

Alden City Council
Regular Meeting
February 19th, 2025

Mayor Mourlam called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with all council members present. Also present was Deputy Holmes, James Sweeney of CGA, Ameer & Andy Jass, Steve Lyon, William Peters and Lorrie Watts.

Consent Agenda: Bob Hoversten moved to approve, Jerry Hartema seconded the motion and all present voted aye.

Resolution 2025-01 Employee Compensation: Bob Hoversten motioned to approve the additional 3% increase for the Library Director wages based on the budget meeting held in January. The Library Board of Trustees had approved an additional 3% at their February meeting from 5% to 8% with an increase of \$1377.00 to wages and benefits and increasing the library budget to \$147327.00 for fiscal year 2025-2026. Mark Oliver seconded the motion to approve the additional 3% and change to the Library Budget, vote as follows: Ayes: Mike Oliver, Bob Hoversten, Mark Oliver, Janaan Harding, Jerry Hartema. Resolution 2025-01 Employee Compensation rates will be as follows: Library Employees- Lisa Liittschwager from \$20.59 to \$22.44/Hr., Erin Smith \$14.70 to \$15.44/Hr., Danielle Neubauer \$12.60 to \$13.23/Hr., Laura Bradley \$10.00 to \$10.50/Hr., City Hall/Public Works Employees-Lorrie Watts \$30.05 to \$32.45/Hr., Andy Jass \$26.88 to \$29.03/Hr., Steve Lyon \$22.50 to \$24.30/Hr. Bob Hoversten moved to approve the rates of compensation, Mark Oliver seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-01, votes as follows: Ayes: Mark Oliver, Janaan Harding, Mike Oliver, Jerry Hartema and Bob Hoversten.

Resolution 2025-02 Setting New Start Times for Regular City Council Meetings:

Mark Oliver motioned to approve Resolution 2025-02, changing the regular meeting times from 6:00PM to 5:00PM and the third Monday of each month unless specifically changed due to Federal Holiday or necessity for procedural requirements or emergencies. Bob Hoversten seconded the motion to approve, vote as follows: Ayes: Mike Oliver, Mark Oliver, Janaan Harding, Jerry Hartema, Bob Hoversten.

Street Light Addition Resolution 2025-03:

Discussion was held about the installation of a 119W Led Light on an existing 45' wood pole at the intersection of Co Hwy D20 and Washington Ave. with light being aimed at the NW. Janaan Harding asked if this was the new style like downtown, Jerry Hartema stated it was a normal wood pole like all the other streetlights throughout town. Jerry Hartema motioned to approve the street light addition and Resolution 2025-03 for Alliant Energy, Mark Oliver seconded the motion, all present voted aye.

Resolution 2025-04 Set Public Hearing for Proposed Tax Notice of March 24th @ 5:00PM, Bob Hoversten moved to set the public hearing at 5:00PM on March 24th at Alden City Hall, Janaan Harding seconded the motion, vote as follows: Ayes: Jerry Hartema, Mark Oliver, Janaan Harding, Mike Oliver and Bob Hoversten.

City Clerk Lorrie Watts reminded the council that the Regular Meeting was being held that same evening and the council would need to adjourn and have two separate agendas and meeting times. The public hearing would need to be adjourned for 15-30 minutes and then the regular meeting could be held. Mayor Mourlam stated the April meeting will be held on April 11th at 5:00PM due to employee vacation time.

Citywide Clean Up: Council set that date for June 13th & 14th, 2025 and set next year's Citywide Clean Up for June 12th & 13th, 2026. Lorrie Watts stated she would post on the City's FB page and put in the next newsletter and post notices in the same places she posts agendas for meetings.

Public Input:

Willy Peters had a concern on changing the meeting time to 5:00PM based on people working until 5:00PM. Bob Hoversten stated the Council meetings have been at various times and nights throughout the years, those who are interested come and those who aren't do not. Lorrie Watts stated that the Alden School Board Meetings have been at the same time as the Council meetings, this change removes the conflict. The newspaper can attend both meetings now with this change. If people are inclined to attend, they can now attend both meetings. Mark Oliver remarked, "That is a very good point."

Janaan Harding stated the Alden Days Fundraiser raised \$12458.00 and it was the best year yet. She stated the Citywide Garage Sale will be held April 25th & 26th. She reported that she had submitted the Schiller Grants for the increase pool deck area that will be between the slide and heater house, not in the baby pool area. She submitted one for the Schiller Tree Carving Honor and would know in a few weeks if we were chosen to receive some funding. James Sweeney asked if she would need a permit from the State. She stated she would not because it is not changing the actual pool itself, just the deck area. It is adding concrete and increasing the fenced in sitting area.

Bob Hoversten stated he was contacted by RAGBRAI and would know shortly if they were making a stop in Alden. He stated the current route has some cities with limited amenities and infrastructure, there is also some road construction being done that could change the route. He stated he would know shortly. He wanted to know if the council was in favor of this if Alden was a stop. The Council is in favor of welcoming the riders to Alden.

Mayor Mourlam asked for a motion to adjourn, Bob Hoversten moved, Mike Oliver seconded and all present voted aye. Meeting adjourned: 6:28PM.

Signed: _____

Harley Mourlam, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lorrie Watts, City Clerk