

**Present:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**Absent:** None.

**Work Session began at 5:30 p.m.**

City Manager Schooley presented the May 10, 2019 Newsletter for discussion which includes review of FY 2020 proposed Annual Budget:

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Agreements**

The Cities of Alma and St. Louis continue to look at their operations to see if there are areas that are conducive to collaboration that allows us to provide our residents with better services. Assessing is an area we believe this can happen. The attached agreement basically lays the foundation for an assessing department run by the City of Alma Assessor. St. Louis will pay Alma \$65,000 per year under the agreement. With all of the industry changes at the state level we felt it was a good time to complete this agreement that has been discussed for quite some time. St. Louis approved the agreement at their meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **New Business: Sign Ordinance**

As you know the City recently received a citizen initiated complaint about yard signs that resulted in Code Enforcement action. Our current sign ordinance does not exempt the type of signs that many of our citizens want in their yards. We cannot selectively enforce the messages on the signs, especially when a complaint has been received. All interaction in regard to these signs have been a personal interaction with staff, no letters or fines were issued. I believe this is the time to have a discussion about the ordinance. I had informed you last November that this may become an issue. The ordinance does not allow for yard signs in a residential area unless exempted. Political signs have an exemption for a period of time surrounding elections. Candidate signs and ballot initiatives are easy to spot and can be taken care of by ordinance. There have been signs with what many may consider a "political message" that have remained in yards since the election. We chose to take no action as there had been no complaints. When we received the complaint, we felt we needed to enforce the ordinance as written, which basically does not allow for most of the signs observed in yards in the City, including schools and non-profits. This allows for the opportunity to have dialogue with the community on the issue. In no way was our intent to make any kind of judgement on the signs in violation. Due to the ordinance, by their nature they were in violation. I have asked Mr. Costanzo to look into the ordinance and make some recommendations for the commission to consider.

### **Informational**

#### **Feral Cat Letters:**

Attached are a couple letters from residents concerning feral cats in the City. We currently do not have any type of ordinance that deals with this issue. As you can see by the referenced articles Mr. Maltby provided it is a complex issue. We have only just started to look into the issue. Any input is appreciated, and we will strive to bring further information for the next meeting.

#### **Medical Marijuana Lottery Date Set:**

The City received 19 applications for the 3 provisioning center licenses available by ordinance. The lottery is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> here at the Alma Municipal Building. We did not receive any other types of license applications. Staff has met with officials from Mt. Pleasant to discuss their recent process for conducting the lottery. We plan to live stream the process on the City's YouTube channel.

As I previously informed the commission, there has been an injunction filed in the 29<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court to stop the lottery. The injunction centers around the city's procedure to be used for the application process for a Marijuana Facilities License authorized under City of Alma ordinances #801 – Establishment of Medical Marijuana Facilities and #802 – Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to Regulate the Location of Marijuana Facilities within the City of Alma. As a pre-requisite for filing an application, **each entity must be pre-qualified by the State of Michigan**. The City will only accept one (1) application from any one entity for each type of medical marijuana facility

license. The purpose of this provision is to encourage competition among applicants and to eliminate the possibility of any one entity potentially owning more than one (1) license for any one type of medical marijuana facility.

The filing party submitted 4 applications (4 separate entities) for provisioning centers but 3 of them were rejected due to the fact that there was only one State of Michigan pre-qualification. We have answered the complaint and have a scheduled court date of May 14<sup>th</sup>. The good thing is that we will have an answer from the court in advance of the lottery date.

#### **Budget Review**

There are quite a few budgets for review on Tuesday night. I believe timing will be an issue. We still have a meeting date set for May 21<sup>st</sup> that is independent of the commission meeting to catch up. That information will also be sent to you today to start reviewing.

Manager Schooley opened the proposed FY2020 Budget discussion. This work session will focus on the following functions:

- General Funds  
Election, Building/Grounds Maintenance, Cemetery and Sidewalks.
- Roads  
Major Streets, Local Streets and Street Improvement Millage
- State Street Plaza  
Rental Properties

The Capital Improvements for Property Maintenance:

FY2020 the Police Department remodel to add more security \$30,000; replace Sally Door and frame at the Police Department \$4,500; Municipal Building Employee Parking Lot \$30,000; Police and Fire Department Parking lot and drive approach \$50,000 and City Hall security upgrades \$6,000.

The Capital Improvements for Transportation (Roads):

FY2020 Sharrar-Wheeler Alley Upgrade \$25,000; Street Rehab Program (Iowa St); \$448,500; Sidewalk Projects \$40,000; Traffic Control Device Replacement \$6,500; Sanitary Sewer Replacement north of Washington to Pine (Divided project 2020 and 2021) FY2020-\$56,000; Seal Coat Streets \$40,000; Francisco Sanitary Sewer \$225,000; Crack Seal Streets \$30,000 and Replace Traffic Signal at State St. & Center St. \$20,000.

Staff was available to answer questions regarding these specific areas.

The May 14, 2019, City Commission work session concluded at 6:10 p.m.

**Alma, Michigan  
May 14, 2019**

Mayor Mapes called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:10 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

**Present:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**Absent:** None.

Mayor Mapes asked the City Commission and members of the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve the Amendment to the Agenda to consider the resolution to allow the use of 217 N State parking lot for the Grand Opening celebrations of Gym 24/7 LLC.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2019 regular meeting and the April 30, 2019 Budget Review meeting.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Mayor Mapes opened a Public Hearing to consider the establishment of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for the parcel at 317 N State St. at 6:10 p.m.

Aeric Ripley, Assistant City Manager/DDA Director explained An Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (OPRA) is being requested for this parcel. The Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA), Public Act 146 of 2000, provides for a tax incentive to encourage the redevelopment of obsolete buildings. Designed to assist in the redevelopment of older buildings which may be contaminated, blighted or functionally obsolete. The goal is to rehabilitate older buildings into vibrant commercial and commercial housing projects. Setting an OPRA district is the first step to this property being developed. Setting an OPRA District is both beneficial to the developer and the City. A Special Use Permit has been granted by the Planning Commission for the upper story apartments.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comments.

Mayor Mapes made it known that he is the owner of this building and wished to abstain from voting on this agenda item presented to the Commission.

Being no additional Comments, Mayor Mapes asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to close the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Allman as supported by Commissioner Pitts:

**Whereas**, the City of Alma has been deemed a Qualified Local Governmental Unit, according to Section 2(k) of PA 146 of 2000, and

**Whereas**, a request to establish an obsolete property rehabilitation district was made by the City of Alma with the City Clerk, and

**Whereas**, the property located at 317 N. State Street, Alma, Michigan is found to be obsolete property for the following reasons:

- a) It is functionally obsolete for the reasons that the electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems are inadequate for the highest and best use of the property.
- b) The second story floor plan is inappropriate for the highest and best use of the property.

**Whereas**, the City of Alma is authorized under the provisions of PA 146 of 2000 to establish obsolete property rehabilitation districts by resolution, and

**Whereas**, The City Commission of the City of Alma scheduled a Public Hearing on May 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers in regard to this matter and the owner of all real property within the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District and any other resident or taxpayer of the City of Alma shall have the right to appear and be heard, and

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the City Commission of the City of Alma does hereby establish an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for the property located at 317 N State Street, Alma Michigan, further described as:

ELYTON. S 14' OF LOT 2, LOT 3 AND N 3.5' OF LOT 4, BLOCK 3. (317 N State Street.)  
2951 031 040 00

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts and Stahl.

**No:** None.

**Abstain:** Mapes.

**Resolution Declared Adopted.**

Mayor Mapes opened a Public Hearing to consider the establishment of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for the parcel at 116, 118 & 120 E superior St. at 6:15 p.m.

Aeric Ripley, Assistant City Manager/DDA Director stated that an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (OPRA) is being requested for this parcel. Mr. Ripley again explained that the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA), Public Act 146 of 2000, provides for a tax incentive to encourage the redevelopment of obsolete buildings. Designed to assist in the redevelopment of older buildings which may be contaminated, blighted or functionally obsolete. The goal is to rehabilitate older buildings into vibrant commercial and commercial housing projects. Setting an OPRA district is the first step to this property being developed. Setting an OPRA District is both beneficial to the developer and the City. A Special Use Permit has been granted by the Planning Commission for the upper story apartments.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comments.

Tim Lambrecht, County Commissioner stated that Housing is deficient in the County and the establishment of an OPRA District will help developers create more housing opportunities.

Being no additional Comments, Mayor Mapes asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Stahl to close the Public Hearing at 6:21 p.m.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Mott as supported by Commissioner Allman:

**Whereas**, the City of Alma has been deemed a Qualified Local Governmental Unit, according to Section 2(k) of PA 146 of 2000, and

**Whereas**, a request to establish an obsolete property rehabilitation district was made by the City of Alma with the City Clerk, and

**Whereas**, the property located at 116, 118 and 120 E Superior Street, Alma, Michigan is found to be obsolete property for the following reasons:

a) It is functionally obsolete for the reasons that the electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems are inadequate for the highest and best use of the property.

b) The second story floor plan is inappropriate for the highest and best use of the property.

**Whereas**, the City of Alma is authorized under the provisions of PA 146 of 2000 to establish obsolete property rehabilitation districts by resolution, and

**Whereas**, The City Commission of the City of Alma scheduled a Public Hearing on May 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers in regard to this matter and the owner of all real property within the Obsolete

Property Rehabilitation District and any other resident or taxpayer of the City of Alma shall have the right to appear and be heard, and

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the City Commission of the City of Alma does hereby establish an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for the property located at 116, 118 and 120 E Superior Street, Alma Michigan, further described as:

WEST 25 1/2 FEET OF LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 22, ORIGINAL PLAT TO THE CITY OF ALMA, GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

(116 E Superior Street.)

2951 031 257 00

THE W 1/2 OF LOTS 1 & 2, ALSO THE W 56 FT OF THE NORTH 1 ROD OF LOT 3, BLOCK 22, ORIGINAL PLAT TO THE CITY OF ALMA, GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN. EXCEPT THE E 26 1/2 FT AND W 25 1/2 FT THEREOF, BLK 22. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT FOR TAX YEAR 2015. (118 E Superior Street.)

2951 031 258 00

THE EAST 26 1/2 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 22, ALSO THE NORTH 1 ROD OF LOT 3, BLOCK 22, ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE CITY OF ALMA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF. EXCEPT THE WEST 56 FEET OF THE NORTH 1 ROD OF LOT 3, BLOCK 22. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT FOR TAX YEAR 2015. (120 E Superior Street.)

2951 031 259 00

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts and Stahl.

**No:** None.

**Resolution Declared Adopted.**

Mayor Mapes opened a Public Hearing to review the proposed FY2020 Annual City Budget and related Property Tax Millage at 6:21 p.m.

Manager Schooley explained that the proposed FY 2020 Annual City Budget was presented to the City Commission on April 9, 2019. Pursuant to Section 6.3 of the Alma City Charter, the City Commission is required to hold a public hearing to provide interested individuals an opportunity to provide input in the review process. The Proposed FY 2020 Budget was developed with the assumption of the following property tax millage rates being levied in the upcoming year: General Fund millage of 14.4060; a Transportation millage of .9604; a Voted Street millage of 2.500; Voted Library millage of 1.5; Library millage of .5 and a DDA millage within the district of 1.9716. These millage rates will have no changes from the Millage rates used for FY 2019.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public comment.

Being no Public comment, Mayor Mapes asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to close the Public Hearing at 6:24 p.m.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Pitts as supported by Commissioner Stahl to set a Public Hearing for June 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. to review a Special Assessment Roll for unpaid charges for noxious weed cutting, sidewalk replacement, frozen meters and utility billing charges for 2018.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$28,645.00 to Krapohl Ford & Lincoln for a 2019 F-250 Crew Cab Pickup with a Plow for the Alma Transit Center.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Pitts as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the request for purchase in the amount of \$32,000.00 to Robinson Electric for meters at Lift Stations #3, #5 and #8 and bypass installations at Lift Stations #3 and #5 for the Waste Water Department.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to receive the recommendation of bids for the Lawn Mowing Services for:

**Noxious Weed Enforcement Mowing for 2019 Season of 18,500 sq. yards of finish mowing and 1 acre of rough mowing.**

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>J &amp; R Lawn Care</b>	<b>\$595.00**</b>
Grass Wackers Inc.	\$790.00

**\*\* Recommended bidder**

**Gemstone Fields Subdivision Property Mowing for 2019 Season of 72,745 sq. yards for finish mowing and 18.7 acres of rough mowing.**

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Premier Property Maintenance</b>	<b>\$2760.10**</b>
Twin City Landscape Inc.	\$2859.33
J & R Lawn Care	\$3023.85
Grass Wackers Inc.	\$6827.35

**\*\* Recommended Bidder**

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Mott as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve a Discharge of Mortgage for the property at 318 Park. A rehabilitation loan was given to Gary and Barbara Mills for 318 Park on June 25, 1998 and the loan secured by the Mortgage has now been paid off.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve a resolution naming David Ringle, Public Services Director as the Single Street Administrator for the City of Alma in all transactions with the State Transportation Department.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.  
**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve a resolution granting permission to the Arts Walk Project to use the Downtown Sidewalks on E Superior from State Street east to Gratiot Avenue and to close Woodworth Avenue from E Superior to Center Street for their events on June 9th and July 21<sup>st</sup> 2019 from 11am-3pm.

Commissioner Mott questioned having these events on a Sunday.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** Mott.

Motion by Commissioner Pitts as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve the request from Gym 24/7 LLC to allow a musical band to perform in the parking lot of 217 N. State St. from the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for their Grand Opening Celebration on May 18, 2019.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to authorize the execution of the Project Authorization 2017-0004 P9 with the Michigan Department of Transportation to provide Federal and State funding for the purchase of one (1)-30 ft replacement bus with a lift in the amount of \$76,699.00 and to authorize Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Alma.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Pitts to authorize the execution of a Section 5311 Operating Contract Project Authorization with the Michigan Department of Transportation (#2017-0004/P10) to provide Federal Operational funding to the Transit system in the amount of \$130,849.00 and to authorize Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Alma.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a Ground Lease Agreement between the City of Alma and Alma College for Parking Lots #4 and 8 and the North-South Alley in Downtown Alma.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Pitts as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of an Agreement with the City of St. Louis for Property Assessment Administration to be administered by the City of Alma Assessor which will list, appraise, and maintain a complete set of records for all real and personal property, subject to ad valorem taxation, specific taxes, and in-lieu-of tax agreements within the Corporate limits of the City of St. Louis. Agreement approved by the City of St. Louis at their May 7, 2019 meeting.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Stahl to receive the following reports and place them on file: Alma Transit April 2019 Report; Building Permit Report for April 2019; Code Enforcement Report for April 2019; Alma DDA meeting minutes of April 10, 2019 and Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of April 1,

2019 and May 6, 2019.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

City Manager Schooley opened the discussion on the City's Sign Ordinance.

He informed the Commission that recently we received a citizen initiated complaint about yard signs that resulted in Code Enforcement action. Our current sign ordinance does not exempt the type of signs that many of our citizens want in their yards. We cannot selectively enforce the messages on the signs, especially when a complaint has been received. This issue was brought to the Commission last November as an informational item in the Newsletter when political signs were prevalent. The Sign Ordinance does not allow for yard signs in a residential area unless exempted. Political signs have an exemption for a period of time surrounding elections. Candidate signs and ballot initiatives are easy to spot and can be taken care of by ordinance. There have been signs with what many may consider a "political message" that have remained in yards since the election. We chose to take no action as there had been no complaints. When we received the complaint, we felt we needed to enforce the ordinance as written, which basically does not allow for most of the signs observed in yards in the City, including schools and non-profits. This allows for the opportunity to have dialogue with the community on the issue. In no way was our intent to make any kind of judgement on the signs in violation. Due to the ordinance, by their nature these signs were in violation.

City Manager Schooley had asked City Attorney Costanzo to review the Sign Ordinance.

City Attorney Tony Costanzo gave his opinion on the issues surrounding the City's Sign Ordinance. Mr. Costanzo determined that the yard signs that have been in question do not fall within the technical definition of the terms "sign" as used in the Alma ordinance and thus are not in violation. He added that during his tenure as City Attorney he has never known that it was the City's intent to enforce the Sign Ordinance on the signs in question. It was a citizen's complaint that forced the issue of enforcing the Sign Ordinance. Mr. Costanzo feels that this would be a good time to review this Sign Ordinance since times have changed since the adoption of this Ordinance in 1960. You as Commissioners need to decide how to move forward, how to regulate signs.

Mayor Mapes stated that a review of the Sign Ordinance needs to be mindful of First Amendments rights, property rights, Supreme Court decisions and State law in its rewriting. We as the City acted as to how we interpreted the Ordinance. He doesn't have a problem looking into the Ordinance. He thanked Mr. Costanzo for his opinion and Aaron Hale for doing the job he was asked to do, to enforce the Ordinances of the City.

Commissioner Piccolo added that we would be better served with a minimal Sign Ordinance that deals with time, place and manner.

Mayor Mapes speaking for the Commission would like City Staff to look at rewriting the Sign Ordinance. Investigate how other Communities are dealing with signs.

Commissioner Stahl reminded the public to contact Commissioners when they have a problem or questions don't just voice your concerns on social media.

Manager Schooley stated that the City will be going out on a Road Show to meet with citizens to hear their concerns and answer their questions.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve Warrant No. 19-21 and to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks in payment of all claims.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

Mayor Mapes asked for Commissioner comments.

Vice-Mayor Harrington reiterated that citizens should contact the Commissioners with their question. We are willing and able to hear from you.

Commissioner Mott commended Public Services Director, David Ringle on his new hat as the Street Administrator.

Commissioner Allman reminded all that there are three more performances of Mary Poppins at the Gratiot County Players this weekend.

Commissioner Stahl wanted to relay a feel good moment when Public Works Superintendent, Bob Albrecht rescued twelve baby duck from a storm drain.

Commissioner Pitts relayed that Saturday is Keep Alma Beautiful Clean Up day and they are looking for volunteers. Next, it is great to see a crowd here tonight, we welcome you to these meetings. Third, there is a table in the lobby with volunteer applications for people who want to get involved and help the City. Spread the word. Enjoy the Highland Festival. Please notice the benches made by a local Eagle Scout, Liam Wert at the Farmers Market. Keep going with positivity. Look for the good, let's work together.

Mayor Mapes echoed the Commissioners comments to contact them and to be positive.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public Comments.

Sheryl Dixon 513 Walnut stated that she was the resident in violation of the Sign Ordinance. She has signs in her yard to celebrate her children on their accomplishment in Alma Schools. She was not attacking the Commissioners but the Ordinance. She is thankful that we will be working on changing the Sign Ordinance.

Chris Maltby 218 Grant wanted to address the issue he is having with cats in his neighborhood. He feels that he is under attack. He would like to see the City become proactive in regulating cats, we do it for dogs why not cats. He feels we should not allow them to run, they should be licensed and we should control open feeding. Animal control are not allowed to take feral cats. He is hoping there is something the Commission can do.

Mike Bishop 619 Gratiot commented on the cat issue, that cats should be licensing. Cats are an invasive species. They are the number one killers of Birds and small animals. Trap neuter release programs do not work.

Tim Lambrecht County Commissioner presented a County update. The cat issue is one for them. Animal control is not taking care of the feral cat problem. He has met with Animal control and the County Administrator and will be bring a proposal to the County Commission to change how Animal Control deals with cats.

The County Commission is taking a look at Airport funding. They want to get a handle on the liabilities involved before making a decision on how the Airport will get its funding. He feels there is strong support for the County to take a larger role, but it will take time. He would like to see the Airport become self-sufficient. We need to come up with a vision and a plan. On the Sign Ordinance there are many court decisions that back people having signs in their yards.

Les Rosan, 889 Mill spoke on the Sign Ordinance. He feels that more research should have been done before enforcing the Ordinance. He feels that we should have done our homework. We should have handle this issue better. The public will lose confidence when the City is just chasing after the little things. In another matter he would like to see an appreciation notice sent to people who take good care of their yards.

Commissioner Pitts took his example to forward to the Keep Alma Beautiful Committee. She answered Mr. Rosan that the Commission is working on the issues. She remarked that you are making this sound to the public that we do not care. She needs to understand what does he want us to do.

City Attorney Costanzo responded to Mr. Rosan that he remembers talking about the violations of the Sign Ordinance back in November, but he remembers it had to do with election signs. He was remiss in not following up on the issue with the Commission. Mr. Costanzo pointed out to Mr. Rosan that he is walking a fine line in bringing issues to the Commission or is it just grandstanding. If you have issues talk to me as the City Attorney and he could then speak to the Commission for direction.

Mayor Mapes responded that the Commission and City Staff work really hard to accomplish tasks and prioritizing problems.

City Manager Schooley wanted to conclude on a positive note. He appreciates all that have come to speak. We are attempting to change the culture here at the City. You can question him all you want but he will not stand anyone questioning the integrity of the City Staff. The people who work for the City care tremendously about this City. We need to hold us responsible to our core value "TRIPLE". We are trying to train staff on leadership and management, but it will take time.

Laurie Wilson, 517 Michigan, St Louis wanted to commend the Police and Fire Departments on the job they do. People should respect one another.

Adam Raycraft 708 Woodworth wanted to express that people should not be feeding cats. The Airport is definitely an asset, it is a fabulous facility. Remember that a mile of runway takes you around the world a mile of road takes you a mile.

Mayor Mapes wanted to remind everyone to visit the Highland Festival on Memorial Day weekend.

Being no further Public comment, Mayor Mapes asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Allman as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m.

**Yes:** Allman, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Piccolo, Pitts & Stahl.

**No:** None.

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Gregory S. Mapes

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Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk