

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the Council in and for the City of Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Tom Kasner at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors John R. Harlander, Al Amdahl, Adam Rushmeyer, and Keith Heitzman. None were absent.

Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Kate Asfeld, Editor Star Post, Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Joseph Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, and Jeremy Mathiasen, the City Engineer with the firm of Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council took notice of approval of payment of bills. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 70336 to 70367, and 18014 to 18029. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on September 2nd and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council a resolution authorizing Stantec, Inc., the City's Engineering firm, to prepare a preliminary engineering report for the proposed 2021 Capital Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the proposed improvements would include Lake Avenue between 3rd Street and 6th Street including connecting roadways and Church Avenue between 2nd Street and 5th Street. Mr. Mathiasen also noted the improvements would consist of new streets, curb, water main, sewer main, storm sewer, and services. Mr. Mathiasen also noted all benefitted properties would be assessed for a portion of the improvements similar to other reconstruction improvements. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2020-25
CALLING FOR A PRELIMINARY
ENGINEERING REPORT
2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
(Lake Avenue and connecting roadways)
(Church Avenue - 2nd St. to 5th St.)

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by John R. Harlander and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Adam Rushmeyer, John R. Harlander, Al Amdahl, and Keith Heitzman, and none voted against the same whereupon the said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. The full text of the said Resolution is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Administrator for public inspection during regular office hours.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council he contacted Midwest Testing, the sub-contractor hired by Dakota Supply Group, to install nearly 1,000+/- new water meters (commercial/residential); whereby the City agreed to pay Midwest Testing \$5.45/residence for sump pump inspections and documentation. Mr. Mathiasen noted he contacted Midwest Testing to question if all properties were inspected being there may be a chance not all homes were inspected properly; whereby the City was offered a \$500 credit, nearly ninety (90) properties. Mr. Harlander questioned if the City could cross-check a few addresses where we know a sump pump exists to determine if the inspection sheet confirms the same. Mr. Mergen noted he was disappointed some properties were not inspected properly because adding clear water to a sanitary sewer system is not desirable and treating additional clear water at the wastewater treatment plant is

expensive to all water customers. Mayor Tom Kasner directed Mr. Mathiasen to review residential properties that are known to have a sump pump with the inspection forms completed by Midwest Testing and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council he contacted representatives from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, (MnDOT) to discuss the proposed sidewalk construction on Shamrock Lane and 8th Street, that section of sidewalk included in the 2020 8th Street Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted MnDOT would like the new sidewalk to extend northerly to the intersection of 8th Street and Railroad Avenue and connect southerly to the intersection of 8th Street and Shamrock Lane which would be an increase in construction cost. Mr. Mathiasen noted he will meet with MnDOT next week to discuss their concerns in greater detail and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Councilor Keith Heitzman, Albany Golf Club Liaison, presented to the Council the Albany Golf Club's checkbook register. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 39647-39675. Voting for the motion were Councilors John R. Harlander, Adam Rushmeyer, Al Amdahl, and Keith Heitzman and none voted against. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

Mr. Heitzman informed the Council the Club's annual stockholders meeting was held on September 14th; whereby Mara Stroeing and Craig Baggenstoss were elected to three-year terms to the board of directors. Mr. Heitzman noted the annual meeting is typically held in May of each year, but due to COVID-19, the meeting was rescheduled to September. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Al Amdahl, to ratify the election results. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mr. Heitzman noted the stockholders approved an amendment to the bylaws to reduce the board from nine (9) to seven (7) members.

Mr. Heitzman also noted the driving range improvements at the golf course were discussed at the stockholders meeting and several members recommended the board consider adding Top Tracer equipment which captures and displays the flight of the golf ball in real-time. Mr. Heitzman noted additional meetings will be held by the club to determine if Top Tracer is feasible for the Albany Golf Club.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council a proposed 2021 Budget which includes the Police, Fire, Street, Park, Library, Water, Sewer, Capital Equipment Plans, Administration Departments, debt service, and employee benefits. Mr. Schneider noted that the preliminary 2020 property tax levy for payable 2021 is due on or before September 30th to the Stearns County Auditor's Office. Mr. Schneider noted the proposed levy is \$1,068,428, an increase of 13.45%, and the proposed City's 2021 tax capacity rate would be 44.66%. Mr. Schneider noted the proposed budget reflects a revenue loss of \$100,000 in Local Government Aid (LGA) due to the State indicating severe cuts in the 2021 LGA. Mr. Schneider noted the City may reduce the levy amount to be certified to the County in December, but may not increase the amount. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to direct the City Clerk/Administrator to forward to the Stearns County Auditor the proposed levy of \$1,068,428 and to set the initial meeting at 6:30 PM, or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, December 2nd, and the final adoption meeting of the said levy at 6:30 PM, or as soon as thereafter, on Wednesday, December 16th at 400 Railroad Avenue, the City Administration Building. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a proposed Cross-Access Easement and an Encroachment Easement between the City of Albany and Unity Family Healthcare, 300 3rd Street, the owners of the former hospital/clinic site. Mr. Schneider noted the purpose of the Cross-Access Easement is to provide Unity Family Healthcare or any future property owner a permanent, irrevocable, and non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress. Mr. Schneider noted the purpose of the Encroachment Easement is to provide Unity Family Healthcare or any future property owner a permanent, irrevocable, and exclusive easement for a portion of the parking lot that encroaches on City property. After due discussion, a motion was Al Amdahl and seconded by Keith Heitzman to authorize Mayor Tom Kasner to execute the aforesaid easements on behalf of the City of Albany. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council the City received a notice from Stearns County for a public hearing to be held on September 24th on a request by Michael Gondringer, 20185 Quaker Road, to construct a new residential dwelling less than 700 feet from a registered animal feedlot. No action was taken by the Council.

Mr. Schneider also informed the Council the City received a notice from Stearns County for a public hearing to be held on September 21st on a request by Midwest Property Solutions, LLC, 23218 350th Street, to create a lot that does not have two soil treatment and dispersal systems and to create a lot in a commercial district that exceeds the impervious lot coverage. No action was taken by the Council.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the Council Emergency Executive Order 20-89 extended the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency through October 12, 2020.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 and adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.