

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, April 02, 2025, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other members present were councilors John R. Harlander, Al Amdahl, Bruce Winter, and Charlene Ohmann. None were absent. Others present were Police Chief, Matt Gannon, Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Mathiasen, city engineer with the firm Stantec Inc. MN, Gary Winkels, City Administrator, Tim Hennagir, Staff Writer with the Star Post, Berleen Hollenkamp, and Rolland Hanson.

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 Al Amdahl, and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve/authorize payroll (4673-4687), electronic payment transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 74146-74168. 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 March 19th, and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: None.

Mr. Mathiasen presented the Council with a preliminary layout for the north (softball) and south (Jaycee shelter) parking lots in North Park and noted a tree near the trail in the proposed south parking lot would need to be removed for the construction of the parking lot. Mr. Mathiasen noted several trees east of the pickleball court are losing their bark and are not aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Winter expressed concerns about the number of trees that have been removed from the park and emphasized the importance of planting new trees. Mr. Harlander suggested postponing the curbing installation in the north parking lot until the ground has settled. Mr. Harlander noted curb installation on the outside perimeter of the parking lots could be considered and noted that better pricing might be available if the curbing is coordinated with the County Road 157 reconstruction project. Mr. Harlander further inquired whether the current asphalt trail east of the parking lot would remain and whether handicapped parking stalls would be available near the Jaycee Shelter. After due discussion, Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, confirmed the asphalt trail east of the south parking lot would remain, and handicap parking stalls would be marked in the parking lot near the Jaycee Shelter. After further discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Bruce Winter to table the installation of curbing in the north parking lot until the ground has settled. The motion also directed Mr. Mathiasen to investigate the cost of installing curbing in the south parking lot. All voted for the motion, and it carried. Additionally, after due discussion, Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mergen to remove the tree near the trail in the south parking lot and to contact a tree trimming company to determine whether the trees east of the pickleball courts should be trimmed or removed.

Mr. Mathiasen noted there has been no official bid date set for the County Road 157 improvements. Mr. Winkels noted Stearns County informed him they are still waiting to see if the old railroad trestle bridge is on the Federal Historic Bridge list, and Wilson's Phalarope bird study cannot be completed until May 1st and noted there is a possibility the project could be delayed until 2026. Mr. Harlander questioned whether the portion of the project within the city limits could be completed this year. Mr. Winkels noted he would inquire with Stearns County to see if the portion within the Albany city limits could be completed this year.

Mr. Mergen informed the council since the filter cell rehabilitation was completed in July 2024; he has had several engineers at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) investigating the "rusty water" complaints. Mr. Mergen noted they believed the problem stemmed from the system creating a vacuum pulling the iron deposits through the sand filter into the Clearwell as a filter drained for a backwash. Mr. Mergen noted before the filter cell rehabilitation there were laser shields in the bottom of each filter, restricting how fast the filter drained, and since the rehabilitation the laser shields had been removed. Mr. Mergen noted now he is restricting the filter cell drain down through the effluent valve which should help eliminate the rusty water

and prevent further complaints. Mr. Mergen noted at the December 18th council meeting the council approved the chemical LPC4 to replace the current chemical Sodium Silicate at the WTP as recommended by the city engineer. Mr. Mergen noted he is still awaiting approval from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Mayor Tom Kasner, Albany Fire Department Liaison, informed the council the department held their annual Retirement Banquet on March 22nd and will hold their annual Firefighter's Dance and cash raffle fundraiser on Saturday April 5th.

Mr. Winkels presented the council with an Off Sale Liquor License application submitted by JM Stationers Inc. AKA Barbacoa Smokehouse and Deli 441 Railroad Avenue. Mr. Winkels noted the Hotel remodel is nearing completion, and to bring alcoholic beverages to a room utilizing room service an Off Sale Liquor License is required. Mr. Winkels noted this license would be in affect from April 15, 2025 to June 30, 2025 at which time it will be renewed on a yearly basis. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by Charlene Ohmann to approve the Off Sale Liquor License for JM Stationers Inc. 441 Railroad Avenue. All voted for the motion, and it passed.

The council took notice of MN Lawful Gambling application LG220 submitted by the Albany FFA Alumni to conduct a raffle at the Albany Area High School 30 Forest Avenue, on October 24, 2025. After due discussion a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2025-08
APPROVING MINNESOTA
LAWFUL GAMBLING EXEMPT PERMIT APPLICATION

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by Al Amdahl and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Al Amdahl, John R. Harlander, Bruce Winter and Charlene Ohmann, 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. Winkels presented the council with a list of donations the city has received since January 1, 2025, and noted per Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 the city needs to accept all donations though a resolution. After due discussion a motion was made by John R. Harlander who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2025-09
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION TO THE CITY OF ALBANY

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by Bruce Winter and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Al Amdahl, John R. Harlander, Bruce Winter and Charlene Ohmann, 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. Winkels noted included in the list of donations is a donation to the city from the Albany Lions Club in the amount of \$12,000 to re-stain the ceiling and replace the concrete under the shelter in the Albany Legion Park. Mr. Harlander noted he met with a contractor to investigate why there are black spots on the ceiling in the shelter and noted they believe it is due to the attic not being vented. Mr. Harlander noted he is going to get an estimate regarding installing vents in the attic of the shelter. Mr. Mergen noted he received a quote from Grandview Painting in the amount of \$ 1,725.00 to wash, prep, and install two coats on the shelter in Albany American Legion Park. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander

with a second by Charlene Ohmann to accept the bid in the amount of \$1,725.00 from Grandview Painting for the said work. All voted for the motion, and it carried.

Mr. Winkels presented to the council a letter of engagement from Schlenner Wenner & Co, the city Auditor. Mr. Winkels noted the letter explains the Objectives and Scope of the current year audit. After due discussion and upon recommendation of Mr. Winkels a motion was made by Al Amdahl with a second by John R. Harlander to approve the letter of engagement between the City of Albany and Schlenner Wenner & Co. All voted for the motion, and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular council meeting for 6:30 PM or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, April 16th, and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Gary Winkels
City Administrator