

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, Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal, 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 Adam Rushmeyer to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 70963 to 70989. 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 April 21st and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

The Council took notice of an application for a Large Gathering Permit and a Temporary Consumption & Display (1-4 day) liquor application for an outdoor music event named Rock the Prairie submitted by Renee Anderson, Executive Director with the Mother of Mercy Foundation. Mr. Schneider informed the Council the annual event will be held on Saturday, September 11th on property owned by Mother of Mercy Campus of Care, 21470 County Road 54. Mr. Schneider noted camping, private security, food vendors, and parking arrangements will be similar to past events. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the aforesaid applications. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council Payment Voucher No. 1 for the 2021 Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted the payment voucher includes site removals, sanitary sewer, water main, and storm sewer installation. After due discussion and upon recommendation from the City engineer, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve Payment Voucher No. 1 to Breitbach Construction Company, Elrosa, MN, in the amount of \$110,146.89. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner questioned what erosion control measures will be taken by the contractor when Church Avenue is reconstructed in a few weeks to prevent sediment/sand from entering the golf course storm sewer system. Mr. Mathiasen noted a series of different erosion control protection devices will be installed and will make sure things get done accordingly.

Councilor Keith Heitzman, Albany Golf Club Liaison, informed the Council the annual stockholders meeting of the club will be held on May 10th and also noted various activities to be held at the course throughout the summer months for adults and children.

Police Chief Carbajal presented to the Council a proposed job description for Patrol Officer. Mr. Carbajal noted the City attorney and staff reviewed the draft and recommended it be approved. Mr. Carbajal also noted the City received a letter of resignation from Jason Mehr, a part-time Patrol Officer. After due discussion and upon the recommendation by the Police Chief, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the job description for Patrol Officer and resignation of Jason Mehr as a part-time Patrol Officer. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Councilor Al Amdahl, 2020 Census Coordinator appointed by the Council, informed the Council Minnesota’s congressional seat status will remain status quo, following the U.S. Census Bureau’s new population numbers for 2020. Mr. Amdahl noted the state will hold onto all eight seats the state currently holds in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Amdahl also noted Minnesota had the highest self-response rate for filling out the Census in the nation and thanked his committee members for their assistance.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council there are two weeks remaining in the legislative session to negotiate the following four main issues: 1) budget, 2) emergency powers, 3) police reform, and 4) Federal Dollars (American Recovery Plan Act). Mr. Schneider noted if the legislature can not resolve the said issues a special session may be considered and if no compromises are considered there may be a government shutdown in July.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o’clock in the evening on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.