

ALTURA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 12, 2026

- Reconvene Board of Adjustments Meeting Mayor, Robert Schell, recalled the board of adjustments meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Lindsay Brandt did a personal reassessment of Kalmes Implement and was able to lower the valuation by \$28800. Mark Olson made a motion to approve the reduced value. Andy VanLoon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Adjourn Board of Adjustments Andy VanLoon made a motion to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Call to Order Mayor, Robert Schell, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Brad Brouwer, Paige Ellinghuysen, Mike Olson, and Andy VanLoon were present. Brad Romine, Steve Lueck, Marlene Spencer, David Schwantz, Jeff Scherbring, Jess Romine, Matt Mohs, Jessica Merchlewitz, Ron Merchlewiz, and Michelle Herber were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Monthly Minutes Andy VanLoon made a motion to accept the previous month's minutes with the correction of Mike Kreidermacher retiring from the fire department. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Monthly Disbursements/Receipts Brad Brouwer made a motion to accept the city disbursements and receipts. Mike Olson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Kalmes Implement sent a policy update to pay in full within 10 days in receipt of invoice. Due to the fact the Council meetings once a month and needs to approve payment, Kalmes will make an exception.
- Planning Commission Steve Lueck reported the Comprehensive Surveys were reviewed and received a lot of helpful information. Ron Merchlewitz has turned in a zoning request for his 2 storage sheds that abuts to his garage, which were intended to go up against a structure. They do not meet the code book policy of 12 feet zoning requirement away from the principle structure. There was discussion on why the 12 feet requirement and was assumed probably for fire or insurance implications. Andy VanLoon made a motion to table for 60 days to research for a better solution. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Council would like the Commission to propose an ordinance regarding storage containers. The consensus was that they are not allowed in Residential and allowed in Commercial and Industrial zoning. The semi that is parked in the alley will be towed and/or ticketed.
- Maintenance Report The Maintenance Report was submitted by Brad Romine. The pavilion bathrooms have been opened. The fridge at the ball field did not work so the fridge from the community center was taken up there and a new one replaced at the center. The catch basin on West Center Street is caving in. The cost will be split with Winona County as it's a county road. The receiver for well #2 was sent in for repair. Hydrant flushing will happen soon. The banners will be put up. The school playground will be put back together. Brad will be working with 5 homeowners that have galvanized lines with no water softener to do testing.

Fire Department

Brad Romine reported there will be pagers and radios purchased with the \$2500 DNR matching grant. Mark Olson made motion to approve the \$2500 match. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The pork chop dinner will be this Saturday starting at 4. The Crystal Springs Fish Hatchery is going to be replaced and they are going to put a 1500 gallon tank in ground to accommodate the requirement in case of a fire as the department does not have the capability to hold 1500 gallons.

Ambulance Department

Jess Romine reported this ambulance inspection was completed. 2 small corrections; expired roll of gauze and there were unsecured item in the cab. Jess has corrected them and the inspector approved. The Council thanked Jess for all the extra work in getting ready for this inspection. Next week is EMS week so the department has invited the Rollingstone First Responder, medical director and educator for dinner. On 1/12/26 the department responded to a semi truck roll over. The patient sustained life changing injuries. The employer did not have workers compensation insurance. The attorney has contacted the department and Jess has filed the appropriate documents to try to collect our bill. This will be a work in progress.

Treasury Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by the Treasurer. Brad Brouwer made a motion to approve. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Audit

The Mayor contacted other Mayors of advice for audit firm recommendations and has received no feedback. The Clerk will contact other firms for quotes.

Lions Club Meeting

The Lions Club has agreed to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month so the Commission can meet in the community center.

New Business

Altura Youth Sports

Mike Olson made a motion to approve the AYS gambling license for their raffle on July 26, 2026. Andy VanLoon seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to donate \$159.90 for paint for the lines on the field. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bolton and Menk donation

Matt Mohs reported that Bolton and Menk will be donating another gift basket this year that includes Twin tickets. Paige Ellinghuysen made a motion to donate the basket to the Altura Youth Sports raffle. Brad Brouwer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Street projects

Bob Schell asked Matt Mohs to have a general public meeting in August or September regarding the street projects including maps and costs and explain the assessment process back to homeowners.

Adjourn

Brad Brouwer made a motion to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. Paige Ellinghuysen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

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Sandra Pasche  
City Clerk

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Robert Schell  
Mayor