

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a meeting of the Planning Commission in and for the City of Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota, was called to order by Chairman Adam Rushmeyer at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Thursday, December 10, 2015 in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Planning Commission members present for the meeting were: Joseph Wedel, Todd Horton, and Keith Heitzman. Will Seiler was absent. Councilor John Greer, Planning Commission Liaison, was present for the meeting.

Others present for the meeting: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, and Jean Pundsack, 211 Railroad Avenue.

Chairman Adam Rushmeyer called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of October 6th and hearing none declared them to be approved.

Chairman Adam Rushmeyer informed the Commission that this meeting was not a public hearing and directed Mr. Schneider to provide a review of parking complaints on Railroad Avenue by Ms. Pundsack that has been brought before the Commission and City Council. Mr. Greer noted that the two issues before the Commission are as follows: 1) prohibit semi-trucks from parking on Railroad Avenue, and 2) amend Section 51.06, Overnight Parking, (forty-eight (48) hours) throughout the City. Mr. Heitzman noted that he would not be in favor of reducing overnight parking throughout the City which is too restrictive for property owners who temporarily park a trailer, boat, or fish house on a street. Mr. Schneider noted it would not be financially feasible for the Police Department to enforce parking regulations less than forty-eight hours. Ms. Pundsack requested that the no parking signs from 2AM to 6AM be reinstalled on Railroad Avenue to prevent overnight parking and removal of vehicles for effective snow plowing during the winter months. Mr. Carbajal noted that after the November 4th Council meeting he spoke to the owner of the semi-truck that had been parked occasionally across the street from the Pundsack residence on Railroad Avenue and since then there has been no complaints. Mr. Schneider informed the Commission there have been arguments related to on-street parking between businesses, apartment tenants, customers, and employees within the Core Commercial (C1) Zoning District for many years, but not uncommon for smaller communities. Mr. Schneider noted that he informs new business owners that on-street parking is an issue if the owner of the building does not inform apartment tenants or employees to utilize the City parking lot. Mr. Schneider also noted in the past he provided a mailed notice to owners of apartment buildings on Railroad Avenue to inform their tenants of Section 51.07, Winter Parking regulations from November 1st to April 15th which significantly reduced the number of vehicles that remained parked on a street after a snowfall event. Mr. Horton informed the Commission that he does not see any need to consider an amendment to the parking ordinance having a better understanding that at the present time it appears that Ms. Pundsack's concerns have been addressed. Chairman Adam Rushmeyer questioned if the Commission wanted to consider an amendment to the aforesaid Ordinance and hearing none, no action will be taken. Chairman Adam Rushmeyer directed Mr. Schneider to prepare mailed notices to property owners who have residential rental properties along Railroad Avenue alerting them of the Winter Parking Ordinance regulations and encouraging them to inform their tenants to use designated parking lots associated with the apartment building.

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that the five-year term of Board member Todd Horton will expire at the end of the year. Mr. Horton informed the Board that if re-appointed by the Council, he would be willing to continue to serve on the Board. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Joseph Wedel to recommend to the Council to reappoint Mr. Horton to the Planning Commission. Voting for the motion were Chairman Adam Rushmeyer, Joseph Wedel, and Keith Heitzman and none voted against. Commission member Todd Horton abstained and the motion carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Commission that Mr. Horton is also listed as an Economic Development Authority Board member; whereby Mr. Horton noted that he would be willing to serve on that Board as well.

Chairman Adam Rushmeyer called for any nominations for the position of Chairman and Acting Chairman on the Planning Commission for the year 2016. Mr. Wedel noted that no changes be made to

each. Chairman Adam Rushmeyer hearing no other nominations closed the nominations from the floor for the position of Chairman and Acting Chairman.

Mr. Schneider informed the Commission that the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District's 2016 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant application which the City of Albany partnered was denied by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Mr. Schneider noted that there were 133 applications requesting \$31,438,702 funds; whereby thirty-six (36) applications were approved and the County's application ranked number forty (40). Mr. Schneider noted that the County's application was nearly \$331,000 and efforts to resubmit another application for next year are underway.

Chairman Adam Rushmeyer adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.