

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 7, 2018, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

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

Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, with Stantec, Inc., Mike Kosik, Editor, Albany Enterprise, and Ozzie Carbajal, Albany Police Chief.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 67959 to 68002 and 16845 to 16874. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Daron Gersch called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on January 17th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comment: none

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council to present construction change order number one, a reduction of \$35,120, to the 2018 North Lake Storm Water Conservation Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted that the said change order reduces some of the project quantities and construction costs to better align with the project funding. Mr. Mathiasen noted that due to the reduction in project quantities, the total phosphorus removed from the storm water only decreased a small amount and did not significantly affect the overall purpose of the project which is to remove nutrients and sediment from storm water entering North Lake. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve change order number one to the 2018 North Lake Storm Water Conservation Improvements. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mr. Mathiasen noted that construction contracts will be executed shortly.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council that information related to the proposed assessments to benefitted properties will be presented at the March 21st Council meeting for the 2018 1st Street (HWY#238) Utility Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted that bids have been received by MnDOT, the owner and construction manager of the project; and the apparent low bidder is Ryan Contracting Company, Elko, MN. Mr. Kasner noted that the assessment amount for each property should be similar to other improvement projects that were completed by the City. Mr. Mathiasen noted that the Council can set the public hearing for the assessments at the next Council meeting with notices to be mailed to each benefitted property and the proposed assessment amount.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council a list of property owners who have not paid their utility bill after receiving several past due notices. Mr. Schneider noted that Mr. Mergen will make final contact with each, and if no response, the water service will be shut off at the curb stop pursuant to Ordinance 30.

Councilor Keith Heitzman, 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 Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve of the check register as presented (38606-38661). Voting for the motion was Mayor Daron Gersch, Councilors Keith Heitzman, Al Amdahl, and John R. Harlander, and none voted against. Councilor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that members of the Safe Routes to School Steering Committee completed an application for a grant from the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) to partially fund the acquisition of a Rapid Flash Beacon Crosswalk LED Warning System, a pedestrian safety crosswalk device. Mr. Schneider noted that it has recently been brought to his attention

that the Federal Highway Administration rescinded interim approval of the said signals pursuant to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which prohibits the use of patented devices. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that a very similar signal will be considered for each crosswalk which is an approved signal device. Mr. Schneider noted that the SHIP grant request is in the amount of \$5,168 and recommended authorization to submit the said application. Mr. Schneider also recommended that the Council designate \$5,000 to the acquisition of the crosswalk safety devices that had been donated to the City from Ervin Bueckers, the former owner of Bueckers City Sanitation Services, Sauk Centre, MN. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize the City Administrator to submit the SHIP grant application and to designate the donation received from Mr. Bueckers to fund new crosswalk safety devices. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 application for exempt permit submitted by the Albany FFA Alumni to conduct a raffle on October 4, 2018 at the Albany Area High School, 30 Forest Avenue, Albany, MN. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Tom Kasner to approve said application. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that he contacted Waste Management, the City's contracted refuse hauler, to request that the City's municipal buildings including the Albany Golf Club not be charged for monthly refuse pickup. Mr. Schneider noted that Waste Management would approve the request upon the Council's approval. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Schneider to contact Waste Management to provide free refuse pickup for all municipal buildings including the Albany Golf Club.

Mr. Kasner informed the Council that he is working with Jamie Hukriede, MnDOT, to improve the drainage in the ditch along I94 that abuts the Albany Golf Club. Mr. Kasner noted that the ditch needs to be cleaned out to improve storm water flow and if no ditch improvements are considered, it's a good chance that number two fairway will be flooded during modest periods of rain potentially causing revenue loss for the club. Mr. Kasner noted that a plan of action will be forthcoming and he will keep the Council informed on the progress.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the City was given notice of a public hearing by the Stearns County Planning Commission on a request by Loren and Debra Pelzer, 21438 Quaker Road, Albany, MN, for a variance to add a second approach to their property. No action was taken by the Council.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.