

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a meeting of the Planning Commission in and for the City of Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota, was called to order by Chairman Adam Rushmeyer at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Planning Commission members present for the meeting were: Joseph Wedel and Todd Horton. Will Seiler and Jon Stueve were absent. Councilor John Greer, Planning Commission Liaison, was present for the meeting.

Chairman Adam Rushmeyer called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of February 9, 2017 and hearing none declared them approved.

Mr. Greer arrived for the meeting at 6:35PM.

Pursuant to due notice, at 6:35 PM, Chairman Adam Rushmeyer called a public hearing into session on a request by the Albany Planning Commission to consider approval of Zoning Ordinance Section 80.14B, Alternative Energy Systems of the Albany City Code. A proper notice was published in the Albany Enterprise on February 15th. No members from the public were present for the meeting and no written comments were received. Mr. Schneider informed the Board that comments made by the Board at the last meeting were addressed in the final draft before the Board. Chairman Adam Rushmeyer closed the public hearing at 6:45 PM. After due discussion, a motion was made by Todd Horton and seconded by Joseph Wedel to recommend to the Council that Zoning Ordinance Section 80.14B, Alternative Energy Systems of the Albany City Code be approved. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Pursuant to due notice, at 6:46 PM, Chairman Adam Rushmeyer called a public hearing into session on a request by the Albany Planning Commission to consider an amendment to Zoning Ordinance Section 80.11, Signs, of the Albany City Code. A proper notice was published in the Albany Enterprise on February 15th. No members from the public were present for the meeting and no written comments were received. Mr. Schneider informed the Board that the purpose of the proposed amendment is to add Public Zoning Districts to Section 80.11, Signs. Mr. Schneider also informed the Board that a Sandwich board sign will be permitted within a Public Zoning District. Chairman Adam Rushmeyer closed the public hearing at 6:50 PM. After due discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Wedel and seconded by Todd Horton to recommend to the Council that the amendment to Zoning Ordinance Section 80.11, Signs, of the Albany City Code be approved. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Greer informed the Board that the City Engineer recently presented to the Council a preliminary Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) report related to future intersection improvements at Railroad Avenue and 1st Street, a major collector with each street designated as State Highway No. 238, a 3-legged intersection with approaches on the north, west, and east. Mr. Greer noted that for several years this intersection has been problematic and confusing to motorists and most recently there have been long delays by motorists attempting to enter the intersection from the east on County Road #54. Mr. Greer also noted that the current intersection is providing a near failing level of service for motorists and will continue to worsen each year as traffic volumes increase. Mr. Schneider noted that the Council would like to improve or upgrade the intersection in the year 2018 in conjunction with the 2018 1st Street Reconstruction Improvements. Mr. Greer noted that the Council authorized the negotiation of the purchase of two properties adjacent to the intersection contingent upon the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) confirming that additional right of way will be required to improve or upgrade the intersection. Mr. Greer noted that one of the options included in the aforesaid report was the construction of a roundabout, but the final decision will not be decided for a month or so. Chairman Adam Rushmeyer noted that roundabouts are becoming more and more common in the state and nearby cities.

Chairman Adam Rushmeyer adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.