

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 Daron Gersch at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, July 17, 2013, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors Laurie Dingmann, John Greer, John R. Harlander, and Tom Kasner. None were absent.

Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, Stantec, Inc., Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, and Mike Kosik, Staff Writer, Albany Enterprise.

After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 63507 to 63544 and 14888 to 14903. All voted for the motion and it carried. The complete check register is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Adm. for public inspection during regular office hours.

Mayor Daron Gersch called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on July 3rd and hearing none declared them approved.

Molly Thompson, CPA with the firm of Schlenner, Wenner and Company, St. Cloud, MN, the City's Auditor, appeared before the Council to present the final 2012 Comprehensive Financial Audit for all City operations including the Albany Golf Club, Inc. Ms. Thompson also presented to the Council an abbreviated audit report on all City operations. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by Laurie Dingmann to approve the 2012 Comprehensive Financial Audit. All voted for the motion and it carried. The complete audit is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Adm. for public inspection during normal office hours.

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council to update the Council on the progress of the 2013 Railroad Avenue (T.H. #238) Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted that paving the roadway (Railroad Avenue) should be completed by the end of the week. Mr. Mathiasen also noted that meetings will be held with R.L. Larson Excavating, Inc., and Ferber Concrete, Inc., to discuss a final schedule to outline the dates when sidewalks will be completed. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the parade route for Heritage Day (August 3rd) has been discussed at the construction progress meetings; whereby the consensus of the attendees questioned if a segment of the parade route could be relocated to Midland Avenue if the construction on Railroad Avenue is not completed. Mr. Mathiasen noted that there is a chance the construction will be completed on Railroad Avenue and if this were the case, the parade route could actually be on Railroad Avenue, but it can't be confirmed at the present time due to potential weather and contractor delays. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, had no objection to relocating a segment of the parade route to Midland Avenue, but if the construction on Railroad Avenue is completed, the parade route will be on Railroad Avenue.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council pay request number three to R. L. Larson Excavating, Inc., for the Railroad Avenue Improvements. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Mayor Daron Gersch to approve the pay application to R. L. Larson Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$363,105.72. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mergen informed the Council that he has had discussions with MnDOT and the adjacent property owner regarding the final placement and design for the pedestrian flashing lights on the sidewalk at the 2nd Street and Railroad Avenue intersection. Mr. Mergen recommended that new solar power pedestrian flashing lights be installed at an estimated cost of \$7,000 +/- . After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by Tom Kasner to authorize the purchase of solar powered pedestrian flashing lights at the aforesaid intersection. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mergen informed the Council that the cost to install an underground sprinkler system and seeding for the area south of the Lake Wobegon Trail and north of Church Avenue from City Hall to the Church of Seven Dolors parking lot is \$14,000 +/- . Mr. Harlander questioned if the water source from City Hall would have adequate water pressure to support such a large sprinkling system. Mr. Mergen noted that if Church Avenue is ever reconstructed, the Council may consider a larger water service to be added and installed at the City Hall building to support the large sprinkling system. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, informed Mr. Mergen that this project can be considered when Church Avenue is reconstructed in the future.

Mr. Mergen also informed the Council that the cost to install an underground sprinkling system in the Legion Park and at the City Hall is \$5,800; whereby the Albany Area Jaycees donated \$5,000 towards the improvements. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mergen to proceed with the aforementioned improvement.

Councilor Laurie Dingmann, Park Board Liaison, informed the Council that the City received a donation in the amount of \$20,000 from the Albany Mutual Telephone Association for the new playground equipment that is being proposed for North Park. Ms. Dingmann noted that the estimated cost for the new playground equipment is \$115,000 and that nearly \$78,000 has been raised to date by either donations or City funds. Mayor Daron Gersch including other Council members directed Mr. Schneider to forward a thank you letter to the telephone company and thanked them for such a generous donation to the children of the community.

Mr. Carbajal appeared before the Council to present an amendment to Ordinance 51, to limit off street parking of vehicles in the municipal parking lot to 48 hours. Mr. Carbajal informed the Council that he has received complaints from the Public Works Department and other members of the public that vehicles which remain parked in the parking lot for extended periods of time cause problems for the Public Works Department during snowfall events in winter months and local organizations that use the parking lot for community events. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer who introduced the following ordinance amendment and moved its adoption:

AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 51
PARKING REGULATIONS

The motion for the foregoing ordinance amendment was seconded by Laurie Dingmann and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Daron Gersch, Councilors Tom Kasner, John R. Harlander, John Greer, and Laurie Dingmann, and none voted against the same whereupon the Amendment to Ordinance 51 was declared duly passed and adopted. The full text of the ordinance amendment is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Administrator for public inspection during regular office hours. Mr. Carbajal informed the Council that signs will be posted prior to any enforcement measures and the said amendment will be published in the local newspaper.

Mr. Carbajal informed the Council that the one-year probationary period has been completed by Patrol Officer Jeffrey Eggert. Mr. Carbajal noted that Mr. Eggert has participated in various department training exercises and other activities satisfactorily. Mr. Carbajal recommended that Mr. Eggert be appointed to full-time patrol status having successfully completed his probationary period. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by Tom Kasner to approve Patrol Officer Jeffrey Eggert to full-time patrol status in the Albany Police Department. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a request by the Albany Area Jaycees for a 3.2% Malt Liquor (Beer) license for the annual softball tournament to be held on July 26th through July 28th in the North Park. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve the said license contingent upon the City receiving the appropriate certificate of liquor liability insurance. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the City received a request of funds in the amount of \$600 for the City's annual contribution to the Initiative Foundation, Little Falls, MN. Mr. Schneider noted that in the past the City had received grant monies for participating in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Programs which received funding from the Initiative Foundation. Mr. Schneider noted that the funds were used to research water quality issues in North Lake. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Schneider to include a \$600 donation to the Initiative Foundation in the 2014 Budget.

Mr. Schneider also informed the Council that the League of Minnesota Cities recognized area legislators for the actions and leadership on a wide variety of legislative issues of importance to cities across the State of Minnesota. Mr. Schneider noted that their efforts authorized legislation to restore the sales tax exemption and increased local government aid to cities. Mayor Daron Gersch publically thanked the local legislators for their continued support of local government in central Minnesota.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm.