

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 3, 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, 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 Al Amdahl and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 70803 to 70845. 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 17th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Jon Stueve, Hannah Birr, Scott Birr, Jeanne Birr, Liana Birr, Kaydance Larson, Khloe Birr, members representing the Joel Birr Memorial Foundation, and Gary Winkels, Fire Chief, and Jim Stueve, Jr., Fireman, were present for the meeting. Jon Stueve informed the Council Joel Birr was a friend of his who passed away unexpectedly from heart complications; whereby the family and friends wanted to create a foundation to give back to the community in honor of Joel Birr from proceeds raised from a golf tournament held in September. Jon Stueve on behalf of the said foundation, presented three checks in the amount of \$2,000 each to the following: 1) Albany Fire Department, 2) Albany Police Department, and 3) Melrose Ambulance. Mayor Tom Kasner on behalf of the Council, thanked the family and friends of Joel Birr for their generous donation and support of the departments.

Dan Behnke, Senior District Manager, Waste Management-Sauk Centre, MN, the City's contracted residential refuse hauler, appeared before the Council to report the following for the year 2020: 698 tons of garbage hauled, 236 tons of recycling, and 290 tons of yard waste. Mr. Behnke reminded the Council plastic bags from grocery stores should not be deposited in the recycle containers which cause several issues to equipment at recycling centers. Mr. Behnke also noted when in doubt whether a product should be recycled, the product should be discarded in the garbage cart. Mr. Behnke instructed the Council residents with questions may contact their Sauk Centre office at 320.763.9608 during regular office hours. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Mr. Behnke for attending the meeting and providing the yearly activity report.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council he, Mr. Schneider, and Mr. Mergen met with MnDOT representatives to discuss the proposed 1st Street and Railroad Avenue (TH #238) Intersection Improvement logistics, submittal requirements, and a preliminary project schedule. Mr. Mathiasen noted MnDOT will prepare a cooperative construction agreement with the City outlining the duties and responsibilities of each jurisdiction for review at a future Council meeting.

Chief Carbajal appeared before the Council to present the Albany Police Department 2020 year-end annual report. Mr. Carbajal noted nearly 2,300 Initial Complaint Reports (ICR) were received or acted upon which consisted of alarms, animal complaints, suspicious activity, property crimes, citizen contacts, medical/fire calls, person crimes, etc. Mr. Carbajal also presented a list of training meetings attended, special events/assignments, and accomplishments and thanked the Council for their support of the department. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Mr. Carbajal for presenting his report.

Mayor Tom Kasner, Albany Fire Board Liaison, informed the Council the Board held a meeting on February 23rd to review the following 2020 Albany Fire Department operations:

- 12-portable radios were purchased from Motorola (\$31,000+/-) with Cares Act funds. Funds received from the following jurisdictions: Farming Township \$10,369, Albany Township \$13,988, and Albany City \$6,709.
- New air packs (16 packs, 32 bottles, 25 face pieces, 1 rapid intervention pack) were purchased from Alex Air Apparatus in the amount of \$140,520. Revenue sources were as follows: 2019 FEMA Grant \$121,405, department equipment fund \$19,115. The old air packs will be given to an organization outside the United States for fire use being they no longer meet minimum certification standards in the United States.
- A 2020 FEMA “micro” grant application was submitted for \$50,000 for the purpose of purchasing new hoses, nozzles, etc.
- A 2021 FEMA “micro” grant application will be submitted to purchase battery operated Jaws of Life (extrication equipment). Estimated cost is \$50,000.
- The Farm Safety Demonstration will be held sometime in 2021, but no firm date has been scheduled.
- Heiman Fire, Sioux Falls, SD, acknowledged they will take delivery of a chassis for the department’s new engine in April. Apparatus build to be completed in another 12 months.
- The City’s expense for fire department services was \$82,975 for the year 2020, a decrease from 2019.
- Annual 2020 Golf Tournament receipts was \$17,500. The 2021 golf tournament tentatively is scheduled for August 9th.
- The 2021 Firemen’s Banquet has been cancelled due to COVID restrictions.
- The annual Firemen’s Dance at Shady’s Hometown Tavern and Event Center, is tentatively scheduled for April 10th.

Mr. Kasner informed the Council the Fire Board directed Gary Winkels, the Fire Chief, to forward a letter of interest to the Sauk Rapids Fire Department for their 2001- 65’ snorkel aerial fire truck which includes the apparatus dated 1977. Mr. Kasner noted additional information will be presented to the Fire Board at their July meeting and if the said truck may be purchased for a reasonable price it would replace Unit No. 2, a pumper truck. Mr. Harlander informed the Council he would not be in favor of an aerial truck due to several factors including, but not limited to the age of truck, annual pump certification/training/maintenance costs, limited firemen for operation, lack of calls required for service, and not needed being mutual aid is readily available to the department. Mayor Tom Kasner informed the Council the Fire Board members discussed many of the aforementioned concerns and will revisit the aerial truck discussion at the next Fire Board meeting. Mayor Tom Kasner also noted specific annual expenses related to the operation of an aerial truck will be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

Keith Heitzman, Albany Golf Club Liaison, informed the Council the driving range improvements are nearly completed which will include TopTracer technology. Mr. Heitzman noted the construction of the building on the driving range should be completed in a few weeks and open shortly thereafter weather permitting.

The Council took notice of a letter received from Jason Murray, the City’s Financial Consultant with the firm of David Drown Associates (DDA), for the purpose of the issuance of \$1,730,000 General Obligation Permanent Improvement Revolving Fund Bonds, Series 2021B for the 2021 Capital Street and Utility Reconstruction Improvements Project (Lake Avenue/Church Avenue and adjacent side streets (3rd, 4th, and 5th Streets)). Mr. Schneider noted DDA recommended the issuance of the bonds through a competitive sale process rather than other financing options which were not a suitable alternative. After due discussion and upon the recommendation of DDA, a motion was made by John R. Harlander who introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-08
PROVIDING FOR THE COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATED SALE OF
\$1,730,000 G.O. PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT REVOLVING
FUND BONDS, SERIES 2021B**

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 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.

Pursuant to due notice, Mayor Tom Kasner called the public hearing into session at 7:33 o'clock in the evening on a request by Amanda Scepaniak, 103 Par Drive, Albany, MN, to vacate the drainage and utility as dedicated in ALBANY GOLF VISTAS, according to the recorded plat thereof, Stearns County, Minnesota, bounded as follows:

A 5.00 foot drainage and utility easement over, under and across the easterly 5.00 feet of Lot 26, Block 1, ALBANY GOLF VISTAS, according to the recorded plat thereof Stearns County, Minnesota, as measured perpendicular to, contiguous and parallel with the easterly line of said Lot 26 and the westerly 5.00 feet of Lot 27, said Block 1, as measured perpendicular to, contiguous and parallel with the westerly line of said Lot 27, and lying southerly of following described line: Commencing at the southwesterly corner of said Lot 26; thence North 14°22'00" East, assumed bearing, along the westerly line of said Lot 26, a distance of 166.42 feet to the point of beginning of the line to be described; thence North 85°08'59" East, 111.11 feet to the easterly line of said Lot 27 and said line there terminating. Less and Except the southerly 10.00 feet of said Lots 26 and 27, as measured perpendicular to, contiguous and parallel with the southerly lines of said Lots 26 and 27.

Mr. Schneider noted a public notice was published in the Star Post on February 17th and February 24th and no written comments were received. Mr. Schneider informed the Council the utility companies were given notice and no utilities are located within the proposed described easement to be vacated. Mr. Schneider also noted the purpose of the request is to construct a new home. Mayor Tom Kasner closed the public hearing at 7:35 PM. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to approve the following: 1) vacate the public drainage and utility easement as per the aforesaid legal description, 2) authorize Mayor Tom Kasner to execute a Notice of Completion of the said vacation, and 3) approve certificate of compliance to combine both aforesaid lots into one lot. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council on March 4, 2020 the Council approved a request by Catherine Wolf and Rachael Buttweiler for funding building improvements at 521 Railroad Avenue through the Economic Development Authority's (EDA) Commercial Rehabilitation Deferred Loan Program; whereas the improvements are required to be completed within one-year. Mr. Schneider noted there is a significant amount of work that remains to be completed and instructed Ms. Wolf to request an extension. Mr. Schneider noted Ms. Wolf stated the improvements would be completed in June/July 2021 and recommended the final completion date be extended. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to extend the EDA's funding for the completion of the building improvements to September 1, 2021. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a Minnesota lawful gambling LG230 exempt permit application submitted by the Albany Lions to conduct a raffle on July 31, 2021 at the Albany American Legion Park, 400 Railroad Avenue. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2021-09
APPROVING MINNESOTA
OFF-SITE LAWFUL GAMBLING
(Albany Lions – July 31, 2021)

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 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. Schneider informed the Council the State of Minnesota's financial outlook dramatically improved one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, with state economists projecting a surplus of \$1.6 billion for the next two-year budget. Mr. Schneider noted the economists predicted in November a \$1.3 billion deficit. Mr. Schneider noted several factors in the shortfall flip.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.