

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, July 21, 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, Kate Asfeld, Staff Reporter, The Star Post, Kim Fish, Fred Fish, Parker Fish, Carter Fish, Al Luethmers, Kari Kreuzer, Matt Kreuzer, and Bree Kreuzer.

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 Adam Rushmeyer to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 71141 to 71174. 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 7th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: None

Police Chief Carbajal appeared before the Council to introduce Patrol Officer Carter Fish to be hired as a full-time Patrol Officer in the Albany Police Department. Mayor Tom Kasner administered the Law Enforcement Oath of Office to Mr. Fish and welcomed him as a member of the Albany Police Department. After due discussion and upon the recommendation by Chief Carbajal, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by John R. Harlander to hire Carter Fish, as a full-time Patrol Officer in the Albany Police Department. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council Payment Voucher No. 8 for the 2020 Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted the payment voucher includes the final wear course pavement, some roadway striping, and some remaining traffic control costs. After due discussion and upon recommendation from the City engineer, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve Payment Voucher No. 8 to Breitbach Construction Company, Elrosa, MN, in the amount of \$131,377.99. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council a draft letter acknowledging that County Road 157 Improvements are in the County's 5-year Road Plan currently scheduled for 2024 including the City's interest in extending the existing sidewalk on the north side of CR 157 that currently dead ends at 9th Street. Mr. Mathiasen questioned if storm sewer improvements should be considered, but the proposed county's plan only includes surface improvements. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mathiasen to forward the letter to the County requesting a meeting to consider combining a city improvement with the county's project.

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 39886-39929. 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 noted the snack shack on the Toptracer Range should be open in a day or so and noted the course has had a busy summer to date.

Mr. Mergen informed the Council the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) informed the public about the state experiencing severe drought conditions including Stearns County which has caused several cities to enact residential water restrictions and/or a watering ban. Mr. Mergen noted he is monitoring the daily well pumping operation and will keep the Mayor and Council informed if action needs to be taken to implement any water restrictions.

Chief Carbajal informed the Council he provided Sergeant Matt Gannon and Dannielle Zierden, Administration/Police Assistant, with a letter of commendation for an outstanding investigation and preparation of court documents regarding a former Albany High School teacher pleading guilty to having a sexual relationship with a student.

The Council took notice of the following requests:

- John R. and Sandra Harlander, 112 Whispering Oaks Lane, for an administrative subdivision of Lot 7, Block 5, Whispering Oaks at Two River. Mr. Schneider informed the Council the said lot will be attached to each abutting lot similar to past requests. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve a Certificate of Compliance for the administrative subdivision of Lot 7, Block 5, Whispering Oaks at Two River. Voting for the motion were Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Keith Heitzman, Adam Rushmeyer, and Al Amdahl and none voted against. Councilor John R. Harlander abstained and the motion carried.
- Shady's Hometown Tavern & Events Center 2AM License/Permit renewal effective September 1, 2021. Mr. Schneider informed the Council the Mn Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Division, waived the permit fee in 2021 to provide economic relief to bars and restaurants impacted by COVID-19 and the subsequent Executive Orders. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the 2AM license/permit renewal for Shady's Hometown Tavern & Events Center for the period September 1, 2021 through September 1, 2022. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council the city will not receive a reduction in Local Government Aid (LGA) for the year 2021 being the State has a \$2.2 billion dollar surplus. Mr. Schneider noted during the budget preparation period in September 2020, the state informed cities that LGA would be cut due to COVID-19 and a reduction in state revenues. Mr. Schneider noted the 2020 Budget included a reduction of \$100,000 in LGA and recommended funds in the same amount be transferred from the general fund to the debt service fund. Mr. Schneider noted there are no proposed reductions in LGA for the year 2022. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to direct Mr. Schneider to transfer \$100,000 from the general fund to the debt service fund. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider also informed the Council he is reviewing the City's cell phone policy and insurance coverage for use of personal vehicles while conducting city business. Mr. Schneider noted both topics will be discussed at a council meeting in the near future.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.