Eric Hilke, Jody Wiza, and Kyle Hanson were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Monthly Minutes Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to accept the last month's minutes. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.
- Monthly Disbursements/Receipts Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to accept the City and Fire receipts and disbursements. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.
- Maintenance Report The Maintenance Report was given by Dan. The Schedule of Fees needs to be updated for Ordinance 23-01 Water and Sewer Ordinance. Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to charge \$200 for deposit. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried. Brad Brouwer made a motion to charge \$400 for meter installation. Yvonne Ruhoff seconded. Motion carried. Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to charge \$200 per violation for the general administrative penalty. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.
- Fire Department Dan Horvat, Chief, reported there were no calls and are waiting to hear on the grants decisions.
- Ambulance Department Jessica Romine reported they had 12 calls this past month, 7 transports. She is still trying to get a response on an update for the truck repairs. St. Charles Ambulance held a town hall meeting that was very well attended. Jess would like to set one up for our service this fall.
- Treasury Report The Treasurer's Report was given by the Treasurer. Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to approve. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.
- Old Business
- School purchase The closing is tomorrow. At some point the Council will hold an open hearing to get residents' input of what would be best uses for the building.
- Memorial Park The Dedication went well, estimated 400 attendees. Marvin Kreidermacher will be constructing the pavilion.
- Altura Hometown Fest Sign up for the men's softball tournament is underway. The Committee will be holding a button raffle for their next fundraiser.
- Clerk program The clerk recommended CUSI software for the utility program as the current software will not be available. Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to approve. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried. Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to have Wenonahcreates create a website for the City and professional emails for the clerk and public works. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.
- New Business
- Wasn't me outdoor concert Jody Wiza, owner of Wasn't Me Bar and Grill is going to hold an outdoor concert on 8/4. She has hired police and has security. Brad Brouwer made a motion to waive the noise ordinance until 11:30 that night and to allow Jody to close Center Street next to her property. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.
- Liquor Licenses Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve the 2 town liquor licenses. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.

Speed limit signs

Dan Horvat contacted the County. They will come assess, however to change the sign location there needs to be speed studies done. The batteries on the blinking lights will be replaced.

August Council Meeting

Due to the special election, the council meeting will be held Wednesday 8/2 at 6:30.

Chickens

Kathy Berry was present to ask the Council to allow chickens and revise the ordinance. She has 6 chickens and was unaware that they were not allowed in town. The Council advised her that the Ordinance that is in place, does not allow chickens and we need to enforce what is on record now. Lack of knowledge of the City ordinance does not allow grandfathering exceptions. The Council will ask the Planning Commission to review the ordinance and report at the August meeting. The Council agreed that she may keep the chickens until that time.

Water/Sewer Ordinance 23-01

Scott and Michelle Herber addressed the Council regarding the recent ordinance passed. They had heard about the ordinance yesterday and wanted the Council to know they are upset that this was not brought up to them. Mayor Mask explained there was a plan to meet with them in the future. The Herbers informed the Council they were on city water years ago and it was detrimental to their cattle so they drilled their own well. A dairy cow needs bacteria to digest and chlorine kills all the bacteria in their stomach. Patricia Badillo, Herd Manager, offered the effects the Butterfat and Protein, production goes down, and the cows get diarrhea. They asked why the Council did not consult them as this has a large impact on their operation. The Herbers stated they have followed previous procedures to install backflow preventors and paid water bill on time. They would like to be offered a variance.

Eric Hilke stated since he has been off of city water he has gained 10# of milk per cow.

Mayor Mask explained that the Council doesn't ask permission when creating an Ordinance. The City's intention is not malicious and not directed at any one person. This is passed to protect the community. The Mayor asked the farmers for documentation data to be given to the City of the direct impact that chlorine has on dairy cattle and the Council would review the data.

Adjourn

Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandra Pasche
City Clerk

John Mask
Mayor