

**MINUTES
CITY OF ALTAMONT
JUNE 22, 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 & Cameron Johnston.
- MINUTES Councilmember Coffey moved, and Cochran seconded to accept the minutes from the meeting of June 08, 2023. Motion carried.
- INVOICES Councilmember Cochran moved and Wiford seconded to pay the invoices in the amount of \$70,389.63. Motion carried.
- AARON SPENCER Aaron Spencer was present at the meeting to discuss the location of the trash truck. The Spencer's live at 603 S Wells, which is located directly north of the current location of the trash truck and dumpsters. The Spencer's are requesting a solution to the dumping or moving the location of the trash truck and dumpsters. The current location causes lots of trash to be blown in their yard, as well as causing them to have a bug problem. Aaron said that the city guys work very hard, probably harder than they need to. Aaron said that the community throws trash down there with no regard to where it's going. If the location can't be changed, he would like to see about no dumping there by the community. Administrator Myers included minutes from previous meetings where the topic has been discussed in the past. Councilmember Coffey agrees that the situation is out of hand and has been for a while. Utility Superintendent Brad Myers said that if they got rid of the dumpsters being available for people to use, then it would take two days for the utility crew to pick up trash. Brad said that Altamont is the only town where the trash runs 365 days a year. Councilmember Cochran suggested using the cameras and ticketing people who are illegally dumping to cut down on the dumping. Councilmember Coffey suggested talking to an exterminator service about possibly spraying something around the dumpsters to help with the roach issue. Councilmember Wiford suggested leaving locked metal straps on them unless they are open during set hours for dumping and using the cameras and enforcing criminal littering for anyone dumping outside of set hours. The council will think over the issue before the next meeting, in hopes of reaching a solution.
- LANDSDOWNE Brad said that the concrete at the intersection of 4th & Huston was 8" with rebar. There would not be the weight or turning at Landsdowne like there is at that intersection, therefore 6" with mesh would be plenty for that project. Mayor Hayward stated that he received many thoughts and comments about Landsdowne and safety concerns being on the highway. Also concerns with the cost of Landsdowne when there are streets that need to be done in town. Councilmember Johnston suggested having block parties once a month downtown and closing Huston for a couple of hours for community gatherings such as movie nights or farmer's market. He thinks this would give us an idea of how many people would take interest in this sort of thing. Administrator Myers brought up the safety issue along the highway that was discussed last time and possibly placing hedging or railing around it as a barrier. Robert Myers showed the council an idea of barriers on the roadside in Baxter to help deter vehicles from pulling off on the side of the road. Councilmember Wiford likes the idea of having something downtown for a gathering place with extra seating that isn't down at the corner at the church, but he also hasn't had positive conversations about the amount of money to do Landsdowne. City Clerk Heather Beasley shared that Mayor Hayward had informed her and Administrator Myers about the concerns. Beasley stated that she would take the blame for the project, as it was her idea originally. Beasley shared that she felt it was important to continue other projects in town along with Landsdowne. She hopes for everyone as a whole to continue to make good decisions for the citizens and make progress in other places as well as Landsdowne. Things like the streets and infrastructure need to be taken care of as well on top of Landsdowne and not pushed to the back burner. Councilmember Wiford said that he 100% agrees and didn't feel there was any reason for Beasley to take any blame for having ideas, as there is no blame there. He felt that it is still a great idea, but maybe scale the project down to just seating and shelter, without all the cost of the concrete. Administrator Myers brought up the fact that action needs to be taken on projects to get done, because everything couldn't be done at once. Councilmember Coffey stated that it didn't feel like anything was being done and Landsdowne has been the prime subject of everything. Myers stated that there are a lot of things going on in the background in the office that need to be in order prior to coming to council as a discussion. Utility Superintendent Brad Myers suggested cutting cost on concrete by doing the east slab 4" rather than 6" since it would be used for seating only. Utility Superintendent Brad Myers said that Landsdowne is not level anywhere and that the only way to get it level is to remove trees and take a backhoe to dig it up and bring in new dirt. Brad said there wouldn't be any way to set a lot of chairs out there for people without it being level. Administrator Myers suggested possibly making the concrete patio slab and gravel on the west end for the food trucks to park on. Councilmember Cochran likes the

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idea of having the food trucks downtown. Councilmember Wiford thinks that we should take baby steps in allowing the trucks to park on Huston and putting extra benches, and possibly some picnic tables on the sidewalk for the present time.

Councilmember Wiford moved and Cochran seconded to move forward with Landsdowne and allow food trucks to park downtown on Huston utilizing some of the angled parking; allowing LeaAnn, Heather, and Brad to look at prices for some chairs, benches, or picnic tables to place on the sidewalk for seating, and a quote for 4" concrete for the east pad and rock for the west pad. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1) Budget – Working on the 2024 city budget.

2) Pool – Labette Center for Mental Health is donating to the Altamont Pool to pay for the first 50 people to the pool on a scheduled day. LeaAnn will work with Pool Manager Luke Wolgamott to set a date for this event.

3) Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund (KPWSLF) – Submitted the KPWSLF pre-application to see about funding for new water meters and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system.

a) The State will go through the pre-applications to determine which projects are eligible for funding.

b) Projects eligible for funding must then complete an application which would require an engineering report and a public hearing.

c) The State will then look to see if the eligible loan recipients qualify for loan forgiveness, which is available if the recipient is determined to be a disadvantaged community.

4) Worker's Comp Audit – The City of Altamont received 100% on our safety score which will save the city 5% on our worker's comp premiums.

5) 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.

b) 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.

c) 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.

d) Shipping dates have been delayed. They are still waiting on the solar end point which would send the readings back to the City Office.

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.

Mayor Hayward asked LeaAnn if there was a loan or grant that we could apply for like KPWSLF but for gas meters. He thinks it needs to be looked at in the future, not high priority currently but need to be looking for options. Councilmember Wiford asked how much the 5% workers comp discount amounted to dollar wise. He asked if there was ever any turnaround of that 5% back to the employees for doing as they should to be safe. He suggested during employee evaluation time trying to give that back to the employees who are doing the work to allow for a safe place to work. Councilmember Cochran and Coffey as well as Mayor Hayward thought it was a good idea.

UTILITY QUARTERLY

-Watered the road from the cemetery to Ness for the county to chip and seal

-Hooked up new electric for Rob Gartner's shop

-Locates for Cox Communications

-Met with the FSA Office to get some help with elevations at the west lake. Brad is trying to get some money from fish and game to raise the water level.

-Hauled rock and spread it in the alley by Peggy Ybarra's.

-Repaired the electric stack on a pole after a windstorm.

-Dug holes at the lake for the Louis Gartner Idle Hour Lake sign.

-Replaced a water valve and meter

-Had Rocky Arb repair our sewer machine. Rewired the control box and repaired the speed control solenoid.

-Replaced hydraulic hose on backhoe.

-Replaced alternator on the old trash truck.

-Locates for Wave Wireless

-Put up a new electric pole for Cox Communications

-Replaced 2 o-ring's in hydraulic hoses in the new trash truck.

-Mow and weed eat

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- The water tower is complete with new paint and ladder
- Had bulk trash and pick up brush
- Put in a new down guy at 201 Elm, the electric line was laying on the house
- Unclogged the sewer main on 3rd Street
- Got the swimming pool ready and replaced a toilet in the women's bathroom
- Took down and then put electric back up for Hinman Tree Service to cut a big Oak tree down in the park
- Replaced the gas line at 501 Virginia, leak was found in the outside yard line
- Replaced a 30 amp breaker at campsite 7
- Cleaned up where the tree had been cut down at the park
- Repaired the gas and water service at 403 Virginia after Cox hit it
- Gas leak found at 109 Huston inside the garage, meter was pulled
- Replaced an electric fuse at 2nd and Huston that was out from a squirrel
- Got the lake read for the Fishing Derby
- Replaced a 3 phase electric meter at the Grade School
- Patched holes on 4th street
- Got ready for Flag Day, cleaned equipment for touch a truck and cleaned up after
- Took quarterly sewer samples and sent them to Trinity in Mound Valley for testing
- Serviced the trash truck, replaced fuel filters and air filters
- Ordered street signs and a post to replace missing or damaged ones
- Dug up and vacuumed out the sewer pump on the south camp site and replaced float

Brad was supposed to have a meeting with Cox and Integrid Cable to go around town and look at holes and things that needed to be fixed around town. The Cox guy wants to hold Integrid Cable liable for finishing the project correctly and cleaning up prior to signing off on the project as complete. Councilmember Cochran said he received many compliments on the lake because the utility crew did a great job getting everything mowed and cleaned up. Brad said the streets this year to be done is Oak north of 4th to 2nd, then Wabash by the pool south across the tracks to 9th. They will do as many as they can until the money runs out. The plan is to pick out the worse streets in town and get them done in the order most needed. Councilmember Cochran asked about looking at the budget to increase the streets budget to get more done. Administrator Myers stated that they get special highway money for that, and it goes to cover other things like rock and culverts as well. Councilmember Wiford asked Brad how long it had been since Centennial had been redone. Brad said he didn't know off the top of his head when it had last been done, but he could look it up and let them know. Councilmember Wiford wanted to applaud Brad for his detail on his reports. There is never any question that the guys are out there every single day working and it's good to see the detail in what the guys are doing. The reports are specific to what they are doing every single day and being the backbone of the city.

COMMUNICATIONS

- The first session of swimming lessons starts next week. Call the City Office to get your children enrolled.
- Altamont Fireworks is Monday, July 3 on the South side of Harrison Auditorium beginning around 9:30PM. This event is sponsored by the City of Altamont and the Altamont Fire Department.
- The City Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observation of Independence Day.

Councilmember Wiford said he had a conversation about the pool with someone who applauded the city on the pool and how nice and how well kept it was. They appreciated the fact that the pool passes were still \$25 a month but asked about possibly upping the price to \$30 or \$35 to maybe help fund new seating for the pool. Administrator Myers stated that she and Nathan Barnett had been out to purchase chairs and two loungers that day. Umbrellas and shade were also brought up as a possibility for the pool area as well. City Clerk Heather Beasley said that there is a grant for shade structures, but that there needed to be specific steps like education, as well as dermatologist signing off to be eligible for the grant. Heather Beasley said that the pool is busy, which is a good thing, she covered the concession stand for an hour before they closed for their break to have two lifeguards on deck to ensure kids safety in the pool. Councilmember Coffey asked if we needed to hire more lifeguards and Administrator Myers stated it wasn't a matter of hiring more guards but getting the pool manager back from vacation and looking at scheduling. Councilmember Cochran would like LeaAnn to investigate a new quote for a large shade structure for the pool.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Cochran moved and Wiford seconded to adjourn. Motion Carried 8:33PM

DATE

Heather Beasley, City Clerk