

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, September 15, 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, Jeremy Mathiasen, the City Engineer with the firm of Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Kate Asfeld, Staff Reporter, The Star Post.

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 Keith Heitzman to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 71265 to 71309. 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 September 1st and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: Jean Pundsack, 211 Railroad Avenue, appeared before the Council to talk about North Lake and traffic noise on Railroad Avenue.

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the council to question what reconstruction improvements the council would like to see with the proposed improvements to County Highway #157 (Railroad Avenue) west of the intersection of 8th Street and Railroad Avenue in the year 2024 or 2025. Mr. Harlander noted the street should be reconstructed similar to other projects the city has undertaken the past several years and recommended the installation of a new sidewalk on the north side of the roadway. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the council, directed Mr. Mathiasen to inform the county the city will consider the following improvements: sidewalk extension from 9th St. to Lake Wobegon Trail west of 13th St., curb/gutter, removal of concrete beneath existing bituminous, and 2024 construction start date. Mr. Mathiasen noted a public informational meeting will be held by the county related to the proposed improvements in the spring of 2022.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council a resolution authorizing Stantec, Inc., the City's Engineering firm, to prepare a preliminary engineering report for the proposed 2022 Capital Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the proposed improvements would include Midland Avenue (from 1st Street and 6th Street) and 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Streets (between Railroad Avenue and Midland Avenue and adjacent alley's. Mr. Mathiasen also noted the improvements would consist of new streets, curb, water main, sewer main, storm sewer, and services. Mr. Mathiasen also noted all benefitted properties would be assessed for a portion of the improvements similar to past reconstruction improvements. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2021-23
CALLING FOR A PRELIMINARY
ENGINEERING REPORT
2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
(Midland Avenue and connecting roadways and alleys)

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by Al Amdahl 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, Al Amdahl, and Keith Heitzman, 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.

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 39960-40000. 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 updated the council on proposed future improvements and course activities.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council a proposed 2022 Budget which includes the Police, Fire, Street, Park, Library, Water, Sewer, Capital Equipment Plans, Administration Departments, debt service, and employee benefits. Mr. Schneider noted that the preliminary 2021 property tax levy for payable 2022 is due on or before September 30th to the Stearns County Auditor's Office. Mr. Schneider noted the proposed levy is \$1,093,413, an increase of 2.34%, and the proposed City's 2022 tax capacity rate would be 43.58%, a decrease. Mr. Schneider noted the city may reduce the levy amount at the December Truth and Taxation public hearing, but not increase the amount. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to direct the City Clerk/Administrator to forward to the Stearns County Auditor the proposed levy of \$1,093,413 and to set the initial meeting at 6:30 PM, or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, December 1st, and the final adoption meeting of the said levy at 6:30 PM, or as soon as thereafter, on Wednesday, December 15th at 400 Railroad Avenue, the City Administration Building. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.