

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, February 20, 2013, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors John Greer, John R. Harlander, Laurie Dingmann, and Tom Kasner. None were absent for the meeting.

Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Stan Hanson, the City Engineer with Stantec, Inc., Jason Falconer, Police Chief, Mike Kosik, Staff Writer, Albany Enterprise, and Ryan Eiden, local business owner.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 63113 to 63147. 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.

Kevin Schmidt, MnDOT District 3 Right of Way Engineer, appeared before the Council to inform the Council that MnDOT pursuant to State Statute 222.63, Subd. 3, MnDOT is conducting a public hearing in the conference room this evening at City Hall from 4pm to 7pm to afford the public an opportunity to view the proposed sale. Mr. Schmidt noted that the state is to sell to the City of Albany a 50 foot strip of rail bank property consisting of 39,607 square feet in the City. Mr. Schmidt also noted that the City requested the state to sell a strip of rail bank property for economic development purposes. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Tom Kasner to purchase 39,607 square feet of state rail bank property for economic development purposes in the amount of \$33,000+/- . All voted for the motion and it carried.

John Hoefs, Administrator Mother of Mercy Campus of Care, and Bonnie Wenker, Administrator Mother of Mercy Foundation, were present for the meeting.

Mr. Hoefs appeared before the Council to update the Council on the operations and building related matters of the Mother of Mercy Campus of Care. Mr. Hoefs noted that their facility provides quality housing and services to nearly 200 seniors and employs 175 individuals. Mr. Hoefs also noted that the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant application to construct senior housing west of the Albany Golf Vistas along Co. Rd. #54 had been denied and without the HUD funding no new construction was considered. Mr. Hoefs informed the Council that he can appear before the Council from time to time to provide an update on their operations. Mayor Daron Gersch thanked Mr. Hoefs for attending the meeting and providing valuable information to the Council.

Mr. Mergen informed the Council that the estimated cost to purchase Christmas lights to be installed on the City Administration building is approximately \$500. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that other mainstreet businesses are going to be adding Christmas lights to their buildings this fall and noted the Albany Lions and Jaycees have donated monies towards new Christmas decorations to be attached on the new street light poles on mainstreet. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Mergen to purchase the Christmas lights (white bulb) for the City Administration building.

Councilor Laurie Dingmann, Park Department Liaison, informed the Council that the number of skaters at the North Lake skating rink is getting less due to the skating season coming to a close. Ms. Dingmann noted that next year the City will have to hire a Warming House Supervisor being the Gilk brothers no longer have time to work for the City due to other full-time employment.

Mr. Falconer presented to the Council an invoice to purchase a new 2013 Dodge Charger police squad at a cost of \$24,566. Mr. Falconer informed the Council that monies are set aside in the budget and capital equipment fund. Mr. Falconer noted that the 2006 Dodge Charger trade-in allowance will also be used to purchase the new vehicle. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded

by Laurie Dingmann to authorize the City to purchase a new 2013 Dodge Charger police squad from the Albany Chrysler Center. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Falconer presented to the Council the 2012 Stearns County Attorney's annual Misdemeanor Prosecution Contract Report. Mr. Falconer informed the Council as per the contract, the Stearns County Attorney's office handles all misdemeanor offenses in the City and in the year 2012, there were 115 cases.

Councilor John Greer, Police Department Liaison, presented to the Council the following individuals to serve on the Police Hiring Committee and recommended approval: Councilor John Greer, Councilor Laurie Dingmann, Jason Falconer, Police Chief, Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Al Amdahl, Jamie Thelen, Steve Blenker, and Avon Police Chief Corey Nellis. Mr. Greer noted that applications for the position of Police Chief are due at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, February 25th and the committee will review the applications on March 4th to determine which candidates will be interviewed. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by John R. Harlander to appoint the aforesaid individuals to the Police Hiring Committee. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Daron Gersch, Albany Golf Club Liaison, presented to the Council the said Club's checkbook register for review and consideration. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by John Greer to authorize the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 35589 to 35657. Voting for the motion were Mayor Daron Gersch, Councilors John R. Harlander, Laurie Dingmann, and John Greer and none voted against. Councilor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

The Council took notice of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit Application submitted by the Knights of Columbus for their annual raffle to be conducted on April 29th. 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.

Mr. Eiden appeared before the Council to request clarification on the language in the public hearing notice he received on his proposed assessments for the 2013 Railroad Avenue (T.H. #238) Improvements. Mr. Hanson informed the Council that he and Mr. Eiden can meet after the meeting to discuss the language in the public hearing notice.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm.