

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, August 4, 2021, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

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

Other's present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Mathiasen, the City Engineer with the firm of Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Herman Lensing, Staff Reporter, The Star Post.

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 John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 71175 to 71206. 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 July 21st and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: None

Angela Rushmeyer appeared on behalf of Holy Family School to present an application for a one day to four day Temporary On-sale Liquor License for the school's annual fall festival to be held Saturday, October 2nd. Ms. Rushmeyer noted there will be many activities for everyone to enjoy and COVID-19 precautions will be considered. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve the said License. Voting for the motion was Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Keith Heitzman, John R. Harlander, and Al Amdahl and none voted against. Councilor Adam Rushmeyer abstained and the motion carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented a preliminary 2020-21 Sanitary Sewer Micro-Monitoring report. Mr. Mathiasen noted there were no significant infiltration/inflow (I/I) contributors within the project areas. Mr. Mathiasen noted the rain events were few and far between, but the data received indicates some rain events impact to the total sanitary flow, but nothing that was significant or would justify further investigation or infrastructure correction work. Mr. Mathiasen also noted he and Mr. Mergen will follow up on any known sump pump connections with a letter instructing the property owner to discharge the storm water in the sump pail outside and not in the sanitary sewer.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the council he, City Staff, and Councilor John R. Harlander met to discuss and prioritize future capital improvement projects. Mr. Mathiasen noted the consensus of the group the first priority for total reconstruction is Midland Avenue between 1st Street and 6th Street, north/south alleys including the side streets to Railroad Avenue and business alley. Mr. Harlander recommended the Council authorize the engineer to proceed to develop a topographical survey for the aforesaid areas and if feasible begin the improvement project in the year 2022. Mr. Heitzman questioned if the city can afford to undertake a second improvement in 2022 having already approved the 2022 1st Street and Railroad Avenue Intersection Improvements. Mayor Tom Kasner recommended City staff contact the City's Financial Consultant (David Drown Associates) to review the overall debt of the city to determine if an additional project can be considered in 2022. Mr. Harlander noted the topographical survey can be used at any time, but its feasible to begin the work in 2021 knowing the streets and utilities are in poor condition. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to authorize Stantec to begin the topographical survey of the aforementioned designated area and to discuss financing options with the city's financial consultant. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mergen informed the Council the 250,000-gallon Water Tower interior and exterior areas were evaluated or inspected by KLM Engineering, Woodbury, MN, on July 12th. Mr. Mergen noted the

overall condition of the water tower is fairly good and no immediate repairs or painting was recommended at this time. Mr. Mergen informed the Council the interior and exterior should be painted within the next ten years and it's estimated to cost nearly \$800,000 primarily due to new public health standards for any coating (paint) in contact with potable water which goes into effect in 2023. Mr. Harlander questioned if the water rates are adequate to fund the future water tower improvement and recommended City staff contact David Drown Associates for assistance in reviewing the water rate structure. Mr. Schneider informed the Council the debt (Public Facilities Authority-PFA) for the Water Treatment Plant will expire in a few years which will free up nearly \$300,000 annually. Mayor Tom Kasner with the consensus of the Council directed Mr. Schneider to contact David Drown Associates to review the water rate structure.

Police Chief Carbajal appeared before the Council to inform the Council part-time Patrol Officer Gabriel Welchert submitted his letter of resignation due to other career pursuits. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to accept Mr. Welchert's letter of resignation as a part-time Patrol Office in the Albany Police Department. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Councilor Al Amdahl updated the Council on the Coalition of Minnesota Cities annual conference he attended in Alexandria, MN on July 29th - 30th. Mr. Amdahl noted several area elected officials were in attendance including but not limited to Governor Tim Walz and other state representatives. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Mr. Amdahl for the update.

Mayor Tom Kasner, Albany Area Fire Board member, updated the Council on the following Area Fire Board meeting held on July 28th at the Fire Hall:

- Annual firemen's dance held in April was very well attended and generous donations received from the service area.
- Approved the renewal of a three-year fire service agreement between the Albany Fire Department, Inc. and the City of Albany, Townships of Albany, Farming, and Krain.
- Rosenbauer of South Dakota, LLC took delivery of the department's new engine/pumper chassis. The chassis was \$246,768 and total price will be \$485,000+/- when completed. Delivery is in October or November 2021.
- Authorized the Fire Chief to contact the Sauk Rapids Fire Department to pursue the acquisition of a 65' snorkel aerial truck at a purchase price not to exceed \$20,000.
- Approved a \$252,896 budget for the year 2022, a 3.18% increase.
- Farm Safety Exercise to be held September 11th at the Albany Area School.
- Annual Albany/Avon Fire Department Golf Tournament to be held on Monday, August 9th at the Albany Golf Club.

Mr. Schneider informed the council the city will receive \$49,536 from the State of Minnesota from the Small Cities Assistance Program (populations less than 5,000) to provide funding for construction and maintenance of roadways. Mr. Schneider noted the last time the program was funded by the legislature was 2018.

Mr. Schneider also informed the council the city received \$146,345 on July 23rd from the State of Minnesota through the federal \$1.9 trillion-dollar American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. Schneider noted the total amount of funds to be received will be \$304,000+/- and may only be spent on eligible projects on or before December 31, 2026.

The council took notice of a request by Bryan Schiffler, Lucky of Albany, LLC, 20 Railroad Avenue to combine three legal descriptions which each have a parcel identification number into one parcel identification number. Mr. Schneider noted the property is being proposed for redevelopment purposes and has no objection to the request. Mr. Schneider also noted the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings approved the annexation (OAH 71-0331-37702) of the said property on July 28th. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve a Certificate

of Compliance to combine three lots into one parcel identification number. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council congress created an emergency water assistance program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; whereby the State of Minnesota received \$14,666,970. Mr. Schneider noted water assistance can make payments to public water suppliers on behalf of eligible residential customers who have past due water bills; whereas customers apply for assistance using the Energy Assistance Program application. Mr. Schneider noted in order for the city to receive payments from the said Program, a vendor agreement and registration form is required. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Schneider to complete the required information.

The Council took notice of a request by Catherine Wolf and Rachel Buttweiler, 521 Railroad Avenue, owners of Montessori on Main, to extend the Conditional Use Permit deadline to operate a day-care in a Core Commercial (C1) zoning district and the Economic Development Authority's Commercial Rehabilitation Program for storefront improvements. Mr. Schneider noted the building improvements are going slower than expected and had no objection to the request. After due discussion and careful consideration, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to extend the deadline of the Conditional Use Permit and the storefront improvements to November 7, 2021. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.