

ALTURA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2023

- Call to Order Mayor, John Mask called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. remotely. Brad Brouwer, Kathie Burns, Paige Ellinghuysen, and Yvonne Ruhoff were present. Dan Horvat, Matt Neumann, Kathy Berry, Joan Jensen, Matt Neumann, Dave Schwantz, Scott Herber, Michelle Herber, Eric Hilke, Heather Hilke, Bob Schell, Jess Romine, Brad Romine, Jeff Scherbring, Nahun Bergin, Nate Bergin, and Mike Olson were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Monthly Minutes Kathie Burns made a motion to accept the last month's minutes. Yvonne Ruhoff seconded. Motion carried.
- Monthly Disbursements/Receipts Kathie Burns made a motion to accept the City and Fire receipts and disbursements. Yvonne Ruhoff seconded. Motion carried.
- Maintenance Report The Maintenance Report was given by Dan. Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to replace the pipe in the shop. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried. MN Rural Water will be holding meetings with Local and State representatives regarding the Altura Wellhead Project on 10/4 and 11/8. Property values are needed for insurance for the school properties. Brad Brouwer presented bids for a new lawnmower. They will be going up around \$3400 in 2024. There was discussion on getting price for trade in of our current mower or to keep. Kathie Burns made a motion to purchase the new one for \$14096 and keep our existing one. Yvonne Ruhoff seconded. Motion carried. The wastewater building roof will be repaired for about \$1960.
- Planning Commission The Commission held an opening hearing for Mike Olson Properties to rezone 17107 Cty Rd 27 to C2 from Agricultural. There were no objections. Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to approve. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.
- Fire Department Dan Horvat, Chief, reported the annual breakfast is this Sunday. There has been no update on the FEMA grant. They did not receive the MN Energy grant. Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to purchase old style jaws of life for \$3000 to be funded from the equipment fund. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.
- Ambulance Department Jes Romine, Director, reported they had 6 calls/transport. 3 were intercepts. There is a new resident that is an EMR and will be taking her CEVO training soon. She has been scheduled for ride-a-longs. Jes will be setting up a community meeting shortly to discuss what the community is willing to do to keep an ambulance service here. We could shut down but the wait could be 30 minutes or longer, be first responders only, have paid full time staff for \$70000 to \$80000 with benefits.
- Treasury Report The Treasurer's Report was given by the Clerk. Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to approve. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.
- Old Business
Altura Hometown Fest
Paige Ellinghuysen reported the event will be this weekend.
- Water/Sewer Ordinance 23-01
The Council asked Eric Hilke for detailed data that he mentioned that he has. At this time there is no update.

Chicken Ordinance

The Commission presented to the council proposed changes to the pet Ordinance to allow chickens. Kathy Berry objected to some of the regulations proposed. It was explained that the Council needs to address how an ordinance affects all the residents. Kathie Burns made a motion to accept the proposed changes as written. After some time, there was no seconded. Yvonne Ruhoff asked if she could second the motion being she was on the Commission and was told yes, so she seconded the Motion. Motion carried, 3 yes, 1 no.

New Business

Tax levy

Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve General Fund \$124014.71, Fire \$6000, Ambulance \$6000, Park \$15000 for a total of \$151014.71. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.

Election Judge Pay

Kathie Burns made a motion to pay election judges \$20/hour and provide a meal. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.

DEED Forms

SEMCHRA presented more forms that need to be signed regarding the present grant available to Altura/Rollingstone Communities.

Trunk or Treat

Ashley Doehring would like to hold the trunk or treat event this year in the City Parking Lot. The Council approved.

Propane Contract

Brad Brouwer made a motion to purchase 900 gallons at \$1.50 for propane. Yvonne Ruhoff seconded. Motion carried.

School Playground

Kathie Burns and Taylor Neumann assessed the school park as asked by the Council. They would like to get more input from other community members also. They did assess: purchase 2 new baby swings and handicap swing, the current new playground area keep but the wood structures and metal slides are outdated, purchase wood chips/pea gravel for the area, create a soccer field in the outfield area of the ball field, combine the basketball/pickle ball area, and provide a port-a-potty for the entire season.

Ideas for the school property.

The Council was interested in hearing ideas of uses for the school property. This will be an ongoing conversation. Topics discussed:
There is some aspestos in the tile.
Would the City consider TIF Districts.
Zoning is currently an R2.
Did the City have any time tables.
Attract business, attract more people to town.
Do not have a housing development.
Consider housing.
Daycare/55+ combined living.
Consider parking. Right now there is no parking for ball field.
Look into keep the building heated for the winter so it does not deteriorate.
Can the overgrown trees be taken down.

Adjourn

Yvonne Ruhoff made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandra Pasche
City Clerk

John Mask
Mayor