

**MINUTES
CITY OF ALTAMONT
JUNE 08, 2023**

- REGULAR MEETING The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with Mayor Richard Hayward presiding. Mayor Hayward opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer. Councilmembers present: Ben Cochran, Raymond Coffey, Kyle Wiford, Lyle Sykes & Cameron Johnston.
- Mayor Hayward thanked Council President Ben Cochran for running the last council meeting on May 25th due to mayor's absence.
- MINUTES Councilmember Cochran moved and Sykes seconded to approve the minutes from May 25, 2023. Motion carried.
- INVOICES Councilmember Johnston moved and Cochran seconded to make payment on invoices in the amount of \$78,633.62. Motion carried.
- DOWNTOWN ALLEYS Sandy Krider at Labette County Public Works said the city would need to do three applications of chip and seal in the downtown alleys. The alleys would need to be chip and sealed twice this year, and once next year. Sandy is concerned about the weight of the trash truck, mail and delivery trucks using the alley with the chip and seal. The trash truck is likely to be the worst due to their heavy load, sharp turns and starting and stopping. Sandy felt that the city would be money ahead to do a 3" asphalt overlay. She expected it to be a long-term solution to upkeep the downtown alleys. The estimated cost for the four downtown alleys including labor and three applications was \$7,600. 3" asphalt overlay would be \$6,580 per block including the labor. Council was also provided the money available in the streets and highways funds as well. Mayor Hayward wanted to know if there are streets in town that need attention. He was also concerned that even an asphalt overlay would not stand up to the trash truck and box trucks traveling down, that highway. Councilmember Coffey stated that the chip and seal would have to be redone continuously and cost money over and over down the road. Councilmember Sykes stated that if the chip and seal would hold up, then the investment would be worth it but not if it won't hold up. He would rather put asphalt down on streets that the residents would be using over the alleys it's a better use of tax payer's dollars. Councilmember Cochran would like to see the alleys being done worked into future budgets as it would go into beautifying downtown. Administrator Myers asked about the crew coming to pour Landsdowne possibly doing the alley as well. Mayor Hayward asked about legal ramifications of that and City Attorney Robert Myers stated that if that's what they wanted to do, to make sure Utility Superintendent Brad Myers, was there to oversee the road. Councilmember Wiford would like to see the plan of roads to be done this year and discuss trying to budget in doing the alley's over the next four years. Council agreed to table the alley discussion until they saw the list of roads that needed to be done this year.
- LANDSDOWNE Council was provided with quotes in their packets for the pouring of concrete at Landsdowne, as well as the capital improvement funds that are available to possibly pay for that project. Councilmember Sykes wanted to know about reservations from Council about doing Landsdowne. Councilmember Coffey wants to make sure that our infrastructure is taken care of prior to some other things. Councilmember Cochran says his view is that the conversation of beautifying downtown has been going on for six years and nothing has been done. Councilmember Wiford doesn't want to see other things sacrificed or put to the wayside like councilmember Coffey said, but he wants to know about the streets and the budget to do the alley. Councilmember Wiford would like to see the city go with Volmer Construction because they are local. Councilmember Coffey wants to know how Landsdowne would create income for the community. Robert Myers let council know that the money for your infrastructure comes from utility rates. If the money isn't there to keep that up, then the rates need to be raised in order to make that happen.
- Councilmember Johnston moved and Cochran seconded to have Heather go after Volmer Construction. Councilmember Wiford requested Brad reaching out to Volmer Construction about the mesh vs rebar and the lifespan of the concrete. Councilmember Johnston and Cochran rescinded their motion and second.
- Landsdowne was tabled until the next meeting in order to get more information about rebar vs mesh and the load limits of each.
- ELECTRIC RATE REVIEW Administrator Myers said the electric work session went well and that KMEA said if the future revenue isn't enough, then they would suggest raising the base. Councilmember Cochran thought the ordinance was good at this time, but it may need tweaked in the future. Councilmember Sykes stated in July the base would go to \$15 and KMEA suggested that it needed to be closer to \$25. Council agreed to hold off on making changes currently and revisit it at the beginning of the year.

**PAGE TWO
CITY OF ALTAMONT
JUNE 08, 2023**

FIRE ISO RATING The February ISO (Insurance Services Office) Audit brought a 4 rating for the Altamont Fire Department. Mayor Hayward stated that the rating would impact insurance rates for the home owners as well as businesses. The unofficial information was that business and commercial properties could see up to a 10% decrease in their insurance. Councilmember Cochran asked about anything we could do to improve; he had noticed in the audit that training had low scores. Mayor Hayward said that he dropped the ball on keeping good documentation on the trainings that they were doing. They have improved their documenting of trainings since the audit in February. He stated there were other changes that could be made but felt it would only maintain their 4 rating but they would never be better than a 4 due to being a volunteer department.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- 1) Budget** – Working on the 2024 City budget.
- 2) Utility Payment Plans** – Bridget Nash has been reviewing payment plan history.
- 3) Neighborhood Revitalization** – Heather Beasley attended the Labette County Commission meeting to present the Inter-local agreements and Altamont’s Neighborhood Revitalization Program.
 - a) The application was approved by the Commission and has been mailed to the Attorney General for final approval.
- 4) Pool** – The Pool opened on May 27th.
 - a) Trainer Paige March completed lifeguard training for our lifeguards and a few surrounding area guards the last week of May.
- 5) KMU** – Employees attended the monthly safety training over heat stress and exhaustion.
- 6) HELP** – Attended the HELP meeting.
- 7) Fishing Derby** – The Altamont Police Department hosted the 18th Annual Kids Fishing Derby at Idle Hour Lake. There were 115 registered kids participate in the event.
 - a) The Utility Department worked hard to make the lake beautiful for this event.
- 8) Solid Waste** – On May 22, 2023, the Solid Waste Committee approved the proposed rate of \$44.25 per ton effective June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. On July 1, 2024 the fee will increase by 2% per year for the remainder of the contract which is December 31, 2029.
 - a) The proposal was accepted by GFL and the Labette County Commissioners.
 - b) Attended the Solid Waste meeting on June 5th to finalize the rate amendment to the existing contract.
- 9) Work Session** – Attended the electric rates review work session.
- 10) Elections** – There were five candidates who filed for the Altamont City Council elections in November. Candidates are Colt Booth, Benjamin Cochran, Raymond Coffey, Cameron Johnston and Tyler Julich. There are three seats available. Successful candidates will take their seat on the City Council during the first meeting in December.
- 11) Water Meter Pilot Program** – We are working with D.C.&B. Supply to do a pilot program for advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and new ultrasonic water meters. They will be getting us test meters to try soon.
 - a) D.C.&B. is partnering with Smart Earth Technologies and Innovative Utility Solutions to provide the AMI service. Their system can do AMI for electric, gas, and water. They are hopeful if we decide to update our water meters with them, they can input the electric and gas reading into their software via a tablet with mobile data. They are working with their programmers to try to find a solution for this.
 - b) We need to find a solution for our current utility palm pilots which we use to read meters. They are starting to have issues. Bridget received a bid to replace what we currently have but the technology is extremely out-of-date. The bid for 5 palm pilots like our current ones is just over \$16,000.
 - c) We received an email to set up the AMI pilot program. They will send a shipping notification as soon as the 10 pilot meters ship. They are expecting them to ship in the next two weeks.
- 12) AMI Loan Options** – Reviewed the State Revolving Loan application as an option for purchasing ultrasonic water meters and AMI system.
 - a) This program has the possibility for loan forgiveness which is expected to be announced in October.
- 13) Lead and Copper** – If you have not turned in your Lead and Copper Survey, please get those turned in. Contact the City Office if you need a new copy of the survey.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Flag Day is Saturday, June 10. Check out the Altamont Flag Day Facebook page for a list of events.
- Pool passes are available through the City Office.
- Swim lesson dates have been set. Call the City Office to register your child.

ADJOURN Councilmember Cochran moved and Johnston seconded to adjourn. Motion Carried 8:05PM

DATE Heather Beasley, City Clerk

