

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, January 17, 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., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, 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 John R. Harlander to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 67910 to 67958 and 16830 to 16844. 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 3rd. Mr. Heitzman noted the following errors in the 2018 Mayor Appointments:

Community Education Liaison	Keith Heitzman	Daron Gersch
Park Board Liaison	Keith Heitzman	Daron Gersch
Utility Commissioner	Daron Gersch	Keith Heitzman

After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the aforementioned corrections to the 2018 Mayor Appointments and hearing no others declared the minutes of January 3rd approved.

Open forum/public comment: none

Janelle P. Kendall, Stearns County Attorney, appeared before the Council to update the Council on the activities for the 2017 Adult Diversion Program and Prosecution Contract. Ms. Kendall provided the Council with written materials related to the said program and contract. Ms. Kendall commended Mr. Carbajal and his staff for excellent case reporting and noted her office provides free law enforcement training, 24/7 attorney support, and victim assistance as allowed by law through personal help, referrals, and restitution collection. Mayor Daron Gersch thanked Ms. Kendall for attending the meeting and providing information related to the said program and contract.

Dan Behnke, District Manager, Waste Management, the City's residential refuse hauler, appeared before the Council to inform the County that beginning March 1st, Waste Management will be delivering 96-gallon carts to residential properties who request service for Monday's yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, weeds, garden waste, tree trimmings, and twigs/branches less than three inches in diameter/bundled. Mr. Behnke noted that there is no cost for yard waste pickup and the change was made to reduce employee injury and to be more efficient with the service. Mr. Behnke noted that a biodegradable bag must be used for the yard waste that does not fit in the said cart. Mr. Behnke also noted that the business acquisition from Bueckers City Sanitation has been very successful and many of the drivers are the same employees that had worked for Bueckers City Sanitation. Mayor Daron Gersch thanked Mr. Behnke for attending the meeting and providing the new service for yard waste to the residents.

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council to inform the Council that he, Mr. Mergen, and Mr. Harlander met to discuss and prepare a Capital Improvement Plan for the City that identifies streets and utilities that are in need of repair within the next ten or fifteen years. Mr. Mathiasen noted that before the plan is presented to the Council, the City's Financial Consultant will review the information and determine

how the City will fund the improvements. Mayor Daron Gersch directed Mr. Mathiasen to meet with David Drown Associates, the City's financial consultant, to review funding alternatives and impact on the City fund balances.

Mr. Mergen informed the Council that a resident requested the City install "STOP" signs at the intersection of 5th Street and 3rd Avenue. Mr. Mergen noted that the resident had witnessed on several occasions vehicles that nearly crashed and a "STOP" sign may reduce the possibility of an accident. Mr. Carbajal noted that he is not aware of any accidents at the intersection. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that CentraCare will be vacating the medical clinic east of the intersection in the fall of 2018 and if redeveloped for a different use, a "STOP" sign may not be necessary. No action was taken by the Council.

Mr. Carbajal presented to the Council the 2017 Albany Police Department Activities Report which included information on the number of calls per day, hours of calls, complaints report, training activities, etc. Mr. Carbajal noted that things are going very well with his staff and enjoys serving the Council and citizens in the community. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, thanked Mr. Carbajal for the said Report and directed Mr. Carbajal to inform the Patrol Officers that the Council is satisfied with their work performance.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the 2017 Pay Equity Implementation Report was prepared by Kathleen Murphy, Murphy Management Consultants, Eagan, MN. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the State Job Match system confirmed that the City of Albany is in compliance with the State Pay Equity Act, Minnesota Statutes 471.991 to 471.999 and recommend the said Report be submitted to the State for final compliance approval having passed the initial test. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the 2017 Pay Equity Implementation Report and directed Mr. Schneider to submit the information to the Pay Equity Coordinator at the Minnesota Management and Budget Offices. All voted for the motion and it carried. The report is due every three years.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council a Large Gathering Application and Event Permit submitted by the Albany Area Jaycees for their annual Ice Cup Golf Challenge to be held on North Lake on Saturday, February 24th. Mr. Schneider noted that there are approximately fifty (50) teams with five (5) individuals per team compete against each other on a make shift golf course on North Lake. Mr. Kasner noted that the event is a fundraiser for the club and has been held for many years with great success. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Tom Kasner to approve the said Permit. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a proposed Development Agreement prepared by David Drown Associates, the City's Financial Consultant, between the City and Albany Clinic Property, LLC, the developer, relating to the demolition and clearance of a structurally sub-standard building at 30 Railroad Avenue for the purpose of constructing a new medical clinic. Mr. Schneider noted that the developer will cause the minimum (demolition) improvements to be completed. Mr. Schneider noted that a formal Business Subsidy application will be submitted to the City's Economic Development Authority (EDA) in the near future and upon the EDA review, the EDA will make a recommendation to the Council for final business assistance in the redevelopment of the site. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the Development Agreement. Voting for the motion were Councilors Tom Kasner, Al Amdahl, Keith Heitzman, and John R. Harlander and none voted against. Mayor Daron Gersch abstained and the motion carried. The full text of the said Agreement is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Adm. for public inspection upon request during regular office hours.

Mr. Amdahl reported that he and the City Clerk/Administrator attended the Stearns County Municipal League meeting held on January 16th in Avon, MN. Mr. Amdahl noted the Lieutenant Governor Michelle Fischbach and State Representative Jeff Howe, District 13A, updated the attendees on the some of the topics to be discussed at the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Amdahl noted that other attendees were County Commissioner Jeff Mergen, County Staff, Mayor and Council members from other cities within Stearns County.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) applied for and received funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to address urban and agricultural resource concerns within the Two River Lake watershed. Mr. Schneider noted that the funds are nearly depleted and SWCD is considering applying for additional funds in 2018, but would like to know the level of landowners' interest at addressing concerns they may have on their property. Mr. Schneider noted that the purpose of the funds is to protect soil productivity for the future, improve soil health and install several types of conservation practices such as, but not limited to, water basins, sediment basins, manure stacking slabs/basins, grassed waterways, and cover crops aimed at reducing erosion, reducing sedimentation, and improving water quality.

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

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.