

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, December 15, 2021, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors Keith Heitzman, Al Amdahl, and Adam Rushmeyer. Councilor John R. Harlander was 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, and Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief. Dalton Herzog and Colleen DeMars, local residents, were also present for the meeting.

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 (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 71454 to 71488. 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 December 1st and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Pursuant to due notice, at 6:32 PM, Mayor Tom Kasner called the public hearing into session to consider the 8th Street and Shamrock Lane sidewalk improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the city and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) in partnership, will be constructing curb and gutter and new sidewalk along the west side of 8th Street/TH 238, from Railroad Avenue to Shamrock Lane, and then along Shamrock Lane from 8th Street/TH 238 to the east end of the Shamrock Mobile Home Park (approximately 400' west of 8th Street). Mr. Mathiasen noted the scope of the improvements were modified after the initial public hearing held on February 17, 2021 and therefore a subsequent public hearing is being held. Mr. Mathiasen updated the council and public on the proposed sidewalk improvements, project locations, and noted the estimated cost of the improvements is nearly \$154,000 and of this amount, approximately \$50,000 will be the city's share. Mr. Mathiasen noted the improvements will be constructed within MndOT right-of-way. Mr. Mathiasen also noted special assessments to the benefitted properties will be calculated after bids are received for the improvement. The following property owners appeared before the Council:

- Colleen DeMars, 921 Shamrock Lane, Unit #15, Shamrock Mobile Home Park, appeared before the council to thank the council for moving forward with the new sidewalk connecting the Shamrock Mobile Home Park to the main street (Railroad Avenue) business district. Ms. DeMars noted the sidewalk will provide a safe area for pedestrians to travel to main street and other nearby businesses. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Ms. DeMars for attending the meeting. Mr. Mathiasen noted the improvements are proposed to begin in May or June 2022.

Mayor Tom Kasner closed the public hearing at 6:50PM. Mr. Mathiasen informed the council this is a cooperative project with MNDOT and will be combined with the intersection improvements at 1st Street and Railroad Avenue. Mr. Schneider noted the proposed segment of sidewalk was identified in the city's bicycle and pedestrian master plan as a needed improvement to connect residents along Shamrock Lane with nearby businesses, main street, and safe pedestrian routes to the school.

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 Adam Rushmeyer to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 40021-40063. Voting for the motion were Councilors Keith Heitzman, Al Amdahl, and Adam Rushmeyer, and none voted against. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

Mr. Mergen presented to the council a Wastewater Discharge Permit renewal between the City of Albany and Kraft-Heinz, 600 Railroad Avenue. Mr. Mergen noted there were minimal changes to the three-year permit and recommended approval. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the 3-year Kraft-Heinz Wastewater Discharge Permit. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mergen presented to the council a proposed one-year Agreement between SafeAssure Consultants, Inc., Willmar, MN, and the City of Albany. Mr. Mergen informed the council safety consultants provide quarterly safety training and loss control practices including OSHA compliance review. Mr. Mergen noted the annual cost for the consulting services is \$3,886 and recommended approval. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to approve the said Agreement. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider presented to the council the proposed 2021 levy, 2022 Budget, and the amount of property taxes the city proposes to collect to pay for the costs of services the city will provide in the year 2022. After due discussion and careful consideration, a motion was made by Al Amdahl who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2021-30
APPROVING THE 2021 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2022
Total Levy: \$1,093,413
(General Government: \$642,413)
(PIR Bonds debt service: \$385,000)
(Tax Abatement: \$66,000)

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Keith Heitzman 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, Adam Rushmeyer, and Keith Heitzman, and none voted against the same whereupon the said resolution declared duly passed and adopted. The full text of the said resolution and 2022 Budget is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Administrator for public inspection during regular office hours.

Mr. Schneider presented to the council a proposed resolution to decertify Tax Increment Finance District No. 6 as recommended by Jason Murray, the City’s Financial Consultant, with the firm of David Drown Associates. Mr. Schneider informed the council the fund balance in TIF District No. 6 at the end of the year is \$8,579; whereby the excess increment should be returned to Stearns County for redistribution to the taxing jurisdictions. Mr. Schneider noted the purpose of the 25-year redevelopment district was to assist in the demolition and redevelopment of the former Junior High and Elementary school building located along Midland Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Street. Mr. Schneider also noted the council is required to complete a Confirmation of Decertified TIF District form and to submit to the Stearns County Auditor by the end of the year. After due discussion and upon the recommendation of Mr. Murray, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2021-31
APPROVING THE DECERTIFICATION OF
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT NO. 6
OF THE CITY OF ALBANY

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Keith Heitzman 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, Adam Rushmeyer, and Keith Heitzman, and none voted against the same whereupon the said resolution 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. Schneider informed the council of the following individuals whose advisory board terms expire at the end of the year: 1) Mayor Tom Kasner, Albany Economic Development Authority (EDA) (5-

year term), 2) Jon Stueve, Planning Commission (5-year term), and 3) Ross Voit, three-year Park Board (3-year term). After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to reappoint the aforementioned individuals to the various advisory boards of the city. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner presented the following proposed 2022 appointments:

Acting Mayor	John R. Harlander
Weed Inspector	Mayor Tom Kasner
Assistant Weed Inspector	Joseph Mergen
Auditor	Schlenner Wenner Co.
City Attorney	Jovanovich, Dege & Athmann, PA
Emergency Management Director	Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief
Assistant Emergency Management Directors	Gary Winkels
Community Education Liaison	Al Amdahl
EDA Board members	John R. Harlander, Mayor Tom Kasner
Equipment Commissioner	Mayor Tom Kasner
Fire Department Liaison	Mayor Tom Kasner
Albany Golf Board Liaison	Keith Heitzman
Health Officer	Stearns County Public Health
Labor Commissioners	Keith Heitzman, Mayor Tom Kasner
Official Depositors	Stearns Bank, Central Mn Credit Union
Official Publication	Star Post
Park Board Liaison	Al Amdahl
Planning Commission Liaison	Adam Rushmeyer
Police Commissioner	John R. Harlander
Street Commissioner	John R. Harlander
Utility Commissioner	Keith Heitzman
Township Liaison	John R. Harlander
Fire Department Relief Association Ex-Officio	Mayor Tom Kasner, Tom Schneider

After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to approve the aforementioned 2022 Mayor Appointments. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the council the city received an insurance dividend check from the League of Mn Cities Insurance Trust's property/casualty program (November 2020 through November 2021) in the amount of \$16,029. Mr. Schneider noted the city's insurance premium was nearly \$65,000 for the said coverage period. Mr. Schneider noted if the Trust's fund balance reaches a level where it's more than sufficient to pay claims and plan for contingencies, the Trust is able to return funds to its member cities. Mr. Schneider noted last year the Trust only returned \$6,014 to the city.

Mr. Schneider also informed the council the Minnesota Management and Budget revealed an historic state budget surplus for the November forecast in the amount of \$7.7 billion. Mr. Schneider noted the state contributes the large surplus to strong growth in income, consumer spending, higher tax receipts to date and profits. Mr. Schneider noted the legislature will determine how to spend the surplus when the legislature convenes in January.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, and adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.