

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Alma, Nebraska was held at City Hall on Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Present was Council Members: Larry Casper, Chris Mahalek, Tom Moulton, Joel Wheeler, and Mayor Hal Haeker. Administrator Steve Ardiana, Attorney Henry Schenker, Treasurer Tashia Butterfield, Clerk Janet Dietz, Rhonda Hogeland, Courtney Stottler, Cody Simmons, Sara Lozo, and Jeannie Wilson, Monica Gomez, were also in attendance. Notification of this meeting and the agenda was given in advance by posting, a designated method for giving notice. Advance notice of the meeting and the agenda were given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council. All proceedings hereinafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Haeker advised the public of the Open Meetings Act which is posted on the east wall of the meeting room, and then proceeded to call the regular meeting of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. and the following business was transacted:

Roll call: Larry Casper-present, Chris Mahalek-present, Tom Moulton-present, Joel Wheeler-present, and Mayor Haeker-present. Motion made by Casper, second by Moulton to determine this meeting as previously publicized, duly convened and in open session. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Casper, Moulton, Mahalek and Wheeler. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to approve the minutes of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, regular council meeting. Motion made by Moulton, second by Mahalek to approve the March 18, 2026 minutes, as presented. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Mahalek, Casper and Wheeler. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss the claims and invoices for period March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 through April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 for a total of \$105,847.81. Motion by Wheeler, second by Casper to approve the claims and invoices for period March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 through April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 for a total of \$105,847.81. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Wheeler, Casper, Mahalek and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss the Treasurer's report. Motion by Moulton, second by Wheeler to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Wheeler, Casper and Mahalek. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the Public Hearing for Los Primos Class C liquor license at 5:38 pm. Mayor asked if there were any questions, Clerk advised there has been a name change for Los Promos Liquor License, (no one was in attendance for objections) Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:39. Motion by Wheeler, second by Casper to approve the new liquor license Nebraska Liquor Commission for Los Primos. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Wheeler, Casper, Mahalek and Moulton. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor for discussion referring to City Ordinance 2022-# 15, discussion moving towards alcohol being served, dispensed in public buildings. City Administrator questioned who is responsible, are special designated licenses required, minors in attendance, private parties, and in general who is responsible or liable. Does the city follow state statutes. Councilman Wheeler requested this to be moved to another meeting for further review.

Mayor Haeker entertained for a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, so moved by Councilman Moulton, second by Casper at 5:50 pm. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote the following voted yes, Moulton, Casper, Wheeler, and Mahalek. Voting no none. At 6:08 pm council returned to regular session with a motion made by Moulton, second by Casper. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Casper, Wheeler, and Mahalek. Voting no: None. Mayor advised no action was

taken.

Council Member Casper, introduced Ordinance numbered 2026-4 entitled as follows:  
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-#4

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALMA, NEBRASKA ESTABLISH BASE AND USAGE FEES FOR SANITARY SEWER USAGE; TO ESTABLISH FEES AND PROCEDURES FOR CONNECTION TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM; TO HARMONIZE WITH STATE LAW; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCE OR PARTS OF ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; AND TO DECLARE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

And moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different dates be suspended. Council Member Casper seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon the motion; the following Council Members voted Yes: Casper, Wheeler, Mahalek and Moulton. The following voted No: None. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of these ordinance.

The ordinance was then read by title and thereafter Council Member Moulton moved for final passage of the ordinance and said motion was seconded by Council Member Wheeler. The Mayor then stated the questions, "Shall Ordinance number 2026-4 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following Council members voted Yes: Wheeler, Casper, Moulton, and Mahalek. The following voted No: None.

The passage and adoption of these ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor declared the ordinance adopted; and the Mayor in the presence of the City Council signed and approved the ordinance and the Clerk attested the passage and approval and affixed her signature thereto and ordered to be published as provided by law. A true and complete copy of the ordinance is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Mayor opened the floor, to discuss/ approve the city pool hires. City Administrator proposed to hire co- managers Rhonda Hogeland and Courtney Stottler for city pool. Motion made by Moulton, seconded by Mahalek. There being no further business discussion upon the motion made the following voted yes, Moulton, Mahalek, Wheeler and Casper. Voting no; none motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss the hiring of swim team coach and requested to pause until the next meeting, following discussion, was held, filling date for the pool, city has (2) applications for swim team coach Sara Lozo and Paul Ogier, lengthy discussion regarding concessions, having a committee, fund raising concerns, swim team funds being separated. Motion made by Moulton, second by Wheeler to add this item to the next agenda. There being no further discussion upon the motion made the following voted yes, Moulton, Wheeler, Mahalek, and Casper. Voting no; none. Motion carried

Mayor opened the floor for discussion of National Public Gas Agency agreement. March 26, 2026 meeting was held in the city office with Beth Ackland Director of Gas Operations, Jamie Barret, Gas Operations Controller, and Michelle Lepin, General Counsel.(city attendees were Mayor Haeker, Tom Moulton, Doug Walker, Janet Dietz, Russ Pfeil, Kent Fleischmann, and Steve Ardiana) City Administrator addressed the council, NPGA is a wholesale natural gas supplier that provides natural gas to municipalities who own and operate natural gas systems. Discussion was held on components of gas cost, currently city of Alma holds the Tallgrass Interstate Gas transmission contract, NPGA serves as agent. City joined the Public Gas Partners Pool 3 in 2009, to receive an economic gas supply. Discounts were received 2013-2018, suspended in 2019-2023

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gains were used to pay down debt. Production has decreased, 27 wells were determined to be not viable, projected end-of-life is now 2032; with a payment of debt, (city proposed assessment through 2026-2031 is \$122,987.70). Lengthy discussion was held on paying the debt and opting out of the pool. No decision was made, further research is required.

Mayor opened the floor to approve Resolution No. 3 Airport Hangar project 3-31-0004-015/016-2026 for the purpose of obtaining Federal assistance for the City of Alma Airport. Motion made by Moulton, second by Wheeler to approve. There being no further discussion upon the motion made the following voted yes, Moulton, Wheeler, Mahalek, and Casper. Voting no none. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor for discussion on golf fund accounts, Treasurer advised she has received the Alma Club House bank account information. Motion by Moulton to have the treasurer to proceed to move the funds were they properly go, and set up a fund, second by Mahalek. There being no further discussion upon the motion made the following voted yes; Moulton, Mahalek and Casper. Abstaining, Wheeler-(conflict). Voting no; none. Motion carried. Councilman Wheeler advised Women's Golf league bank account has corrected the EIN #, with First State Bank, the account has been corrected . Back bank statements were requested from Mayor Haeker.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to approve financing for South Street city lift station. City treasurer provided information on the CD's and values and requested which one to cash out for the lift station. Motion was made by Casper, second by Mahalek to use hospital bond fund, \$314,563.44, Banner Capitol Bank CD, \$40,000.00, Community Bank CD, \$86,120.71 and First State Bank CD, \$55,448.96, totaling \$496,133.11, There being no further discussion upon the motion made the following voted yes; Casper, Mahalek, Moulton and Wheeler-abstained due to conflict. Voting no; none motion carried.

Mayor Haeker opened the floor to approve City healthcare plan, annual renewal, Section 125. This provides a tax exempt status for employees insurance premiums. Motion made by Wheeler second by Casper to approve. There being no further discussion upon the motion made, the following voted yes; Wheeler, Casper, Moulton, and Mahalek. Voting no; none Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor for the Administrator's report. Discussion was held on the changes in the Johnson Center and City Auditorium event center rental forms. Discussion /concerns being the use of alcohol, public vs private events. Motion made by Wheeler, second by Moulton to approve the application with the revisions of following Nebraska state statutes. There being no further discussion upon the motion made, the following voted yes; Wheeler, Moulton, Mahalek, and Casper. Voting no: None Motion carried. City Auditorium open house will take place April 7<sup>th</sup> from 3-6pm. East well update, well is in operation, City Utility Russ Pfeil advised blended tests at the pump house is 6.63. Councilman Wheeler stated a request was not to use the east well. Mayor Haeker advised no motion was made. Councilman Wheeler motioned to turn off the east well until it tests below, 10 second by Mahalek. There being no further discussion upon the motion made the following voted yes; Wheeler, Mahalek, Casper and Moulton. Voting no; none. Motion carried.

Motion by Moulton, second by Wheeler to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Wheeler, Casper, and Mahalek. Voting no: None. Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

  
Ed Haeker, Mayor

I the undersigned Clerk hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advanced notification of the time place and of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

  
Janet Dietz, City Clerk

