

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, August 19, 2020, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

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

Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Kate Asfeld, Editor Star Post, Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Joseph Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Mathiasen, the City Engineer with the firm of Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, Diane Noll, Albany Township Clerk, Larry and Judy Eggert, and John Greer, Albany Township Supervisor.

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, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 70259 to 70301, and 17976 to 17994. 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 August 5th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: Larry Eggert, 111 12th St., appeared before the Council with the following complaints: 1) speed on Railroad Avenue-12th St., 2) vehicle noise, and 3) dog barking. Mayor Tom Kasner directed Mr. Schneider to make contact with the Sheriff's Department to reserve their speed radar trailer and to contact the owners of the dog daycare/boarding business on Shamrock Lane.

Maria Heymans-Becker, Principal, Holy Family School, appeared before the Council to present an application for a one day Temporary On-Sale Liquor license application for their annual Fall Fest Fundraising event. Ms. Becker noted the event would be held at the Jaycee Shelter in North Park that would include a live band, catered food, raffle drawing, and all COVID-19 guidelines strictly followed. Ms. Becker noted the event may not be held on school property due to COVID-19. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the said License including the event held at the Jaycee Shelter in North Park. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Chad Martini, Land Services/project Manager Stearns County land Services, appeared before the Council to discuss a Conditions Report related to Stearns County Ditch No. 28 to determine if the condition of the public drainage system downstream of the outlet may be contributing to the flooding around Two Rivers Lake prepared by Houston Engineering, Inc. as directed by the Stearns County Commissioners. Mr. Martini noted the report included a hydraulic assessment to simulate a full synthetic event rainfall hydrograph, the storage capacity within Two Rivers Lake, and the variable timing of peak flow from the outlet of Two Rivers Lake and Krain Creek. Mr. Martini noted three scenarios based on 2, 10, and 100-year rain events were modeled under current conditions, fish barrier removed, and fish barrier and full repair excavation from Two Rivers Lake outlet to Holdingford. Mr. Harlander recommend the ditch be cleaned out beginning at the outlet to the Mississippi River and ending at Two Rivers Lake. Mr. Martine also noted the county has the option to approve Redetermination of Benefits, a funding tool to assess benefited properties within the watershed for ditch improvements which includes the City of Albany, City of Holdingford, City of St. Anthony, and portions of Albany, Krain, Avon, Holdingford townships. Mr. Schneider informed the Council the Mn Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWRS) officially disbanded the South Two River Watershed District in 2006 and directed any remaining funds of the district to be forwarded to the Stearns County Auditor; whereby shortly thereafter \$100,000+/- were spent by the County to redevelop a County Park adjacent to Two River Lake which should have been used for ditch repairs at that time. Mr. Martini also noted staff recommended to the County Commissioners the following:

- Staff to facilitate property owner feedback from property owners within ditch 28 watershed regarding a Repair Report, appoint engineer to show necessary repairs, and estimated costs, and return to Drainage Authority for decision whether to proceed with repair report.
- Per MN103E, notice the fish barrier on the ditch as an obstruction and order direct removal.

Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Mr. Martini for appearing before the Council and instructed him to provide any additional information to the City related to County Ditch 28 improvements.

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council to discuss micro monitoring, a cost-effective approach for locating inflow/infiltration (I/I) sources in sanitary sewers to allow the City to plan reconstruction projects accordingly to reduce I/I in the system. Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council proposed phases for each location to insert a device in the sanitary sewer and noted not all the phased may need to be monitored. Mr. Mathiasen noted the estimated cost is \$6,000+/- . Mr. Mergen noted during heavy rainfall events, the main sanitary sewer lift station pumps are experiencing longer run times due to storm water entering the sanitary sewer somewhere in the system. Mr. Mergen noted treating clear water in a sanitary sewer system is costly and recommended the Council approve the micro monitoring devices. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize Stantec to proceed to install the micro monitoring devices in the sanitary sewer at certain points within the sanitary sewer system (Phase I - 5 locations) at a cost of \$6,000+/- . All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council a proposed future Capital Improvement Project map that included reconstruction of roadways, water main, sanitary sewer main, services, and storm sewer for three areas under consideration for reconstruction improvements lying north of Railroad Avenue between 1st Street and 6th Street. Mr. Mathiasen noted estimated expenses for each of the three areas shown on the map is nearly \$2,000,000 similar to the previous reconstruction improvements in 2019 and 2020. Mr. Schneider informed the Council the annual debt service payment would increase if a project is undertaken in 2021 or 2022 including the City tax capacity rate and can provide additional information to the Council at the next meeting after consulting with the City financial consultant. Mr. Harlander noted it would be less expensive to authorize the engineer to prepare a preliminary engineering report this fall rather than next year when rates typically increase and rather than three project areas, consider four or five. Mr. Mergen noted the storm sewer, roadways, and utilities are in poor condition and maybe \$1,000,000 reconstruction projects may be considered. Mayor Tom Kasner, directed Mr. Schneider and Mr. Mergen to provide additional information to the Council at the next Council meeting.

Councilor John R. Harlander, Street Commissioner, informed the Council he'd like to see Stantec prepare a preliminary engineering report for the next reconstruction improvements. Mr. Harlander noted whether the project begins in 2021 or 2022, the field work should be considered prior to snow fall to take advantage of 2020 engineering rates. Mr. Mathiasen noted Mr. Harlander and City staff could meet after next week's 8th Street construction meeting to discuss future roadways/utilities to be reconstructed. Mr. Murray informed the Council he can prepare a financial report whether the project is feasible or not upon receipt of a preliminary engineering report. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mathiasen and Mr. Harlander to present proposed streets and utilities to be considered to be reconstructed at the next council meeting.

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 Adam Rushmeyer to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 39605-39646. Voting for the motion were Councilors John R. Harlander, Adam Rushmeyer, Al Amdahl, and Keith Heitzman and none voted against. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried. Mr. Heitzman noted the driving range improvements are completed. Mr. Heitzman also noted the Board of Directors authorized Tom Blattner, the President of the Board to negotiate the purchase of Lot 8, Auditor's Subdivision No. 3 (.23 acres +/-), adjacent to number one tee and owed by Mother of Mercy Campus of Care. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTOIN NO. 2020-24
CITY OF ALBANY, MINNESOTA
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY
(Lot 8, Auditor’s Subd. 3., \$15,000)

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: Councilors Adam Rushmeyer, John R. Harlander, Keith Heitzman, and Al Amdahl, and none voted against the same. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained whereupon the said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. Mr. Heitzman noted a promissory note will be issued between the Albany Golf Club and the City with a principal amount of \$15,000+/- at 1% interest. Mr. Schneider informed the Council he will prepare the necessary documents for execution in the near future.

Councilor Al Amdahl, Albany Area Schools Community Education Liaison, updated the Council on proposed fall activities, but noted changes may occur to the programs due to COVID-19. Mr. Amdahl also noted the school is preparing to open September 10th with COVID-19 strategies in place under the guidance of the Mn Department of Education. Mr. Amdahl also noted nearly 70% of residents completed the 2020 census survey which deadline is set for September 30th.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council the 2AM Liquor License renewal for the following: 1) Rookies Sports Bar, 481 Railroad Avenue, and 2) Shady’s Hometown Tavern and Events Center, 451 Railroad Avenue. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve the said one-year 2AM Liquor License renewals. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a two-year Stearns County Criminal Prosecution Contract renewal for 2021 and 2022. Mr. Schneider noted the City the fee is \$13,500 each year and recommended approval. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize Mayor Tom Kasner to execute the said Contract on behalf of the City. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the Council the Governor extended the Peacetime Emergency through September 12th due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Mayor Tom Kasner also noted the legislature has failed on two sessions to consider a bonding bill which provides funding for many improvement projects throughout the State.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o’clock in the evening on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 and adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.