

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, April 2, 2014, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors John R. Harlander, Laurie Dingmann, Tom Kasner and John Greer. None were absent.

Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer with Stantec, Inc., and Mike Kosik, Staff Writer, Albany Enterprise.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by Tom Kasner to authorize the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 64202 to 64237 and 15198 to 15211. All voted for the motion and it carried. The complete check register is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Adm. for public inspection during regular office hours.

Mayor Daron Gersch called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on March 19th and hearing none declared them approved.

Ryan Eiden and Justin Wentland, owners of Straight Line Auto Glass, 220 Railroad Avenue, appeared before the Council to object to the type of surmountable curb that had been installed in front of their business for the 2013 Railroad Avenue (T.H. #238) Improvements. Mr. Eiden requested the surmountable curb in the middle of his property be removed and replaced with a drive over curb similar to the curb he had prior to construction. Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council that MnDOT guidelines prohibit a dropped curb over the entire length of street frontage for access management control. Mayor Daron Gersch questioned if MnDOT could make an exception to their guidelines. Mr. Mathiasen questioned if the installation of the surmountable curb is an economic hardship or has caused a loss of business which information may be submitted to the City and presented to MnDOT for review. Mayor Daron Gersch directed Mr. Mathiasen to contact MnDOT discuss the concerns of Mr. Eiden.

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council to update the Council on the 2013 Railroad Avenue (State HWY #238) Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council that he met with MnDOT, R.L. Larson Excavating, Knife River, and Hoffman Concrete, to discuss the condition of the concrete surface on Railroad Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Mathiasen noted that MnDOT maintenance crews had applied salt to the concrete surface during the winter months for public safety concerns which may have caused the concrete surface to show signs of flaking and scaling; whereby MnDOT seems to believe the irregular surface only to be a cosmetic issue. Mr. Greer questioned if the concrete froze causing the scaling and flaking issues. Mr. Mathiasen also noted that grinding the surface is an option, but would not improve the appearance of the surface. Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council that core samples will be taken in the concrete to determine if scaling and flaking on the surface has compromised the life expectancy or integrity of the concrete. Mr. Mathiasen also noted that the mill and overlay improvements on 8<sup>th</sup> Street will begin in June.

Mr. Mergen presented to the Council a list of property owners that have not paid their utility (water/sewer) bill after receiving notices that their utility bills were past due pursuant to Ordinance 30. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mergen to make one final contact with the property owners to encourage full payment.

Mr. Mergen also presented to the Council a 2008 Intersection Study and Technical Report for Railroad Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street which identified two or three intersection improvement options. Mr. Mergen noted Mayor Daron Gersch had informed the Council at last month's meeting that his vehicle was nearly struck by another and questioned if any improvements may be considered by MnDOT in the future that would include adding "STOP" sign(s) at this intersection. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the current intersection design was approved by MnDOT and City for the 2013 Railroad Avenue (T.H. #238) Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted that he spoke to MnDOT who informed him that there are

some challenges with sightlines and limited right-of-way, but future improvements to the intersection should be included in long range planning studies. Mr. Carbajal noted that he will direct the Patrol Officers to observe the traffic at this intersection for additional information.

Mr. Mergen recommended to the Council that the City proceed to purchase a used custom manufactured wastewater pontoon from the City of St. Michael for the purpose of removing and installing new diffusers in the aerated wastewater pond. Mr. Mergen noted that the diffusers need to be raised out of the wastewater and replaced and the duck boat currently being used is not adequate or safe. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mergen to purchase the pontoon from the City of St. Michael in the amount of \$1,500 using monies in the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that in 2003 an anonymous donor had donated \$2,500 to the Albany Police Department to purchase a K-9 dog, but due to the loss of the dog and the department personnel having no interest in pursuing another K-9; it is recommended that the funds be returned to the donor. Mr. Carbajal noted that his department does not have any interest in a K-9 dog. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Councilor Laurie Dingmann to authorize the reimbursement to the anonymous donor in the amount of \$2,500. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that many cities are no longer having their Police Department deliver Council packets to each Council member prior to Council meetings because the information can be provided electronically and is placed on the City's web site. Mr. Schneider recommended that the City purchase a City owned android tablet for each Council member to be used at Council meetings rather than providing paper copies to everyone in preparation for the Council meetings. Mr. Schneider noted that a Computer Use Policy can be drafted specifically for Elected Officials. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Schneider to prepare a proposed draft of a policy and cost to purchase five (5) android tablets at the next Council meeting.

The Council took notice of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit Application submitted by the Church of Seven Dolores for the following: 1) Holy Family School June 23<sup>rd</sup> Golf Tournament (raffle), and 2) annual Church Bazaar August 3<sup>rd</sup> (bingo/raffle). After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve the said application. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

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Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm.