

ALTURA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 14, 2024

- Call to Order Mayor, John Mask, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Brad Brouwer, Paige Ellinghuysen, and Mark Swenson present. Kathie Burns was absent Michelle Herber, Scott Herber, Ross Herber, Kathy Berry, Dan Horvat, Dave Schwantz, Marlene Spencer, Yvonne Ruhoff, Eric Hilke, Yvonne Ruhoff, and Mike Olson were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance.  
Monthly Minutes Brad Brouwer made a motion to accept last month's minutes. Mark Swenson seconded. Motion carried.
- Monthly Disbursements/Receipts Brad Brouwer made a motion to accept the receipts and disbursements. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.
- Planning Commission The Commission did not meet as they did not have a quorum. Richard Lueck and Don Dvorak did have an informal meeting with Brent and Jennifer Ruhoff regarding an addition project. They will turn in a site plan for evaluation.
- Maintenance Report The Maintenance Report was given by Dan. The engineers will have to help with the chloride variance. Cedar Valley Nursery has donated 35 trees for the Memorial Park, Dan will work on the planting of the trees. Jim Mohr will be start again part time in the next few weeks.
- Fire Department Dan Horvat, Chief, reported for the department. The equipment approved last month was ordered. There was a grass/transmission line fire.
- Ambulance Department Marlene Spencer asked about the reimbursement for Gabriel Kreidermacher. The Clerk gave Jessica Romine the payroll information. Jess will have to contact the clerk if there is more information needed.
- Treasury Report The Treasurer's Report was given by the Treasurer. Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.
- Old Business  
Infrastructure Dan reported the drone flight is completed, the topographic survey completed for the most part. Maps are being created to send to Gopher State One Call. Soil boring will be done this week. Next step is to schedule plan review with council and start neighborhood meetings. Kathy Berry brought to the Council's attention that there isn't a Church Street in town. The Engineers had reference labeled this project at Church Street, but going forward will be referenced as 1<sup>st</sup> Street.
- Chicken Application Kathy Berry addressed the Council about the non compliance letters she received. Her Coop is 4 x 4 design of a coup and has siding up to the gable that has a window and a vent which is over 6 ft. They now have the coop secured by a 25ft log chain and the coop weighs 500#. Kathy feel harassed. Mayor John Mask explained to her that the meaning of harassment is an outward attach to harm or hurt you. He reiterated that she had built a chicken coop and have chickens that was not allowed in the City. The City Council has been willing to work with her and allowed her to keep the chickens while the Council explored an ordinance. The Planning Commission and attorney presented the ordinance for the Council to approve. Kathy recommended the application process. Even after the ordinance was approved by the

council, you came back and ask the Council for a run which was passed and the ordinance was revised to approve a run. The Council has been more than fair and now you say the application process is not fair. No one contradicted your application as no new rules were made. You had all the information. We are not harassing and have been fair. We do not treat people different. Kathy stated that if they took off an inch on the top then they would not be 2 ft off the ground. She is getting 42 eggs from the 6 chickens a week. The Planning Commission did not align with what the City Council approved for the final ordinance. Mark Swenson made a motion to accept the coup as is and not enforce the ordinance. The Clerk and Mayor will research the legalities of this motion. The Ordinance also states you can't sell eggs. Kathy said her MN Cottage License allows her to sell anything grown on her property. The Planning Commission will be asked why they included that in their recommendation. There I health hazards and it's not a commercial operation. The Council has to consider ordinances align with everyone in the community.

Water Ordinance

Mark Swenson brought to the Council a letter dated 2/15/24 addressed to the Council and asked Brad Brouwer or Paige Ellinghuysen if they has seen the letter. It was noted that not all mail that is addressed to the council is forwarded on to the Council, but the Council was addressed regarding the contents. John Mask went on to say the letter was received that we were out of compliance and needed to start a water/sewer ordinance. As no one on the Council wanted the task, it was turned over to the attorney for development and the council approved. Why a back flow preventer was not an option was because of the cost to the City. This requires a tank and manhole coverage. The city does not have the resources and does not have access to it 24/7. This also would require Dan Horvat to get a new certification and ongoing education and purchase new equipment and Dan would be required to have a 2 man team accompany him which we do not have. This would be more cost to the City and home owner. If the City could afford to take on more expense he would. Mark Swenson would like to have the line capped at the right of way. The Community takes on the burden of maintenance. Now the burden is shifted to everyone in the community. The city is at additional risk and now we have a line that could have a leak. The standard procedure is to disconnect at the main. There is a liability if there is a leak, whose expense is it and how do you figure that out. Scott Herber mentioned in the past he had the city water as a back up, now he needs to disconnect. The line has to physically be separated when disconnected. Mark Swenson made a motion to allow for Herbers to disconnect and cap with no need to disconnect at the main. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried. Hilke asked if he could have his house on the city water and the barn line taken off. Dan will check to see if would be approved by the State.

New Business

Board Of Adjustments

There was not a quorum present at the BOA meeting, the County will now handle the community inquiries going forward.

Resignation

Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-02 the resignation of Kathy Burns on Council Mark Swenson seconded Motion carried.

Hilke Poultry complaint

A complaint was present to the City regarding Hilke's poultry not on his property. Eric was in attendance and asked to keep them on his property.

Altura Youth Sports

Mike Olson, Matt Neumann, Jim Mohr, and Dan got the poles set for the new batting cage. The Council thanked those who helped. As far as scheduling, it looks like AYS will be using both fields 2-3 nights a week. Youth Sports has priority on the fields. The bar league will have to work around that schedule.

Emergency Siren

It was brought to the Council's attention to get an emergency siren.

Microphone

Mark Swenson made a motion to purchase a microphone sending up to \$250. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Paige Ellinghuysen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

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Sandra Pasche  
City Clerk

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John Mask  
Mayor