

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ALTAMONT  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

REGULAR MEETING The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with Mayor Richard Hayward presiding. Greg Garrett was present to lead prayer. Councilmembers present: Ben Cochran, Raymond Coffey, Kyle Wiford, Lyle Sykes & Cameron Johnston.

MINUTES Councilmember Cochran moved and Sykes seconded to approve the minutes from August 24, 2023. Motion carried.

INVOICES Councilmember Sykes moved and Wiford seconded to approve or pay the invoices totaling \$49,403.35. Motion carried.

NOAH DIXON Noah Dixon was present to request an extended stay at Idle Hour Lake. Noah and his fiancé have been staying at the lake for about 3 months and have been looking for somewhere to go out of state with no luck. Noah is up to date on his payments and hasn't caused any issues at the lake. Noah is requesting to stay maybe 3 more months max.

Councilmember Johnston moved and Cochran seconded to grant the extension of Noah Dixon until the beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 651 An ordinance providing for salaries and wages of certain appointive officers and employees of the City of Altamont, Kansas effective January 1, 2024, and repealing ordinance #648.

Councilmember Cochran moved and Johnston seconded to approve ordinance 651, the wage ordinance.

Cochran yes, Coffey yes, Wiford yes, Sykes yes, Johnston yes

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 652 An ordinance of the City of Altamont, Kansas establishing procedures and fees from reimbursements to the city for callouts to handle problems which are not caused by the city or its employees after hours, repealing ordinance #585. The new proposed charged is \$75, up from \$50. This would cover overtime charges for our guys going out for emergency calls, such as a gas meter that has been hit or even a utility pole. There would be no charge for a gas leak situation. Councilmember Sykes asked about storms being a cause for this charge and Administrator Myers stated no as that is out of the customers control. Councilmember Wiford asked about the resident getting a warning about this situation. He was assured that warnings of charges as well as timelines for the restart of services is already given in the office.

Councilmember Wiford moved and Coffey seconded to approve ordinance six five two.

Cochran yes, Coffey yes, Wiford yes, Sykes yes, Johnston yes

Motion carried.

LANSDOWNE City Clerk Heather Beasley updated the council on the Lansdowne project. Heather Beasley and Deputy City Clerk Bridget Nash met with Alexander Manufacturing this week to discuss the possibility of having some poles powder coated for a shade structure to go over the food trucks at Lansdowne. Alexander said they would donate the powder coating and suggested meeting with LCC about the welding department fabricating the structure itself.

RECREATION Altamont Recreation Commission Director Bridget Nash is requesting Morgan Goins be appointed to the Altamont Recreation Commission, term ending December 31, 2023.

Mayor Richard Hayward appointed Morgan Goins to the Altamont Recreation Commission, term ending December 31, 2023.

Councilmember Cochran moved and Johnston seconded to accept the appointment of Morgan Goins to the Altamont Recreation Commission. Motion carried.

BOO BASH Altamont Recreation Commission Director was present to update council on the upcoming Boo Bash. She stated that they have received \$1550 so far in Boo Bash donations, that is about half of what is normally brought in so she hopes those will continue to roll in. Bridget also asked council to be involved in the trunk or treat during Boo Bash and hand out candy to the kids. The Altamont Recreation Commission is also requesting permission from council to close Huston Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-7PM on Sunday October 29, 2023 in order to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Boo Bash.

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Councilmember Cochran moved and Wiford seconded to allow the closure of Huston Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-7PM on October 29, 2023 for the Boo Bash. Motion carried.

**SEWER REPLACEMENT**

Council was provided an estimate from Tri-Star Utilities in their packets to replace the sewer at Wabash and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Estimate included installing approximately 280 LF of 8" Gravity Sewer and reinstating all taps, approximately 6 and totaled \$31,000.00

Brad said that Tri-Star has been doing our sewer repairs for many years. Councilmember Cochran asked about the budget was available. Administrator Myers stated that the city may be able to use ARPA funds for this project and if so there is just over \$50,000 worth of ARPA funds left. If those funds aren't able to be used then there is \$129,000 in reserves or the capital improvement money could be used for that. Councilmember Cochran asked about other things that need to be done with the money in reserves. Utility Superintendent Brad Myers said that there are many other things that need to be updated.

Councilmember Cochran moved and Sykes seconded to accept the bid for replacement of the sewer at 8<sup>th</sup> and Wabash for Tri-Start Utilities for \$31,000. Motion carried.

**NEW HOME INCENTIVES**

Council was provided with the new NRP program information that was approved on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 as well as the new home incentive that was previously in place. Council would like to look at both programs again next meeting in order to make a decision.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

- 1) Safety Training**– KMU provided safety training to the City Employees regarding safety observations.
- 2) CPR Training** – Mayor Richard Hayward certified City Employees in CPR.
- 3) Recreation** – Bridget Nash and the Altamont Recreation Commission have been busy planning fall events.
- 4) Library** – Mrs. Freda Edwards announced her retirement from the Altamont Public Library after serving for over 47 years. Freda will be greatly missed but we wish her the very best in her retirement.
  - a)** The Altamont Library Board is accepting applications for a new Library Director through Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 5) Labette County** – LeaAnn Myers met with Mel Hass, the Labette County Zoning Administrator, Marc Jones, and Keith Keller. They asked the City to provide them with what possible growth may look like in a long-range plan for the City of Altamont. They will provide the information to the County to help protect the areas around the City of Altamont for future growth.
- 6) Streets** – The County asphalted Oak Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets between Oak and Elm Avenue.
- 7) Lansdowne Garden** – The Utility Department has been preparing Lansdowne Garden for the patio project.
- 8) Food Pantry** – Heather Beasley went through the food pantry to prepare it for the upcoming winter months.
- 9) Trash** – The new trash sign for the City Trash site was received and installed last week.
- 10) Janitor Position** – Conducted interviews for a new janitor and filled the position.
- 11) Kansas Department of Labor** – Completed and submitted the City's KDOL safety audit report.
- 12) 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.
  - a)** Shipping dates have been delayed for the AMI pilot program. They are waiting on the solar end points which would send the readings back to the City Office.
  - b)** 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.
  - 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.
- 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.
  - a)** Heather Beasley and Brad Myers met with Darryn Martin over updates to the Lead and Copper Survey.

Councilmember Cochran asked about the city doing something for Freda Edwards as 47 years of service is amazing. Councilmember Johnston asked if the library had a name and Brad Myers agreed that after 47 years every day that may be an idea. Mayor Richard Hayward suggesting thinking on it and revisiting it at the next meeting, and Brad Myers could get an estimate or cost of a plaque or something on the exterior of the library.

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Councilmember Sykes asked about the trash cameras and if they were fixed. Administrator Myers stated that they were working on them.

Administrator Myers also informed everyone of the council forum being held on Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup> in the City Council Room with Brian Johnson as the moderator.

**POLICE REPORT**

- The Police Department has handled numerous calls during this period from animal control, civil standby's/child exchanges, citizens assist, lake patrol, and safety checks.
- Warnings issued for traffic infractions by officers – 15
- Citations issued for traffic infractions by officers – 11
- A couple medical calls
- LCHS football game security

Councilmember Coffey out at 7:41PM

- Participated in the LCHS active shooter practice drill
- KBI Adult reports – 1 possession of Marijuana, 1 possession of drug paraphernalia, 2 theft, 1 burglary, 1 exploitation of elderly, 2 domestic battery, 1 deprivation of property, 1 criminal damage to property
- 1 disorderly conduct and a stolen vehicle which has been recovered
- All officers have been busy with patrol duties and community relations, very proactive lately and preparing for the start of schools back in session which are usually very busy for us.
- Working on training for officers
- All officers have been very active with patrol duties and enforcement
- Several junk yard letters have been sent out as well, with bulk trash coming up as their reminder to clean up their yards

Councilmember Coffey back in at 7:43PM

**UTILITY REPORT**

- Mow and weed eat city shop, Lansdowne garden, park, city hall, idle hour lake
- Clean and throw away trash, boxes and other misc. items at PD
- Unload poly carts
- One call locate tickets – 12
- Get roads ready for asphalt
- Replace primary electric fuse by High School 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 2 weeks – heat related
- Turn up transformer voltage at Holiness Church, re-crimp wire splices and cut trees in lines
- Abandon 2 gas service lines, both not in use. 1 was leaking at regulator. That is approximately 12 regulators we have found leaking in the last 6 months. Starting to be a problem, meters and regulators were installed in 2010.
- Meeting with KRWA about lead and copper, along with Heather
- CPR training – thanks Richard, very informative we all enjoyed it.
- Put up new sign at trash truck
- Gas meter hit 502 E 3<sup>rd</sup>, turn off valve bar hole for underground leaks
- Lake campsite 10 electric short. Replace all fuses, 50 and 30 amp plug ins
- Meet with Benja (Tri-Star) about sewer line on 8<sup>th</sup> and Wabash. Main line collapsed
- Clean sewer main on Karner between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Put new gas line at 502 3<sup>rd</sup>, meter hit by a vehicle
- Lake campsite 12 replace 20 amp ground fault breaker, site 19 replace 30 amp breaker
- Lansdowne garden take out shrubs, replant bushes, remove signs, move rock, take down electric stack 2 hours Brad Myers & Nate Barnett
- Move electric pole, start stripping dirt 4 hours Brad Myers, Nate Barnett, Joe Carson & Justin Bertling

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- City Wide Rummage Sales – Saturday September 23
- Bulk Trash – September 25-27

**ADJOURN**

Councilmember Cochran moved and Sykes seconded to adjourn. Motion Carried 7:54PM

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DATE

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Heather Beasley, City Clerk