

ALTURA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2023

- Call to Order Mayor, John Mask, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Brad Brouwer, Kathie Burns, and Paige Ellinghuysen. Yvonne Ruhoff was absent. Kathy Berry, David Nelson, Eric Hilke, Garrett Hilke, Vicki Speltz, Sue Hilke, Matt Mohs, Everett Kreidermacher, Michelle Herber, Scott Herber, Ross Herber, Dan Horvat, Dave Schwantz, Don Dvorak, Seina Romine and Jessica Romine were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Monthly Minutes Kathie Burns made a motion to accept last month's minutes. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.
- Monthly Disbursements/Receipts Kathie Burns made a motion to accept the City and Fire receipts and disbursements. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.
- Maintenance Report The Maintenance Report was given by Dan.
- Planning Commission The Commission reviewed the chicken ordinance and is recommending the Council to leave as approved. Brad Brouwer made a motion to add a run no larger than 28 sq feet. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried, 2 Yes, 1 No. Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to add the chicken fees: \$25/permit fee and \$200 Non-Compliance Fee to the Schedule of Fees. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.
- Fire Department Dan Horvat, Chief, reported the gun raffle was successful. Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to approve Chris Heim as a new member of the fire department. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried. The Department participated in Fire Prevention Week with Lewiston's Department at the School and will continue to do so.
- Ambulance Department Jessica Romaine, Director, thought the town hall presentation went well and she will follow up on recruiting. She's hoping to get another EMT class full in Altura but there is one offered in Lewiston in January. She will be talking with Ben Klinger about the state funding for recruiting.
- Treasury Report The Treasurer's Report was given by the Treasurer. Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.
- Old Business
Water/sewer ordinance
- John Mask met with attorney and communities and it's reasonable to issue an Ag variance for Ag District based on cattle need a constant supply of water, water pressure, temperature and chlorine issue. If they have a current operating well, they will be grandfathered in. Access to both City and their private well is not an option. The ordinance as written is sound and fair. The owner will need to disconnect from the City's water main at their expense. The Ag district residents are required to have property permits for water/sewer through the State and DNR. This only pertains to the water, not sewer. Discussion was held on that the City has spent time and money on Ordinance, then Citizens come back asking the City to back down on the regulations. Ordinances are written and won't please everyone. This particular ordinance was written with the correct intent. Page Ellinghuysen made a motion to approve the Ag Variance if they have an existing well, the owners are required to disconnect from the City Main at their expense while still maintaining proper permitting with the State and DNR. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.

Bolton and Menk

Matt Mohs has presented the City with an Agreement for Professional services with Bolton and Menk. Brad Brouwer made a motion to sign after John Mask reviews with the attorney. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.

Church Street has been determined to be the first priority for water/sewer/street repair on the list of projects for the City. In Spring 2024, preliminary study and surveying, design, bidding, and contractors will be completed.

School Property

The Council agreed that the gym could be rented out. Rental forms and key access will need to be determined. Right now the building is being heated to 50 degrees. Plowing and toiletries will need to be provided. There is no equipment there now.

New Business

Liability Coverage

Kathie Burns made a motion to waive the liability coverage limits. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.

Assessment

Kathie Burns made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-01 for Assessing Water Sewer costs. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.

Resignation

Kathie Burns made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-02, the resignation of Yvonne Ruhoff from the Council and Commission. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried. The Council will appoint a member for the remaining 1 year of the term. John Mask added that Yvonne Ruhoff was an incredible member of the Council and it's disappointing that she's resigning. She has made the community a better place and the City is grateful for the time she sat on the Council and Planning Commission. The Council will explore ideas of Council representation on the Commission.

SEMCAC

Kathy Berry asked about the possibility of Meals on Wheels program to be available in Altura. She was advised to contact SEMCAC in Rushford.

Adjourn

Brad Brouwer made a motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandra Pasche
City Clerk

John Mask
Mayor