

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, February 17, 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.

Others present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Kate Asfeld, Reporter, the Star Post, and Jeremy Mathiasen, the City Engineer with the firm of Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN. Others present from the public were Ross Tamm, Jean Pundsack, and Greg Johnson, Superintendent, Albany Area Schools.

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 John R. Harlander to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 70771 to 70802. 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 February 3rd and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Pursuant to due notice, at 6:33 P.M., Mayor Tom Kasner called the public hearing in session for the proposed 1st Street and Railroad Avenue Intersection and 8th Street (TH #238)/Shamrock Lane Sidewalk Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen updated the Council and public on the proposed full street and partial utility reconstruction, project locations, methodology to calculate individual assessments, and noted the estimated cost of the improvements is nearly \$490,000 as described in the preliminary feasibility report prepared by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. Ms. Pundsack questioned if the proposed "Yield" sign for traffic movement southbound to the west be replaced with a "Stop" sign. Mr. Mathiasen noted the proposed intersection design and signage is standard for high flow traffic movement and safer for motorists and pedestrians. Mr. Mathiasen noted the Mn Department of Transportation (MnDOT) engineers are supportive of the proposed intersection design. Mr. Johnson informed the Council he appreciates the work the Council has done over the years and noted the proposed design will improve traffic movement. Mr. Rushmeyer questioned if parking will be eliminated on 1st Street north of the intersection. Mr. Mathiasen noted parking maybe prohibited from the intersection to the alley depending on the final design. Mr. Mathiasen also noted MnDOT will be involved in the design of the intersection improvements and the project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2022. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked the property owners for attending the meeting and closed the public hearing at 6:50PM. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-06
ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND DIRECTING PREPARATION OF
PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
1st Street (TH 238) Intersection & 8th Street (TH 238) Sidewalk
(Street and Utility Reconstruction Improvements)

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 Adam Rushmeyer, John R. Harlander, Keith Heitzman, and Al Amdahl, and none voted against the same; whereupon the said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council the following bids for the 2021 Capital Improvements (Lake Avenue (from 3rd St. to 6th St.)), 3rd, 4th, and 5th Street from Lake Avenue to Forest Avenue, Church

Avenue from 2nd Street to 5th Street, and Trunk Storm Sewer Improvements near 7th Street and Shamrock Lane that were publicly opened at 11:00 AM, on Wednesday, February 17th, at City Hall:

<u>Contactor</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Breitbach Construction Co.	\$1,271,829.92
C & L Excavating, Inc.	\$1,285,469.61
Kuechle Underground, Inc.	\$1,289,150.97
Laron Excavating Contractors	\$1,469,581.75
Northdale Construction Company	\$1,485,241.19
J.R. Ferche, Inc.	\$1,510,147.75
RL Larson Excavating, Inc.	\$1,546,018.70
Riley Bros., Inc.	\$1,593,489.81
Central Specialties, Inc.	\$1,599,195.35
Ryan Contracting Co.	\$1,695,480.25
Duininck, Inc.	\$1,862,434.15

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council the low bidder is Breitbach Construction Company, Elrosa, MN, an amount 13% lower than the engineer’s estimate of \$1,464,643.70. After due discussion and upon the recommendation by the City Engineer, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2021-07
RECEIVING BIDS AND AWARDING CONTRACT
2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
(Street and Utility Improvements)
(Breitbach Construction Co. - \$1,271,829.92)

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by Adam Rushmeyer 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, Keith Heitzman, and Al Amdahl, 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 presented to the Council Payment Voucher No. 7 for the 2020 Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted the purpose of the payment voucher is to reduce the amount of retainage. After due discussion and upon recommendation from the City Engineer, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve Payment Voucher No. 7 to Breitbach Construction Company, Elrosa, MN, in the amount of \$28,945.00. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council the legislature is considering the adoption of a bill (HF78), to define perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS) as a hazardous substance under Minnesota Environment Response and Liability Act. Mr. Mathiasen noted the bill will have huge implications to cities when removing sludge from wastewater treatment ponds and disposal of certain items from businesses considered to be hazardous waste requiring the disclosure of contaminants to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Mr. Schneider informed the Council PFAS are used in a wide range of products from food packaging to stain-resistant furniture, non-stick cookware, waxes, clothing, and exposure comes from multiple sources and routes which are produced, used, processed, and released into the environment. Mr. Harlander questioned when the sludge in the wastewater treatment ponds is scheduled to be removed. Mr. Mergen informed the Council he is meeting with a representative from the Minnesota Rural Water Association to determine the level of sludge in the ponds and can report back to the Council at a future meeting. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, informed Mr. Schneider to continue to monitor the legislation and if necessary, permission is granted to forward a letter to our local legislators objecting to HF78.

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

Al Amdahl to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 39768-39773. Voting for the motion were Councilors John R. Harlander, Keith Heitzman, Adam Rushmeyer, and Al Amdahl, and none voted against. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried. Mr. Heitzman informed the Council the structure for the driving range improvements is nearing completion and interior improvements will begin shortly. Mr. Heitzman also noted the kitchen at the club will be named “Green Side Grill” and will open with weather permitting.

Mayor Tom Kasner updated the Council on the Governor Tim Walz COVID-19 regulations and restrictions. Mayor Tom Kasner noted the following: vaccines continue to be made available to the public, increased occupancy in bars/restaurants/gyms, and schools are beginning to open for in-person learning with precautions.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o’clock in the evening on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.