

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, March 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.

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

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 70846 to 70880. 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 March 3rd and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Janelle P. Kendall, Stearns County Attorney, appeared before the Council to update the Council on the activities for the 2020 Albany Police Department Prosecution Contract. Ms. Kendall noted the contract includes legal advice to officers seven days a week, twenty-four hours per day. Ms. Kendall noted prosecutions included, but not limited to, driving violations, assault, drugs, theft, alcohol, gross misdemeanors, etc. Ms. Kendall also noted the diversion program is designed to use the power of persuasion as an incentive of avoiding a criminal conviction to facilitate rehabilitation, changed thinking, responsive behavior, the payment of restitution to the victim(s), and in some cases, treatment. Ms. Kendall also thanked Chief Carbajal and his officers for doing an outstanding job with investigations, school resource officer (Sergeant Matt Gannon), and administration correspondence by Dannielle Zierden the Administrative Assistant. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Ms. Kendall for attending the meeting and updating the Council. Mayor Tom Kasner also thanked Chief Carbajal for doing an outstanding job overseeing the Albany Police Department.

Sheri Thill/Chad Schmidt, owners of Rookies Sports Bar, 481 Railroad Avenue, appeared before the Council to request permission to close 5th Street between Railroad Avenue and the rear alley on Saturday, June 5th for the purpose of their annual street dance. Ms. Thill noted the band will be set up near the alley facing south/southeast towards their building and is tentatively scheduled to play from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM, but may end at midnight if COVID restrictions are amended. Ms. Thill noted social distance and masks will be encouraged and will talk to the owners of adjacent building owned by SSTS of Albany, LLC being the second floor of the building was recently renovated for apartments. After due discussions, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the request by Rookies Sports Bar to close a portion of 5th Street between Railroad Avenue and the rear alley on Saturday, June 5th for the purpose to hold their annual street dance which includes the consumption of alcohol within this boundary provided proper insurance certificate is submitted to the City. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a resolution to declare the cost to be assessed, ordering preparation of proposed assessments, and calling for a public hearing for the 2021 Capital Improvements Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted a preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for March 30th. Mr. Mathiasen noted each property owner will be mailed a notice listing the total amount proposed to be assessed to their property. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2021-10
DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED; ORDERING PREPARATION
OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT; AND CALLING FOR PUBLIC
HEARING ON ASSESSMENTS

2021 Capital Improvement Project

(Public Hearing: 6:30 PM or as soon as thereafter, Wednesday, April 21st, at City Hall)

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. 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.

The Council took notice of a proposed Professional Services Agreement between Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., and the City of Albany for the proposed 2022 1st Street (TH #238) and Railroad Avenue Intersection Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the proposed contract for engineering services maybe written as a lump sum or hourly. Mr. Harlander informed the Council he would be in favor of an hourly rate and not lump sum. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to authorize Mayor Tom Kasner to execute the said Agreement on behalf of the City. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council the final design and preparation of construction documents is underway for the proposed 2022 1st Street (TH #238) and Railroad Avenue Intersection Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the agreement between the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the City will be forthcoming to consider approval at a future meeting.

Mr. Mathiasen questioned if the Council would like to proceed with installation of the micro-monitors (Phase II) in the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council you may see large rainfall events in the spring and the monitors would be helpful to clarify why the wastewater facility is seeing such large amounts of excess flow and their relationship to the rain events. Mr. Heitzman questioned what the cost would be for the installation of the monitors. Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council the cost would be no more than \$6,500, the same costs for Phase I monitoring. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize the installation of micro-monitors (Phase II) in the sanitary sewer at a cost not to exceed \$6,500. All voted for the motion and it carried.

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 39774-39777. 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 TopTracer driving range improvements will open very soon. Mr. Schneider noted a small snack shack is under construction on the west side of the range and plans will be submitted to the City for review; whereas the building official has been in contact with the volunteers to discuss the construction of the snack shack amenities. Mr. Heitzman also presented to the Council the Club's 2021 Operating Budget.

Mr. Mergen presented to the Council a 2020 year-end activity report for the Street, Park, Water, and Sewer Department. Mr. Mergen informed the Council the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency acknowledged receipt of the City's Pretreatment Annual Report for calendar year 2020; whereby no additional comments or concerns were noted.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council a proposed job description for a part-time summer seasonal worker in the Public Works Department. Mr. Schneider noted a notice of the job opening will be

published in the local newspaper, posted on the City website, and Facebook. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the job description for the said position. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider also informed the Council the State loosened COVID-19 guidelines on March 15th; whereby capacity limits on businesses, restaurants, bars, gyms, social gatherings were expanded citing lower COVID case numbers and expanded vaccine availability across Minnesota.

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

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.