

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, February 15, 2023, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were councilors Keith Heitzman, John R. Harlander, Adam Rushmeyer, and Al Amdahl. None were absent for the meeting.

Other's present were Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Tim Hennagir, Staff Writer, the Star Post, Joseph Mergen, Supervisor, Public Works Department, Jeremy Mathiasen, the city Engineer with the firm Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, Robert Havard, resident. Dan Behnke, District Manager and Jason Hartman, Public Sector Sale Representative, with the firm of Waste Management, Don Williamson, Owner, and Jeff Bertram, Administrative Sales Manager, with the firm of West Central Sanitation.

The council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the discussion of the request for proposals (RFP) for a three-year refuse contract with an option for an additional two years will be moved to the front of the agenda being several members from the public in attendance are from refuse companies.

The council took notice of approval of payment of bills. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to approve/authorize payroll (3569-3580), electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 72481 to 72508. 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 February 1st and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

John Hannon, Library Services Coordinator, Albany/Melrose Public Libraries, appeared before the council to present an activity report on the 2022 Albany Library operations. Mr. Hannon informed the council the number of items checked out or circulation was 84,693 items, a decrease of 8.8% from 2021. Mr. Hannon noted it was still the second highest total circulation in Albany since 2008 which peaked at 94,434. Mr. Hannon noted local programming and summer reading programs has been slowly coming back to pre-2020 levels. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Mr. Hannon for sharing the information with the council and hope the a successful year in 2023.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the individuals from the refuse companies they may speak on behalf of their company, but there will be no mention of the company names or rates who submitted an RFP being the information is considered private data. Mayor Tom Kasner noted the city received two RFP's and they will be referred to as company "A" and "B". Mr. Williamson appeared before the council to describe his companies collection services, qualifications, and experience in the solid waste industry. Mr. Hartman appeared before the council to thank the council for the opportunity to provide the collection of materials under the current refuse contract and encouraged the council to consider his company to continue to provide high level services to the community. Mr. Schneider informed the council the current refuse contract expires on March 31, 2023 and the notice to solicit solid waste collection services which includes refuse, recycling, and yard waste was published in the Star Post, the city's legal newspaper, on December 21, 2022. Mr. Schneider noted the new contract will be for three (3) years with the option for two one-year extensions. Mr. Schneider also noted the companies who submitted an RFP are well qualified and can provide high level service for our residents. Mr. Schneider also noted company "A" monthly rates are less than company "B" and yearly rates would only increase at a rate of 2.5%; whereby he recommended the city execute a contract with company "A" with the city attorney's assistance. Mr. Schneider noted the new contract would become effective for the first collection pickup on Monday, April 3rd. After due discussion and upon the recommendation by Mr. Schneider, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded

by Adam Rushmeyer to authorize the city attorney to prepare a refuse contract with company "A" to be approved at the March 1st council meeting. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen also presented to the council final Payment Voucher No. 4 for the Golf View Drive Lift Station Improvement Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted payment includes the release of final retainage. After due discussion and upon recommendation from the city engineer, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve final Payment Voucher No. 4 to Liberty Electric, Albany, MN, in the amount of \$8,442.50. All voted for the motion and it carried.

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 John R. Harlander to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 40379-40388. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Councilor John R. Harlander, Police Department Liaison, informed the council the city received a letter of resignation from Derek Stommes, a full-time Patrol Officer, having other employment opportunities. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the letter of resignation from Derek Stommes. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mr. Schneider informed the council a notice of the position opening will be published in the local newspaper and on the Police Officer Standards Board website.

Mayor Tom Kasner, Economic Development Authority (EDA) liaison, informed the council the EDA held a meeting at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, February 15th to discuss a business subsidy application for tax increment financing assistance from RS Tooling, LLC, a local manufacturing business. Mr. Kasner noted a new economic development Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District No. 17 would be established to assist the said company in constructing a new manufacturing building and office area at 499 Huskie Drive in the Albany Business and Industrial Park. Mr. Kasner noted the EDA reviewed the proposed Tax Increment Financing Plan and the request does qualify as an eligible project to receive TIF assistance. Mr. Kasner noted the city would reimburse the business 90% of the tax increments generated by the project as pay-as-you-go assistance to reimburse the business for site improvements. Mr. Kasner also noted a public hearing will be held on March 15th to consider the adoption of TIF District No. 17 (9 parcels) within Municipal Development District No. 1 and amendment to TIF District No. 16 (remove inactive parcels). After due discussion and upon the recommendation by the EDA, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the following: 1) schedule a public hearing at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 15th in the council room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the purpose to consider the establishment of TIF District No. 17, an economic development district, within Municipal Development District No. 1 and modification of tax increment financing District 16, and 2) pay-as-you-go assistance equal to 90% of tax increment generated by the project up to \$92,000 to RS Tooling, Inc. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mr. Schneider noted the tax increment financing plan and information relating thereto will be presented to the council at the March 15th public meeting.

Mr. Schneider informed the council the Albany American Legion will discuss the proposed location of the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station in the Legion Park adjacent to city hall at their March 1st meeting. Mr. Schneider noted the original location proposed by the council in the southeast corner of the city parking lot is leased land from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and MnDOT will not allow the charging station to be placed within railbank right of way being Xcel Energy charges non-customers an EV charging fee for use of the charging station. Mr. Schneider noted Xcel Energy is proposing an option to install the EV charging station adjacent to 5th Street or southwest corner of the Legion Park in the grassy area. Mr. Schneider informed the council that additional information will be presented at a future council meeting.

Mr. Schneider presented to the council a proposed amendment to Ordinance 30, Municipal Water System, Section 30.06, Payment of Charges. Mr. Schneider noted the purpose of the amendment is to eliminate a second customer mailing notice for non-payment of a water bill prior to having their water shut off or disconnected. Mr. Schneider noted the Public Works Department has always posted a notice at the property prior to shut off and would continue to do so which has been very effective for collection of

delinquent accounts. Mr. Schneider also noted the council always has the option to certify uncollected water bills to the Stearns County Auditor to be collected as a special assessment. After due discussion, a motion wade by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve amendment to Ordinance 30, Municipal Water System, Section 30.06. All voted for the motion and it carried. The complete text of the said amendment is on file at the city Clerk/Adm.'s office for public inspection during normal business hours.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular council meeting for 6:30 o'clock or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, and adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.