

ALTURA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2024

- Call to Order Mayor, John Mask, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Brad Brouwer and Paige Ellinghuysen were present. Mark Swenson was present via zoom. Michelle Herber, Kathy Berry, Dan Horvat, Mike Olson, Matt Mohs, David Schwantz, Marlene Spencer, Yvonne Ruhoff, Joan Jensen, Brent Ruhoff, Jennifer Ruhoff, Brad Romine, and Jess Romine were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Monthly Minutes Brad Brouwer made a motion to accept last month's minutes. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.
- Monthly Disbursements/Receipts Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to accept the receipts and disbursements. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.
- Planning Commission The Commission held a public hearing for Brent and Jennifer Ruhoff for a variance which would allow them a side setback of 3 ½ feet vs 7 ½ ft side setback. The Commission recommends Council approval as it would not devalue area properties and most of the water currently run into Ruhoff's yard so that wouldn't affect the neighbors. Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve the variance. Mark Swenson seconded. Motion carried. Kathy Berry gave the Council information on why sale of eggs should be allowed in the chicken ordinance. The Commission did not recommend it in the ordinance as have with 6 chickens it's a hobby and the other ordinances they used for guidelines did not approve of sale of eggs. Kathy stated that she may offer her eggs for a free will donation.
- Maintenance Report The Maintenance Report was given by Dan. Dan recommends selling the 2nd lawn mower and replacing with a golf cart or UTV. This will be tabled until next meeting. A quote for an outdoor siren is \$38000. The purpose of an outdoor siren is to warn people that are outdoors there may be a weather event. Most people have cell phones and if not should rely on emergency radios for information. The light on the water tower is not working. New wiring, light and install would be \$4205. Dan will contact the insurance company to see if this is covered as it must have been damaged due to storms.
- Fire Department Dan Horvat, Chief, reported for the department. The department would like to install in the Community Center a plaque with retired members. The Council had no objection. The dinner had a good response. The department will be working on installing new purchased equipment on the trucks. Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to approve up to \$2000 for the City's portion of a grant for new radios. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried. Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve the resolution 24-03 for SCBA's joint power agreement. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.
- Ambulance Department Jess Romine reported the service had 7 calls last month with 2 intercepts. The CEVO training has been completed. Medicare renewal has been submitted last week. There is now a group of legislators overseeing the EMSRB. They have now approved a variance for 1 EMT and 1 CEVO CPR Certified persons for a run. An application has been submitted for approval. The EMSRB rules for Rural MN services are unrealistic. Altura will receive \$50000 from the State in the future, it is unknown what the designated use of those funds will be. Jess would like to see a new ambulance purchased. If purchased from a buyers group it will not have to be published for bids. At the departments next meeting they will be reviewing the specs. Jess sees

the future of being able to maintain the service as members are staying. EMT's are still needed. We currently have 10 on the service, 5 being very active. Jess connected Gabriella Kreidermacher and she's going to get back to Jess if she received any reimbursement. She may be reimbursed 50% of the class as she has volunteered for our service. There will be more discussion on the purchase of an ambulance at next months meeting.

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

Matt Mohs reported the 1st Street Project drone flight, soil boring is completed, and the topographic survey is completed. Maps are being created to send to utilities. A preliminary design will be next and start neighborhood meetings in the next few months. A discussion that will be held is that there are areas that do not have sidewalks. Kathy Berry asked about how the water pressure would be during the project with old lines going into older houses. Matt explained there wouldn't be any change in pressure as that is regulated by the water tower. She said the ground below her yard has sunk. That is not due to the water line.

Lead Service Line

Matt Mohs reported that post card had been sent out to owners that didn't respond to the first mailing. In that process, some residents may have received a duplicate request. A picture does need to be submitted to complete the survey. Deadlines are coming up in July. The State's process for this program has been clunky.

Council position

Brad Brouwer made a motion to appoint Mike Olson for the open Council position. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Memorial Park

Joan Jensen reported there are 120 names that will need to be added to the wall and hopefully will get that started soon. The pavilion is done. The raffle went well, one of the winners donated his monetary prize back to the memorial. There were 10 volunteers that planted 35 trees. Those volunteers were acknowledge by the committee and Council, much appreciated. Some flags need to be replaced. They are working on landscaping and grass seed. An estimate for a curb is \$2000. Brent Ruhoff mentioned he contact Adam Burt and he's getting a bid on gravel, dirt, and installing sod. The fire department is willing to water it. Joan asked the Council to pay 1/2 of the LRS bill for the port a potty at the memorial. Brad Brouwer made a motion to cover the entire amount. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried. The Memorial looks nice.

Utility Program

The Clerk reported there was an electrical surge that affected the utility program. The box has been sent to the program and they will send it back. This may delay the reading this month.

Overhead Doors

Brad Romine received another quote from Quality Overhead door for \$28834 for the replacement of doors and openers. Larson's bid was \$23500. Mark Swenson made a motion to approve Larson's bid as the doors need to open when an emergency vehicles are needed. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Brad Brouwer made a motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandra Pasche
City Clerk

John Mask
Mayor