

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 3, 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.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 64892 to 64929 and 15339 to 15467. 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 November 19th and hearing none declared both approved.

Pursuant to due notice, at 6:33 PM Daron Gersch called the public hearing into session to consider approving the 2015 Budget and the amount of property taxes being proposed to be collected to pay for the costs of services the City will provide in 2015. No members from the public were present for the meeting. Mr. Schneider noted that a notice of the public hearing was published in the Albany Enterprise on November 19th and 26th. Mr. Schneider presented to the Council the proposed employee benefits, wages, department operation expenses, revenues, and capital equipment plan. Mr. Schneider noted that the 2014 levy was \$675,853 and the proposed 2015 levy is \$692,759, a three (3) percent increase. Mayor Daron Gersch closed the public hearing at 6:45 PM. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that final action to approve the 2015 Budget will be held at 6:30 PM or as soon as thereafter at the Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 17th at the City Hall.

Mr. Mathiasen reported that the video is completed for the sanitary sewer on 1st Street (State HWY #238) between Railroad Avenue and Lake Avenue. Mr. Mathiasen noted that the video will be reviewed and discussion regarding the condition of the sanitary sewer will be held at a future Council meeting. Mr. Mathiasen also noted that a meeting will be scheduled between MnDOT representatives and R.L. Larson Excavating, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, the General Contractor, to discuss a resolution to the concrete scaling and flaking that had occurred in Phase II of the 2013 Railroad Avenue (State HWY #238) Reconstruction Improvements.

Mr. Mergen also 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.

Councilor John Greer, Police Department Liaison, informed the Council that on November 25th the Police Committee interviewed two candidates for the position of Patrol Officer; whereby the said Committee recommended that a conditional job offer be offered to Matt Gannon, Albany, MN. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by Laurie Dingmann to approve a conditional job offer to Matt Gannon at an hourly wage of \$22.85 per hour (Group VIII, Step 11), and eighty (80) hours vacation contingent upon the successful completion of a background check, psychological examination, physical examination, drug and alcohol test. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that Paul Wellenstein's term as an Economic Development Authority (EDA) board member and Scott Daninger's term as a Park Board member expire December 31, 2014. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Tom Kasner to reappoint Mr. Wellenstein to the EDA Board for a five-year term and Mr. Daninger for a three-year term to the Park Board. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council the following data practices policies: 1) Data Practices Policy for Members of the Public, 2) Data Practices Policies for Data Subjects; and 3) Policy for Ensuring the Security of Not Public Data. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve the aforesaid policies. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Councilor John Greer informed the Council that the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District received a Clean Water Fund grant to hire an engineering firm to develop a targeted Conservation Practices Plan for the watershed contributing to Two Rivers Lake in Stearns County which has been identified as a lake impaired by nutrients. Mr. Greer noted that he, Councilor Tom Kasner, Mr. Schneider, and Mr. Mergen are committee members of the Two River Lake Project. Mr. Greer noted that a computer model will show how water, sediment, and nutrients move throughout the watershed ultimately developing strategies to reduce the amount of nutrients flowing in Two River Lake. Mr. Greer informed the Council that much of the storm water that flows to the City from north and south enters the South Two River which flows northeasterly to Two Rivers Lake. Mr. Kasner noted that the implementation of conservation practices to store water on the landscape and achieve water quality is a priority. Mr. Harlander recommended that conversations be held with the Albany Township Board of Supervisors to update them on the aforesaid project because several ditches and streams located in the Township flow to North Lake and through the golf course. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Schneider to contact the Township to request to be placed on their next meeting agenda to discuss the topic.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.