

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 Daron Gersch at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors John R. Harlander, Tom Kasner, and Keith Heitzman. Councilor Al Amdahl was absent.

Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, with Stantec, Inc., Jean Pundsack, resident, and Albany High School students present were: Madison Springer, Haily Ebensteiner, and Sam Fischbach.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Tom Kasner to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 67717 to 67741 and 16705 to 16718. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Daron Gersch called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on October 4th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comment: Mayor Daron Gersch announced that anyone appearing before the Council during this time may speak for a period of three (3) to five (5) minutes. Jean Pundsack, 211 Railroad Avenue, appeared before the Council to request meeting minutes from the staff meeting held on October 4th with a representative from Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Mayor Daron Gersch noted that no minutes are prepared at staff meetings. Ms. Pundsack requested that the yellow curb painted on Railroad Avenue at the intersections be extended to improve visibility for motorists and pedestrians. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that he does not see a need to eliminate more parking spaces on Railroad Avenue. Ms. Pundsack requested that the portable pedestrian signs be placed at the crosswalk locations which had been done in the past. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that the said signs create hazards for motorists and delivery trucks serving businesses on main street due to limited right-of-way on Railroad Avenue and none will be considered. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that the City is researching ideas of improving the crosswalk on Railroad Avenue adjacent to City Hall/Library.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council final payment application No. 7 requested by Larson Excavating, Holdingford, MN, for the 2016 5<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted that the final paperwork has been submitted by the contractor and recommended approval. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve payment application No. 7 to Larson Excavating Contractors in the amount of \$15,095.79. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen also presented to the Council conceptual sketches of various roundabout designs for the 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue (State HWY #238) intersection. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mathiasen to schedule a meeting with MnDOT to discuss the conceptual sketches to determine what might be the best design for the said intersection.

Mayor Daron Gersch, Park Board liaison, informed the Council that he and the City Clerk/Administrator interviewed two candidates who applied for the vacant Park Board position; whereby he recommended that Sonya Hoffarth, 123 Whispering Oaks Drive, Albany, be appointed to the board position. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Keith Heitzman to appoint Sonya Hoffarth to the Park Board for a term ending December 31, 2019. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Councilor Tom Kasner, Equipment Liaison, informed the Council that the Public Works Department has requested to replace their "stick" welder with a new wire feed welder at an estimated cost of \$3,000. Mr. Kasner also noted that the same department would like to purchase a tire changer to repair

tires for City vehicles, tractors, trailers, and lawn mowers being the local repair shops can't typically repair the tire the same day due to other customer commitments. Mr. Kasner noted that the estimated cost for a tire changer is \$3,000. Mr. Mergen informed the Council that he will contact vendors for specific pricing and report back to the Council at a future meeting.

Councilor Keith Heitzman, Albany Golf Club Liaison, presented to the Council the said Club's checkbook register for review and consideration. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve of the check register as presented (38407-38605). Voting for the motion was Mayor Daron Gersch, Councilors Keith Heitzman, John R. Harlander, and none voted against. Councilor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that he and Ozzie Carbajal, Chief of Police, Albany Police Department, reviewed Ordinance 52, Snowmobiles and Other Recreational Vehicles. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that at the last Council meeting a resident requested that the said Ordinance be amended to allow 4-wheelers to be driven on City streets within the City limits. Mr. Schneider, with the consensus of the Chief of Police, recommended that no amendments or changes be considered to the said Ordinance. Councilor Tom Kasner questioned why a side-by-side, a licensed recreational vehicle, is treated differently than a 4-wheeler which is also licensed. Mayor Daron Gersch directed Mr. Kasner and Mr. Harlander to meet with the Chief of Police to discuss the aforesaid request.

The Council took notice of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 application for Exempt Permit submitted by the Church of Seven Dolors to conduct a raffle on January 20, 2018, at Shady's Hometown Tavern and Event Center, 451 Railroad Avenue. Mr. Schneider noted that the event is for Holy Family School's annual Snowball fundraiser. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Tom Kasner to approve said application. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Councilor Tom Kasner informed the Council that at the direction of the Board of Directors of the Albany Golf Club, he contacted the supervisor at the Albany Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) shop several times regarding the lack of routine weed spraying in the storm water ditch on the north side of Interstate 94 abutting hole number two on the course. Mr. Kasner noted that due to significant vegetation growth in the ditch, much storm water now flows in the fairway on hole number two causing damage to the course. Mr. Mergen noted that he too contacted the same person at the Albany MnDOT shop, but was told that MnDOT has no funds to clean out the ditch or maintain the ditch for weed control. Mayor Daron Gersch directed Mr. Schneider to contact the MnDOT office in St. Cloud, MN, to resolve the issues.

The Council took notice of a public hearing before the Stearns County Planning Commission on a request submitted by John Peternell, 35747 Co. Rd. 10, Albany, MN, to rezone approximately 12.47 acres from Residential 1 zoning district to the Commercial zoning district. No action was taken by the City.

Mr. Schneider noted that CenterPoint Energy filed a request with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for a 6.4% increase in natural gas rates; whereas an interim rate increase of 5.4% goes into effective October 1<sup>st</sup> and continues until the MPUC issues a final order for implementation of the new rate (6.4%) in the summer of 2018.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that Halloween will be celebrated in the City of Albany on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 and adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

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Tom Schneider  
Clerk/Adm.