

Almena City Council Minutes

The Almena City Council was called to order by Mayor Ethan Hays, on January 12th at 7:00pm. Answering roll call was Bob Hawks, Josh Hawks, Bryce Marble, Sarah Montgomery, and Kevin Sides. A quorum was declared. Minutes were read and approved with typo corrections from the December 1st, 2025 Meeting.

Fire Chief Report – (not present)

Visitor Recognition- Stacy Whitney

New Business

- Stacy Whitney was present to update council about Almena Pride, with information on the projects completed over the years, how it is funded, and information on monies earmarked for the ‘Main street planters’. Bryce Marble agreed to assist the organization as it undergoes changes to funding structure, and a name change to Almena Community Development Committee.
- Lacy Hansen was appointed as City Treasurer for 2026. This appointment is yearly.
- Bob Hawks was appointed as City Council President for 2026-2027. This is a two-year appointment.
- A motion was made to approve the GAAP Wavier Resolution 2026-01 granting permission to use cash basis accounting, instead of accrual. This resolution is adopted yearly. MOTION CARRIED.
- A motion was made to adopt Appropriation Ordinance # 465. This ordinance allows normal budgeted monthly expenses to be paid by City Office without prior approval by Council. MOTION CARRIED.
- Hardship case for 205 Bryant addressed. Hold until sold.
- A resident suggested removal of large trees around water tower. Trees will not be removed at this time, not safety issue.
- New bank in Norton (Mid-America Bank) was discussed and options this bank presents.
- Information regarding mandatory KS collateral pool HB2152 that became effective 1/1/2026 was presented by City Clerk.
- Compliance expectations and abating properties with issues were discussed.
- Party on the Prairie Dog- SPPA event to be held this year April 24th and 25th.
- A motion was made to sponsor the Northern Valley Game Ball for the NV/Logan Game in the amount of \$250 toward the purchase of the ‘shot-clock’. MOTION CARRIED.
- The mayor called for an executive session to discuss personnel issues for 15 minutes. At 8:40pm an extension of 10 minutes to the session was called for. Council returned at 8:50 pm with the following motions:
 - A motion was made to increase the City Operator’s hourly wage \$1.00 per hour. MOTION CARRIED.
 - A cap of \$500 on spending unless prior approval by Council. MOTION CARRIED.
 - A motion to move time clock to City Office for all employees to use. MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business

- Ordinance #466 prohibiting parking in front yards was discussed. Changes were suggested for clarity. Ordinance is not being passed at this time.
- Compliance Issues for 601 Washington, 710 Washington, 310 Ives were discussed and next steps to be taken.
- 130 Bryant- City will continue moving forward towards demolition.

Attorney Discussion/Report (Attorney not present)

City Operator Report

- Emergency Generator for Community Center delivered today. To be installed tomorrow 1/13/2026.
- Grader needs batteries. New batteries will be placed on trickle charge in shop when not in use.
- Update on water sample- chloroform present in last month’s sampling. After more sampling, it was cleared as a possible error in the gathering/testing of sample.
- Lagoons are scheduled to be discharged this week.

City Clerk Report

- City Maps handed out to council to assist with compliance enforcement.

Deputy City Clerk Report

- Main Street Memorial Park Update- it was decided to change large “A” design to something simpler and less costly. Lou Goldsby was contacted to see if he was interested in being the general contractor overseeing project. Awaiting response.
- Delinquent Account Status

Financial Report

- P & L for November was presented by Treasurer, Lacey Hansen
- Approve Bills MOTION CARRIED.
- Balance Sheet
- Check register

With no further business it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:48pm. MOTION CARRIED. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 2nd, at 7PM. Annette Puent, Deputy City Clerk. Minutes are not approved until the next meeting.