

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, December 17, 2014, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors John R. Harlander, John Greer, Laurie Dingmann, and Tom Kasner. None were absent. Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer with Stantec, Inc., and Mike Kosik, Editor, Albany Enterprise. Students from Albany Area Schools present for the meeting were: Emily Schoenberg, Abby Silvers, Emily Nienaber, and Mitchell Lyke.

After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 64930 to 64971 and 15468 to 15506. 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 December 3rd and hearing none declared both approved.

Dan Brady, President of the Friends of Two River Lake Association, and Bob Guggenberger, member of Friends of Two River Lake Association, were present for the meeting.

Mr. Brady appeared before the Council to request a financial contribution from the City of Albany in the amount of \$4,000 to be used to remove sediment that exceeds the Two River Lake run-out elevation north of the lake in the South Two River, also known as County Ditch 28, between Two River Lake and the City of Holdingford. Mr. Brady noted that Stearns County, the owners of Ditch 28, will not pay for the removal of the sediment. Mr. Brady informed the Council that he will be requesting the same amount of funding from townships and the City of Holdingford that abut the South Two River. Mr. Brady noted that even thou the City may not be the cause of the sediment deposited in the area north of Two River Lake; the Albany Golf course will see a benefit because excess amounts of sediment or obstructions that restrict flow in the South Two River cause flooding that damage fairways and greens. Mr. Greer noted that the Stearns County Commissioners would like to move forward with the establishment of a watershed district, but not all are in favor, as a solution to secure property tax dollars to pay for the maintenance and other issues with stormwater drainage affecting the South Two River (Ditch 28) beginning south of Albany to Holdingford. Mr. Harlander recommended that the benefitted properties along the South Two River (Ditch 28) be assessed for the removal of the sediment in the same manor properties get assessed for street reconstruction improvements. Mr. Harlander also noted that removal of the sediment may only be a short term fix and would support long term improvements that reduce the volume of stormwater flowing to North Lake and golf course (South Two River/Ditch 28). Mr. Greer noted that collectively, cities, Stearns County, townships, and property owners must be involved to solve the drainage problems with the South Two River (Ditch 28) which includes North Lake. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, informed Mr. Brady that he report back to the City at a future meeting after visiting with other townships and the City of Holdingford. No action was taken on the aforementioned request for funds.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council a Feasibility Report for the 2015 Capital Improvements consisting of the replacement of the sanitary sewer main on the golf course, storm sewer east of 8th Street (north of the Lake Wobegon Trail), and storm sewer near the intersection of 7th Street and Shamrock Lane. Mr. Mathiasen noted that the sanitary sewer through the golf course has experienced settlement and tree root damage resulting to groundwater infiltration into the system, poor flow, and increased risk of pipe failure. Mr. Mathiasen noted that the purpose of the storm sewer replacement is due to pipe deterioration. Mr. Mathiasen noted that several design considerations were studied to determine the best method for the sanitary sewer replacement due to poor soil conditions, shallow depth, golf course utilities, greens, and fairways ultimately if not properly constructed and in a timely manner may be detrimental to the golf course revenues. Mr. Kasner reiterated that the soils are very poor and getting equipment to and from the construction site will be difficult. Mr. Mathiasen noted that a portion of the sanitary sewer will be an open trench and directional drilling will be considered to minimize restoration and golf course activities. Mr.

Mathiasen also noted that the estimated cost for the improvement is \$365,500 and that assessments will be levied to benefitted properties similar to other capital improvement projects recently completed in the City. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that funds to pay for the aforesaid improvement will be taken from the Sanitary Sewer Fund. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2014-26
RECEIVING PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT AND CALLING
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(2015 Capital Improvements)**

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by John R. Harlander and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Daron Gersch, Councilors Laurie Dingmann, John R. Harlander, John Greer, and Tom Kasner and none voted against whereupon the said Resolution 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. The public hearing will be held at 6:30 o'clock in the evening or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, January 7th, at City Hall.

Mr. Mergen informed the Council that three individuals completed employment applications for the position of Warming House Attendant. Mr. Mergen recommended that Lance Berg, 620 7th Street, be offered the position. Mr. Mergen noted that warm temperatures last week damaged the ice surface and plans to flood the skating area on North Lake will be next week weather permitting. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by Tom Kasner to offer the aforesaid position to Lance Berg at an hourly wage of \$9.25 conditioned upon the successful completion of a background check. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Daron Gersch presented the following proposed 2015 appointments:

Acting Mayor	John Greer
Animal Warden	Police Dept.
Weed Inspector	Daron Gersch
Assistant Weed Inspector	Joseph Mergen
Auditor	Schlenner Wenner Co.
Emergency Management Director	Steven Blenker
Assistant Emergency Management Director	Gary Winkels
Community Education Liaison	Laurie Dingmann
EDA Board members	John R. Harlander, Tom Kasner
Equipment Commissioner	Tom Kasner
Fire Department Liaison	Tom Kasner
Golf Board Liaison	Daron Gersch
Health Officer	Daron Gersch, MD
Labor Commissioners	Laurie Dingmann, Daron Gersch
Official Depositors	Stearns Bank, Albany Credit Union
Official Publication	Albany Enterprise
Park Board Liaison	Laurie Dingmann
Planning Commission Liaison	John Greer
Police Commissioner	John Greer
Street Commissioner	John R. Harlander
Utility Commissioner	Daron Gersch
Albany Township Liaison	John R. Harlander
Fire Department Relief Association	Tom Kasner, Tom Schneider Ex-Officio

After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by John Greer to approve the aforementioned 2015 Mayor's appointments. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council the proposed 2015 Budget and the amount of property taxes the City proposes to collect to pay for the costs of services the City will provide in the year 2015. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner who introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2014-25
APPROVING THE 2014 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2015
Total Levy: \$692,759

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by Laurie Dingmann and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Daron Gersch, Councilors Laurie Dingmann, John R. Harlander, Tom Kasner, and John Greer, and none voted against the same whereupon the said Resolution declared duly passed and adopted. The full text of the said Resolution and 2015 Budget is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Administrator for public inspection during regular office hours.

The Council took notice of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling Off-site application submitted by the Albany Lions Club to conduct a raffle on February 5, 2015 in conjunction with their annual Sweetheart Dinner/Show at Paul's Par-A-Dice, 451 Railroad Avenue. 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, January 7, 2015 and adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.