

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

Absent: None.

Work Session began at 5:30 p.m.

City Manager Schooley presented the June 21, 2019 Newsletter for discussion.

Informational

Center for Michigan Road Funding Presentation

I have included in your packet two documents from a Road Funding Forum that was hosted by the Gratiot Chamber in early June. Aeric Ripley and I both attended. Using large-scale formal polling, informal online surveys, and live surveys at regional conferences the Center for Michigan convened more than 3200 Michigan residents in April of this year to identify public priorities for dealing with Michigan's road crisis. You are free to take the time to read the entire report. I have listed some of the highlights below:

(Experts anticipate our roads will continue to spiral downward without a spending INCREASE of \$2.5 billion per year)

Michigan is dead last in per capita spending on roads.

74% of state residents feel Michigan roads are in either poor or terrible condition – and getting worse

Nearly 80% of state residents say the state should spend at least \$1 billion more per year to fix the roads

- But less than 20% believe we should spend the recommended \$2.5 billion

There is a consensus that the roads need to be fixed, but we are nowhere close to a consensus on how to get that done. Center for Michigan presented poll respondents with 7 options that have been considered: (You have detail of the options in your packets)

- Gasoline Tax: 74% believe this is a bad idea
- Increase in Sales Tax: 64% believe this is a bad idea
- 2 cent per mile user fee: 73% believe this is a bad idea
- Increasing Vehicle Registration Fees: 76% believe this is a bad idea
- Wait and see what the \$1.2 billion road increase from 2015 accomplishes: 64% believe this is a bad idea
- Diverting gas sales tax from schools: 75% believe this is a bad idea
- Issue bonds to be paid back later: 68% believe this is a bad idea

This poses a very interesting dilemma. While the overwhelming majority of respondents identify the need to fix the roads, there is not much of an appetite to increase taxes or trust of the legislature to move the state forward. This will continue to be a hot topic in our state. As I drove around the city late this week to really try and get a layman's look at the condition of our roads, it is hard to believe we are in better shape than most communities. No doubt a number of our roads are in rough shape. We are very fortunate for our local road millage. This allows us to work on projects that otherwise would be neglected. Any road discussions at the state level are sure to come back to our locals and how we will continue to fund those improvements.

MERS Assumption Changes/Valuation

Attached is a letter I received from MERS concerning economic assumption changes that will take place in 2021. MERS has announced that they will be reducing their investment assumption from 7.75% to 7.35% and their wage inflation assumption from 3.75% to 3.00% starting in 2021. I have also attached a copy of a presentation that I attended at the MERS offices on June 11th. I apologize as the text is a little small. The presentation explained the process and reasons for the changes. This will have an effect on our rates. We have received our annual valuation report for 2019 and will be making an appointment with our representative for discussion. If you are interested in this meeting, please let me know and we will be sure to send out the date and time.

I have just started to learn about the process for MERS contributions. It is apparent that all communities need to

take a hard look at how they will continue to fund their retirement benefits in the future. We currently are 76% funded (Treasury requirement is 60%).

Vulnerability Assessments

Water Plant Superintendent Bill Pilmore has made arrangements with the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center (MIOC), a division of the Michigan State Police, to conduct a vulnerability study of the water treatment plant. The study will be performed free of charge as the cost is covered under a federal grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The last self-assessment for the plant was completed in 2004, and much has changed with the plant since that time. In talking with staff, we felt this could create an opportunity to have an assessment completed on the municipal building. I was able to contact the MIOC and we were approved to have the municipal building added to the request. I was notified that the assessments would most likely be scheduled in late July. Thanks to Superintendent Pilmore for taking the initiative to help protect the City and our employees. I am sure the information will be put to good use.

ALICE Training for City of Alma Employees

While we are having discussions about conducting vulnerability assessments it became apparent that we should give serious consideration to active shooter training for all of our staff here at the City. Our police department has done a remarkable job of working with the Alma Public Schools to implement the ALICE program for all of our school age children. The program has been well accepted and is a model for others in our area. The training can be just as beneficial to adults in their workplace. City buildings can be a target of violence and the degree of prevention and protection afforded by the facility can never be high enough to afford 100% guarantee of today being just like yesterday. Government civilian employees must be properly prepared to respond to extreme workplace violence. ALICE is the best tool available to ensure this group of public servants are ready should the unthinkable occur.

ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. The goal of this training is to begin the individual's mental preparation for recognizing, assessing, and responding to threats. While violent attacks on government facilities are statistically very rare, the fact that they do occur, and occur on such a random basis, requires that every one of us who has the charge of responsibility to look out for the safety of each other and prepare for the worst.

We have just started the process of figuring out the logistics for the training, but we plan on having it completed by the end of the summer. When dates and times are set the commission will be invited to attend.

Community Chats – Road Show

Tentative dates and locations for a community engagement program: Community Chats that will take place three times over the summer. We will see how they go to determine how often they may be offered in later months.

- July 10th – Riverside Park
- July 24th – King Park
- August 22nd – Wright Park

All events will run from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm.

I had talked about going directly into different neighborhoods earlier, but I believe we would be better served to conduct these in different neighborhood parks. There will be no set agendas, this is just a way to informally have conversations with residents who want to talk about issues or ideas for the community in an informal setting. We will offer hot dogs or pizza to entice folks to come see us. The administrative staff will be encouraged to pick one or two of the days to be available. As always, commissioners are welcome.

Wright Mansion: Update

The property owner has consented to the building inspector conducting a dangerous building assessment. The goal is to have that take place prior to our first July meeting.

Area Manager's Meeting

I have coordinated a meeting with other area managers for the second or third week in July. We will be setting an agenda for topics that interest all of us. At the top will be the continuation of the discussion concerning the countywide parks millage. It appears that we are all in agreement that it is essential that we create a formula to allow the cities and villages to share in the countywide millage to help fund our own parks in the future.

Mayor Mapes asked if a timeline for the 2020 Election cycle could be presented to the Commission on the dates required for submitting a Park millage proposal for the August and November ballots.

City Attorney Costanzo stated that he should be able to come up with that timeline.

The June 25, 2019, City Commission work session concluded at 5:55 p.m.

**Alma, Michigan
June 25, 2019**

Mayor Mapes called a regular meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 6:00 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 Pitts as supported by Commissioner Piccolo to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 regular meeting and the June 11, 2019 Executive Closed Session.

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

No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Mott to set Public Hearings for July 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. to consider the final 2017 Special Assessment District Roll #2 for the construction of Ely Street Sanitary Sewers Leads; the final 2017 Special Assessment District Roll #3 for the construction of Euclid Avenue Sanitary Sewers Leads and, the final 2018 Special Assessment District Roll #1 for the construction of sidewalks on Lincoln Avenue.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to approve a resolution of Appreciation for Tony Glowacki on his retirement from the City of Alma on July 1, 2019.

Whereas, certain individuals give unsparingly and unselfishly of their time and talents to the City of Alma and its citizens, and

Whereas, Tony Glowacki is one such individual who will retire on July 1st, 2019 after 17 ½ years, of service in the Building and Grounds & Public Works Department and

Whereas, Tony has been a hardworking, dedicated employee who has been very valuable in the Building & Grounds and Public Works Department. Tony's dedication, cooperative attitude and ability to get the job done, defined him, through his career with the City. Tony hired in as a Crew Leader/ Cemetery Sexton on November 18, 2002, and quickly proved his abilities in woodworking and finish carpentry by building the new City Commission Dais and assisting in the renovation of the Commission Chambers in 2003.

Whereas, Tony in his role as Cemetery Sexton has been responsible for all Cemetery operations and maintenance and reroofing the Post Chapel. Tony's woodworking skills have been called on by other departments for special projects. In 2009 when Building and Grounds and Streets Departments were merged, Tony had to learn a whole new set of skills, including Streets snow removal and, Sewer maintenance. Tony has been involved in many major projects during his tenure at the City, including the new carpet install at City Hall in 2017 and the rebuild of the front counter. Tony also assisted in the rebuild of the Boat Dock at Pine River Park.

Whereas, Tony's quality of workmanship will be remembered for years to come, across the departments of the City.

Whereas, Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that Mayor Mapes, members of the City Commission, City staff and Alma citizens commend Tony Glowacki for a "job well done" and express their heartfelt gratitude and extend best wishes for an enjoyable, well deserved retirement.

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be presented to Tony Glowacki and that it be entered into the official minutes of the City Commission.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2019.

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

No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to approve the FY2019 year-end budget amendments.

- a. To increase the City Manager budget by \$35,000 and decrease the City Clerk budget by \$35,000 a portion of the Clerk's wages were recorded against the City Manager budget.
- b. To increase the Assessor budget by \$55,000 and decrease the General Fund Balance by \$55,000 as payment to Legacy Services for the citywide reappraisal for property tax purposes.
- c. To increase the Downtown Maintenance Budget \$25,000 and decrease the Elections Budget by \$25,000 to fund expenditures incurred over the original budget for Downtown Maintenance.
- d. To increase the Street Lighting Budget by \$10,000 and decrease the Public Works/Sidewalk Budget by \$10,000 to fund expenditures incurred over the original budget for Downtown Maintenance.
- e. To increase the Planning/Zoning Budget by \$11,000 and decrease the Treasurer budget by \$11,000 to fund expenditures incurred over the original budget for Planning/Zoning.
- f. To increase the Riverside Cemetery Budget \$60,000 and to decrease the General Fund Balance by \$60,000 to fund expenditures incurred over the original budget for Riverside Cemetery.

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

No: None.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington as supported by Commissioner Allman to receive the following report and place it on file: Code Enforcement May 2019 Report.

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

No: None.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Pitts to approve Warrant No. 19-24 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.

Commissioner Mott is very excited to report that on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on Barber St. in Ithaca, Habitat for Humanity will be having a Ground Breaking Ceremony. He is hoping for a great turn out.

Commissioner Allman was happy to see that Alma Transportation and Pine River Township have reached a resolution.

Commissioner Stahl was asked to inform that the Gratiot County Herald named David McMacken as Gratiot County Historian.

Commissioner Pitts wanted to thank Park volunteer, David DeGraff for all his work he is doing for the City Parks. She wishes all a happy Fourth of July. She will be on vacation for the July 9, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Piccolo reminded all to be safe on the Fourth of July

City Attorney Costanzo had a conversation with Animal Control Officer, Tom Clark. The drop off fee at the shelter is \$10 not the \$20 which had been reported. There has been an anonymous donor who gave the shelter \$300 to cover the drop of animals and as of last week the Shelter still had a Balance of \$240. GAIN is also working with the Animal Shelter to get placements for both domestic and feral cats.

City Manager stated that Boy Scout, Liam Wert could not be in attendance at the last meeting but is here tonight. He asked Liam to step forward and receive the City of Alma Challenge Coin for his work at the Farmer's Market and Euclid Park on the new benches he created and placed in the Parks.

Mayor Mapes thanked Liam. He also feels that cat owners should be made responsible for their cats by paying more to retrieve them from the shelter. He reminded that the Pine River Group is working on a Water Shed Plan. Many people are working to find solutions to get the Pine River cleaned up but it will take time. He also made note that the Rural Urban Day is July 19th.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public Comments.

Laurie Wilson 517 Michigan, St. Louis wanted people to look out for one another and be safe on the Fourth of July.

Richard Brenner 602 River is a crossing guard for the Alma Police Department. He wishes that the Commission would look at closing down the turn lane at Warwick and Pine during the hours of 7a.m.to 8a.m. and 3p.m. to 4p.m. during the school year to make the crossing of children for school safer. Staff was requested to study this closure.

Mark Prout 1006 Iowa passed out a letter to the Commissioners noting that there are streets in Alma posted with the speed limit signs of 25 mph. He would like to see these signs posted on Iowa. Staff will look into posting the speed limit signs.

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

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Commissioner Allman to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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

No: None.

Gregory S. Mapes

Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk