

Sept. 18, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

5:50 p.m.

Mayor Richard Champeny opened the public hearing to the public regarding proposed Ordinance #25-03A amending Chapter 91: Cemeteries.

No testimony for or against the ordinance was received.

Mayor Champeny closed the public hearing.

Sept. 18, 2025

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

6:00 p.m.

Mayor Richard Champeny called the regular monthly meeting of the Common Council to order.

Pledge of Allegiance of said.

Clerk Linda Torgerson took roll call with the following members present: Mayor Richard Champeny, Davie Meier, Larry Grisen, Perry Iberg, Loren Mueller, Gary Jepsen, and David Earney. Absent: Randy Brommer.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Iberg to approve the August 21, 2025 Council Proceeding minutes as presented. All members voting yes.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Meier to approve the August 2025 Financial Report as presented. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to approve the August 2025 Treasurer's Report as presented. All members voting yes.

Citizen comments:

Dan Schultz, citizen, requested that the City of Alma's website is not user friendly and he was unable to find the agenda. This matter will be referred to the City's website manager.

Jerri Schreiber, business owner, commented that the detour created an impact on the businesses in Alma.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Loren Mueller Chairperson reported on the committee meeting of September 4, 2025.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to adopt Ordinance #25-03A regarding amendment to the cemetery ordinance. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

The ordinance added no burning in the cemeteries and up to 8 cremations per grave.

Mueller stated that the per capita for ambulance service will be increasing by \$5/capita for 2026.

Mueller informed the Council that Emily Rybarczak police officer gave her monthly report at the meeting.

Mayor Champeny is working on establishing a change in the fines/forfeitures section of the code of ordinance for violations of city ordinances.

Motion by Meier seconded by Earney to approve the Services Committee report for September 4, 2025 as presented. All members voting yes.

RIVERLAND ENERGY BUILDING COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Grisen reported that the committee met on September 4, 2025. The committee reviewed the asbestos inspection report as prepared by Brack company. Mayor Champeny explained the report to the committee.

The roof is scheduled for inspection in the next few weeks.

The committee is continuing to gather information regarding the building and the remodel needed.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Meier to approve the Riverland Energy Building Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Larry Grisen gave the committee report for September 8, 2025.

Grisen clarified to Dan Schultz that the lower half of the Bluff Street Steps were removed for the Lift Station #4 project. The committee had discussed what to do with the steps, however, the ADA compliance with the steps made it financially impossible to do anything at this location.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Earney to approve Pay Request #1 for the Lift Station #4 project in the amount of \$319,200.00. All voting yes by roll call vote.

Grisen reported that the Wisconsin Rural Water Association has worked closely with the City in resolving the water quality problem on Second Street. The WRWA developed a quality plan for the city to follow.

The retaining wall project on North Second Street will be completed mid-October Grisen commented.

Motion by Earney seconded by Mueller to approve the September 8, 2025 Utilities Committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

Chairperson Gary Jepsen reported on the committee meeting of September 8, 2025.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Iberg to approve an Operator License to Ridge Lodermeier. All members voting yes.

Jepsen reported that the committee met with the auditor regarding the City's debt limits. Jepsen stated that he is researching and will be applying for a 60% solar loan and a low interest short-term loan of 0% for the library project.

The Mayor read the City Square Mission statement:

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ALMA CITY SQUARE

The Mission of the Alma City Square Advisory Committee will be to advise the Common Council of the City of Alma as to ideas and proposals in developing and enhancing the City Square for the enjoyment of all. All monies collected towards this endeavor shall be deposited in an FDIC insured account specifically designated for the City Square enhancement and managed by the City for disbursement. The City maintains the sole discretion in accepting, modifying, or rejecting any enhancement or use proposals brought by the Advisory Committee. The long term goal is to have the City Square be self-sufficient and sustainable through donations and contributions. The Advisory Committee shall be a Volunteer Committee consisting of one member from the following organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Enhance Alma, Resident Citizen, Common Council, and the Mayor. The Mayor shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee.

Motion by Jepsen seconded by Mueller to approve the Mission Statement of the Alma City Square and to approve the Advisory Committee composition and note they will be non-paid, truly voluntary, positions. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Jepsen informed the Council that Agenda Item 12: Temporary one-way for High School Road during library construction was no longer an issue after speaking with Rob Stewart, High School Superintendent. Stewart will provide a strip of ground off the road for Market and Johnson's construction trailer.

Motion by Iberg seconded by Earney to approve Ethos as the vendor for the new library and to move forward with the solar project. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Earney seconded by Iberg to authorize the Library Building committee to approve change orders for the library project with a cap of \$25,000.00. All members voting yes.

Motion by Meier seconded by Earney to approve the Finance/Tax & License/Zoning committee report for September 8, 2025 as presented. All members voting yes.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Davie Meier went over the committee minutes of September 9, 2025.

The committee discussed the following items:

- Attendance at Art & Music Fest at beach was approximately 800
- Possible removal of the gazebo at the beach
- Buena Vista bathrooms
- Other park concerns

Motion by Grisen seconded by Mueller to approve the Parks and Recreation committee report as presented. All members voting yes.

AMBULANCE LIAISON

Davie Meier, liaison for the Ambulance Board, reported he had attended the quarterly meeting and the price per capita will be increasing for 2026 plus the board was asking that communities involved put approximately \$5,000 per year in a capital fund in the budget to help finance the new ambulance.

TOURISM COMMISSION

Davie Meier, Chairperson, reported on the meeting of September 9, 2025. The commission discussed new brochures and different ideas to bring tourists to Alma. The committee discussed improvements/replacement of the welcome to Alma signs and the Nelson sign.

Council meeting dates and times were discussed.

Motion by Iberg seconded by Mueller to officially change the date and time of the City Council meetings to the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Upcoming meetings:

Council : October 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m

Committees:

Finance – October 6, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Services – October 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Riverland Building Committee – October 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Utilities – October 13, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Finance – October 13, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Motion by Mueller seconded by Grisen to adjourn. All members voting yes.

