

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, May 2, 2018, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors Tom Kasner, Al Amdahl, John R. Harlander, and Keith Heitzman. None were absent.

Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, with Stantec, Inc., Ozzie Carbajal, Albany Police Chief, Mike Kosik, Editor, Albany Enterprise, Joseph Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Sheri Thill, Chad Schmidt, J.P. Auer, and Herb Binsfeld.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 68169 to 68198 and 16946 to 16958. 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 April 18th and hearing none declared them approved.

Mayor Daron Gersch called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Local Board of Review and Equalization meeting held on April 18th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comment: Mr. Auer, 151 5<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared before the Council to inform the Council that the City should enforce the nuisance ordinance for those properties that are in violation. Mayor Daron Gersch thanked Mr. Auer for the request and noted that the Police Department will inspect the properties and encourage the property owner to be in compliance with the ordinance.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council that the contractor for the 2018 North Lake Storm Water Improvements has removed trees and other vegetation and started the excavation for the storm water (north) pond east of the Highlands Park.

Mr. Mathiasen also noted that the funding request to Stearns County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has been submitted for the 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue Intersection (130' diameter roundabout) Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted that MnDOT currently has the project funds programmed for 2020 and Stearns County, if approved, would be available in the year 2023 for reimbursement to the City.

Mr. Mergen appeared before the Council to inform the Council that he met with a representative from MnDOT to discuss the installation of Rapid Flash Beacon Crosswalk LED Warning System, a pedestrian safety crosswalk device, for the following areas: 1) 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Railroad Avenue, 2) 8<sup>th</sup> Street/Lake Wobegon Trail, and 3) County Road #54 (Railroad Avenue)/Albany Area Schools south driveway entrance. Mr. Mergen noted that due to the sidewalk configuration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue intersection, several sidewalk panels need to be removed and replaced at an estimated cost of \$5,000+/- . Mr. Mergen noted that if the Council does not want to install a signal device at this intersection, it may be installed at Forest Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street, the Albany Area Schools west driveway entrance, at the same time when the 2018 1<sup>st</sup> Street reconstruction improvements are being constructed. Mr. Schneider noted that there are adequate funds budgeted in the Street Department to remove and replace the sidewalk panels and recommended that the signal device be installed at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue intersection. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that traffic is significant at both intersections but would favor the installation of a signal device at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue being next to City Hall/Library and originally discussed as a priority intersection to improve pedestrian safety on Railroad Avenue. Mr. Kasner also noted that the said intersection has limited visibility being there is more vehicle parking on Railroad Avenue in the business district compared to Forest Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that he will contact the school superintendent about the possibility to install a signal device on Forest Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup>

Street being 1<sup>st</sup> Street will be reconstructed this summer by MnDOT. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Tom Kasner to direct Mr. Mergen to proceed to purchase the Rapid Flash Beacon Crosswalk LED Warning System for the following areas: 1) 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Railroad Avenue, 2) 8<sup>th</sup> Street/Lake Wobegon Trail, and 3) County Road #54 (Railroad Avenue)/Albany Area Schools south driveway entrance. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Heitzman, Albany Golf Club Liaison, informed the Council that the Albany Golf Club is open for the season which is a much later open date than last year due to the snowfall events in April.

Mr. Mergen noted that he and Mr. Mathiasen inspected the condition of 14<sup>th</sup> Street upon the request of an abutting property owner and found the street to be in need of repair. Mr. Mergen noted that the street may have to be repaired next year and will hire a contractor to provide the City with soil borings on the street to determine the condition of the material below the pavement.

Mr. Kasner informed the Council that Kris Schiffler, owner of Shady's Hometown Tavern and Events Center, Albany, will not be able to attend the Council meeting due to a family commitment and will present his request for a Large Gathering Permit for an outdoor music event at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Mayor Daron Gersch thanked the residents that attended the meeting and informed them the request will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Carbajal informed the Council that George Bridenstine, Part-time Patrol Officer, submitted a letter of resignation to the Police Department. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to accept Mr. Bridenstine's resignation. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Carbajal noted that the Holdingford School District has also contacted the Avon Police Department and the Stearns County Sheriff's Department for School Resource Officer (SRO) services, but no department has been hired to date.

Mr. Carbajal informed the Council that his department has received several noise and speeding complaints of 4-wheelers driving on City streets. Mr. Carbajal noted that the Ordinance 52 does allow the use of 4-wheelers on City streets provided they are operated safe manner. Mr. Carbajal noted his officers will continue to monitor the use of 4-wheelers on City streets.

Mr. Carbajal also informed the Council that his officers will be inspecting properties in the City for nuisance violations in the coming weeks which is done annually in the spring and for those in violation, contact will be made to bring each in compliance with the ordinance.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council a Subordination Agreement on the request by Phoenix Properties, LLC, (Lake Country Vet Clinic, Albany, MN) for the purpose of the City to subordinate the Deferred Payment Loan Repayment Agreement dated December 2012 to the mortgage of the Central Minnesota Credit Union. Mr. Schneider noted that the business participated in the City's 2012 Commercial Rehabilitation Program and other businesses have requested the same in the past when mortgages are refinanced. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk/Adm. to execute the said Agreement on behalf of the City. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider questioned if the Council would like to reschedule the July 4<sup>th</sup> regular Council meeting to July 3<sup>rd</sup> or July 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, rescheduled the July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, May16, 2018 and adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

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Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm.