

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, May 5, 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, 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.

Mayor Tom Kasner noted the following additions to the agenda: 1) MnDOT speed study results Co. Rd. #157, and 2) update on State of Mn COVID-19 regulations

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 70990 to 71026. 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 May 5th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council to inform the Council the construction activities are continuing according to the original schedule for the 2021 Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted water main install will begin in a week on Church Avenue and storm sewer improvements thereafter west of 7th Street and north of Shamrock Lane. Mr. Mathiasen also noted the final wear course (bituminous) will be completed in a week or two for the 2020 Capital Improvement Project.

Mr. Mathiasen also noted Stearns County Highway Department announced their preliminary 5-year Road Improvement Program which included the following two county roads just outside the City limits: 1) Co. Rd. #54 resurfacing in 2022 (est. \$1.25M project costs), and 2) Co. Rd. #157 reconstruction in 2024 (est. \$4M project costs).

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 John R. Harlander to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 39815-39845. 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 also informed the Council the Club's annual stockholders meeting was held on May 10th; whereby Tom Blattner and Nathan Ronning were elected to the Board of Directors. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Al Amdahl to ratify the annual stockholder's election results for the aforesaid individuals.

Councilor Al Amdahl, Albany Area Schools Community Education Liaison, informed the Council the activity brochure has been printed and distributed to the community. Mr. Amdahl also noted the Blattner Energy Arts Theater (BEAT) should be opening soon with live performances with safety precautions for indoor seating as per COVID-19 regulations.

Councilor John R. Harlander, Police Department Liaison, informed the Council Chief Ozzie Carbajal is recommending an increase of \$1.00 per hour wage increase for those officers working the

evening shift. Mr. Heitzman noted many businesses offer incentives for employees working an evening shift and would not object to the request. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, had no objection to the request.

Mr. Mergen appeared before the Council to inform the Council the hiring committee conducted interviews of six candidates for the position of Laborer in the Public Works Department; whereby Kurt Beuning, Albany, MN, was recommended to be hired for the said position. Mr. Schneider noted the notice for the position opening was published in the Star Post on April 14th and interviews were conducted on May 13th. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to hire Kurt Beuning for the position of Laborer in the Public Works Department at an hourly wage of \$19.21, Group V-Pay Equity, contingent upon Mr. Beuning successfully completing the remaining employment requirements. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a letter received by the Stearns County Highway Department informing the City the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) completed a speed study for County Road #157 between the junction of TH#238 and 14th Street on a request by the Council in September 2020. Mr. Schneider noted MnDOT recommended the following speed limits for CR #157:

- 30 miles per hour between the junction of TH#238 and a point approximately 150ft west of the junction of 11th Street.
- 40 miles per hour between a point approximately 150ft west of the junction of 11th St. to a point approximately 805ft west of the junction with 14th St.

Mr. Harlander noted the recommendation from MnDOT increases the speed limit 150ft west of 11th Street, from 30 MPH to 40 MPH and would not be in favor of increasing the speed limit in this area. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mathiasen to contact the County to discuss the Council concerns.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council Governor Tim Walz ended the statewide mask mandate on May 13th as per Emergency Executive Order 2021-23 aligning Minnesota with the new CDC guidance on face coverings. Mr. Schneider noted masks are no longer needed for fully vaccinated individuals either indoors or outdoors. Mr. Schneider also noted Governor Tim Walz extended his Peacetime Emergency powers through June 13th providing the state to quickly establish staff, support, technology, and other financial resources related to vaccine sites and other government functions related to COVID-19. Mr. Schneider also noted the Albany Branch of the Great River Regional Library is no longer requiring their patrons to wear face masks, lift time limits for indoor seating, and increase computer use as per May 14th.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.