

ALTURA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
February 13, 2024

- Oath of Office Mark Swenson took the Oath of Office for Councilmember.
- Call to Order Mayor, John Mask, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Brad Brouwer, Kathie Burns, Paige Ellinghuysen, and Mark Swenson were present. Michelle Herber, Ross Herber, Dan Horvat, Dave Schwantz, Matt Mohs, Erik Hilke, and Dustin Lano 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.
- Planning Commission The Commission did not meet this month as they didn't have a quorum. No Council representative will be on the Commission at this time, the Commission will look for a new member.
- Maintenance Report The Maintenance Report was given by Dan. The Deputies have been given a key to the school building as they are holding K9 training. A insurance claim has been filed as an employee hit a truck parked on city property. The owners have been advised that if they park on the property again, they will be towed going forward
- Fire Department Dan Horvat, Chief, reported the rescue equipment has been serviced and is now under warranty. The Altura Fire Relief has donated \$113500 to the City. The Banquet was well attended.
- Ambulance Department Jessica Romaine, was not present to report. Dan reported the EMR training is going well. The ambulance was taken to Ford for electrical work and install a block heater. Lewiston and Winona covered the 24 hours out of service. There is an oil leak on the rig which would cost \$7-8000 as the engine and transmission would need to be pulled and there is suspension work that needs to be done by Jim's Truck and Trailer. The Council was very adamant that all work that would need to be done to the ambulance needs to be approve prior to doing the repairs.
- Treasury Report The Treasurer's Report was given by the Treasurer. Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve. Mark Swenson seconded. Motion carried.
- Old Business  
24-01 Water/Sewer Ordinance Amendment  
Kathie Burns made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-01 amending properties are exempt from the mandatory water connection that are zoned as Agricultural land, totaling at least 100 acres in size, and which are actively being used for agricultural purposes. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried. Michelle Herber brought to the Council's attention that Winona County would not approve her permit to drill a well. Dan Horvat will call Winona County with the amendment so they precede with their permit. Eric Hilke argued with the Council about the ordinance and was once again told that the State of Minnesota is no longer allowing cross connection and the ordinance has been talked about for months so it's up to him to stay on city water or disconnect. Dan will be shutting the water off and the meters will be removed. Anyone disconnecting will need to dig up the existing line and repair the streets.
- Infustructure A working meeting will be set up with the Council, Mike Bubany and Matt Mohs regarding financing for the infustructure project.

Solar garden

John Mask mentioned the Solar Garden is up and running. There is an App. that shows usage.

New Business

State Lead Service Line program

Matt Mohs, Bolton and Menk, reported that the Minnesota Department of Health has issued a grant for \$75000 to work on commitments to replace the lead service lines. They are in the record review stage. Anything built after 1986 are not affected. In home inspections may be needed after the document review. Altura has been approved for \$75000. State will be billed, City will not be reimbursed any cost for newsletters, hours, ect...

Insurance Review

Dustin Lano, Winona Agency, was present to review the current insurance package. If the School is a vacant property, it needs to be insured at full market value, if it's 30% occupied that changes the premium tremendously. Dustin will also check on the insurance for the memorial park and get back to the City with further information.

Peddler Application

Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve the Peddler application as presented. Mark Swenson seconded. Motion carried. The attorney will draft a hold harmless agreement.

Approve Financial Statement

Brad Brouwer made a motion to accept the 2023 financial statement as presented. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2024-01 Assessment permit fee

Brad Brouwer made a motion to accept the Resolution 2024-01 assessing unpaid building permit fees. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.

Overdue Pet Licenses

Brad Brouwer made a motion to issue citation for unpaid pet licenses. Mark Swenson seconded. Motion carried.

Pay Equity Report

Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve the pay equity report. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.

Election Judges

Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve the following as election judges: Yvonne Ruhoff, Raelene Stanislowski, Marlene Spencer, Julie Johnson, Holly Muller, Joan Jensen, Karen Moger, and Sandra Pasche. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.

Outsourcing Payroll

The Clerk present to the Council that Jack Harvey in Plainview would complete payroll and all reports that goes along for \$1200/year. Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve. Kathie Burns seconded. Motion carried.

Wage adjustment

The Council will go into a closed session next meeting to discuss wage reviews.

Altura Youth Sports

AYS would like to replace the batting cage at the City Park and may ask for donations from the city. The Council is in support however would like to be a part of the entire process.

Adjourn

Kathie Burns made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

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Sandra Pasche  
City Clerk

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John Mask  
Mayor

