

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, April 6, 2022, 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, City Engineer with Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal, Ellarry Prentice, Staff Writer, the Star Post, and Bryan Schiffler, Albany business owner.

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 Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 71735 to 71765. 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 March 16th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Mr. Schneider informed the council the city engineer had conversations with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) the proposed Pedestrian Trail Connection Improvement along the east side of North Lake adjacent to State HWY238 from North Park to Lake Avenue as discussed by the Park Board at their meeting held on January 25th. Mr. Mathiasen noted MnDOT would be in favor of a 33' center road right-of-way, but questioned if the width would be adequate to construct a pedestrian trail. Mr. Mathiasen also noted the pedestrian trail may be considered along the eastern shoreline of the lake, but there will be significant challenges with seeking approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Mr. Harlander noted a pedestrian trail separated from traffic would be beneficial to the community and improve safety for pedestrians. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the council, directed Mr. Mathiasen to contact MnDOT to move forward with identification of the right-of-way on State HWY 238 from North Park to Lake Avenue.

The council took notice of a proposed concept plan of outdoor recreation opportunities in North Park as reviewed by the Park Board at their meeting held on January 25th. Mr. Schneider noted a second access road is shown in the said plan from State HWY238 and/or Soo Line Avenue to the parking lot of the former hospital/clinic at 300 3rd Avenue. Mr. Schneider noted the former hospital/clinic is proposed to be renovated as an early childhood center, but no formal action has been taken by the school district for moving forward with the project. Mr. Schneider informed the council a second access road would need to be approved by the DNR being the park property was purchased with state and federal funds in 1969, but more importantly, is it needed and who would pay for it. Mr. Mathiasen noted the city would have to provide the DNR with information the second access road is a benefit and improves access to park amenities. Mr. Mathiasen questioned if an agreement or letter of understanding between the city and school district should be considered related to the second access road. Mr. Mathiasen noted the said road, if constructed, may follow Chapter 429 proceedings for local improvement projects which relate to special assessments. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the council, directed Mr. Mathiasen to contact the DNR and school district to discuss challenges with a second access road.

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 Forest Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the proposed improvements would include Forest Avenue (from 1st Street to 6th Street), and 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Streets (between Midland Avenue and Forest 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 informed the council 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 John R. Harlander who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2022-15
CALLING FOR A PRELIMINARY
ENGINEERING REPORT
Forest Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvements
(Forest Avenue, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Streets, and adjacent 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.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the council he met with MnDOT to discuss proposed cost saving measures for the 1st Street and Railroad Avenue Intersection Improvements and sidewalk improvements along 8th Street (TH238) south of Railroad Avenue (TH238). Mr. Mathiasen noted the project is 30% higher than the estimated construction costs and MnDOT significantly lowered their original contribution from \$540,000 to \$425,000. Mr. Mathiasen confirmed MnDOT has agreed to fund \$540,000, their original agreement, and would prefer concrete roadway surface throughout the intersection as originally planned. Mr. Mathiasen noted the final agreement and official project award (\$616,000+/-) to Bardson Excavating, Albany, MN, will be done at the April 20th council meeting.

Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal informed the council he received letters of resignation from the following part-time Patrol Officers: Brittany Stockman, Joseph Walz, and Eric Grabmeier. Mr. Carbajal noted after the fourth full-time officer was hired there is no need for any part-time officers and the resignations relate to proper employee documentation required by the state. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to accept the resignations from the following part-time Patrol Officers: Brittney Stockman, Joe Walz, and Eric Grabmeier. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mergen appeared before the council to inform the council the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) developed a statewide PFAS monitoring plan to identify and quantify sources of per-and polfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), man-made chemical compounds that have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since 1940's. Mr. Mergen noted the MPCA selected Albany to participate in phase I reporting which will include influent monitoring at the city's wastewater treatment plant to help identify sources of PFAS that are being discharged to the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Mergen noted quarterly samples at an estimated cost of \$1,000 per sample will begin in 2023.

Mr. Mergen informed the council the wastewater treatment plant experienced a power outage on April 4th which caused \$20,000+/- damage to the components in the electrical control panel. Mr. Mergen noted a sub-contractor hired by XCEL Energy was working near the facility and accidentally caused an electrical surge that severely damaged the electrical control panel. Mr. Mergen noted insurance companies have been contacted to determine costs to repair and/or upgrade the system (2002). Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Mr. Mergen for the update and directed him to provide the council will a cost estimate to repair the system at the next council meeting.

Mr. Schneider informed the council interviews were held on March 24th and March 29th for the position of Administration Assistant for the Administration and Police Department. Mr. Schneider noted a notice of the job opening was published in the Star Post on March 9th. Mr. Schneider recommended Heather Cruz, Albany, MN, be hired for the position at an hourly rate of \$25/hour, Group VII. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by John R. Harlander to hire Heather Cruz,

Albany, MN, for the aforesaid position at an hourly rate of \$25/hour, Group VII, contingent upon a successful background check. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the council he, Councilor Keith Heitzman, employee liaisons, and Tom Schneider, Administrator, met to discuss a proposed increase in the hourly wage for the Public Works Department employees. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the following effective April 20th: Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Group IX, Maximum Pay Range (\$40.92), an increase of \$2.00/hour, Gary Winkels, Public Works Assistant, Group VII, Maximum Pay Range (\$31.81), an increase of \$2.00/hour, and Kurt Beuning, Public Works Laborer, Group V, (\$22.79), an increase of \$3.00/hour. 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, April 20, 2022, and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.