

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, July 19, 2023, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were councilors Keith Heitzman, John R. Harlander, Al Amdahl and Adam Rushmeyer. Other's present were Heather Cruz, Deputy Clerk, Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal, Joseph Mergen, Supervisor, Public Works Department, Jeremy Mathiasen, the city engineer with the firm Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, Tim Hennagir, Staff Writer, the Star Post, Susan Dege, City Attorney, Molly Hoppe, Berleen Hollenkamp, Bruce Winter, Beth Willenbring, Ashley Clapp, Kris Schiffler, Sheri Schmidt and Mike Thill.

The council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The council took notice of approval of payment of bills. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve/authorize payroll (3746-3763), electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 72792-72826. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner also called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting of the council held on July 5th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments:

Susan Dege, City Attorney presented a memorandum to the city council regarding the sale of intoxicating cannabis products. Ms. Dege recommended to the council to adopt a moratorium at this time so the City can study the issue and await on the time place and manner restrictions that will be allowed under the new law. Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal was in support of this decision as the state does not have a cannabis agency or licensing regulations put in place. Mr. Schiffler, who was in attendance, wanted to confirm the details of the moratorium related to the retail sale of edible cannabis products and lower potency hemp products. Mr. Schiffler requested as the state puts cannabis agencies in place and licensing regulations become available, that the city council revisits this moratorium as needed. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the request for the interim ordinance.

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the council to update the on the progress of the construction projects. He noted that the 2022 Midland Avenue project is in its final weeks. The finishing of paving is tentatively scheduled for next week. Mr. Mathiasen stated that the underground utility work has been completed for the 2023 Forest Avenue project. Street reconstruction is still continuing and the next round of concrete work has been scheduled. Mr. Mathiasen reported to the council a preliminary report for future capital improvement project. He noted that the preliminary field survey work is 75% complete and the preliminary drawings are being prepared.

Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal had nothing to report.

Mr. Mergen updated the council on the signs for the newly constructed dog park. Lake Country Veterinary Services had presented a slightly revised version of the posted dog park regulations. Lake Country Veterinary Services suggested pulling out and bullet pointing the items that are expressly prohibited in hope that the information will catch dog owners' attention. Mr. Winter who was in attendance, questioned the dog park regulation of needing to provide proof of dog vaccinations and if the City would then start re-issuing dog licenses. Chief Carabjal stated that in an event of a bite injury, dog owners would then need to provide proof of vaccinations to the city. Mayor Kasner recommended to have a waste bin and waste bags readily available for dog park attendees in hopes to keep the dog park area clean. Mr. Mergen also noted that the North Park boardwalk project will be done by the end of the week and pickleball courts are currently being painted.

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 Mayor Kasner and seconded by John Harlander to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following checks 40479-40508. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mr. Heitzman shared that the board received a first draft of renovation plans and will be reviewing. Mr. Heitzman also informed the council of drainage issues and weed control and the board will be working with MNDOT to resolve. Mr. Heitzman also noted that the Green Side Grill will be looking to add two more cooks to total six.

Councilor Keith Heitzman brought up recent complaints regarding the city’s new sanitation service. Mr. Heitzman noted that residents have noticed driver inconsistency of routes along with garbage, recycling and yard waste pick up. Deputy Clerk Heather Cruz and Administrative Assistant Molly Hoppe confirmed city hall has also received multiple calls from residents stating the same issues. Mayor Tom Kasner reported that he will be working closely with Jeff Bertram from West Central Sanitation to help resolve current issues.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular council meeting for 6:30 o’clock or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, August 2nd and adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.

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Heather Cruz, Deputy Clerk