

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, June 7, 2023, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were councilors Keith Heitzman, John R. Harlander, and Al Amdahl. Councilor Adam Rushmeyer was absent. Other's present were Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal, Joseph Mergen, Supervisor, Public Works Department, Jeremy Mathiasen, the city engineer with the firm Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, JoAnna Bigler, Police Patrol Officer, and Tim Hennagir, Staff Writer, the Star Post, Joyce Thull, Hillcrest Restaurant and Stubby's Tavern, Neil Osendorf, Albany Bowl, Sheri Thill/Chad Schmidt, Rookies Sports Bar, David Belford, Barbacoa Smokehouse and Deli, Bryce Sloan, Larry Eggert, and Judy Eggert.

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 R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve/authorize payroll (3690-3706), electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 72693 to 72732. 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 May 17<sup>th</sup> and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: Larry Eggert, 111 12<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared before the council to submit a petition to the council requesting the council or administrator to contact the owner(s) of Lucky Dog Lodge, 1201 Shamrock Lane, to take measures to either reduce or eliminate the dog barking, a public nuisance. Mayor Tom Kasner informed Mr. Eggert his issues and concerns will be discussed at the June 21<sup>st</sup> council meeting and directed Mr. Schneider to contact the owner(s) of Lucky Dog Lodge instructing them to attend the same meeting to resolve the aforesaid issues.

Kelvin Daniels, Director of Sales, and Channels, XTONA, the city's managed IT service, appeared before the council to discuss a proposal to update the city's 2012 windows server operating system which is no longer going to be supported by Microsoft in October 2023. Mr. Daniels informed the council the estimated cost for a new service is \$16,000 and labor for installation is \$9,500, but each may be less depending on final pricing. Mr. Daniels also provided the council with a quick overview of an IT roadmap for the city and its computer systems to maintain reliability and functionality. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize the purchase and installation of a new server from XTONA. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the council the liquor licenses will expire June 30<sup>th</sup> and presented the following applications for renewal for the license period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024:

- On-Sale Liquor license: Rookies Sports Bar, Shady's Hometown Tavern and Event Center, Albany Bowl, Hillcrest Family Restaurant and Stubby's Tavern, and JM Stationers, Inc., dba Barbacoa Smokehouse and Deli. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the aforesaid license renewals. All voted for the motion and it carried.
- Off-Sale Liquor License: Teal's Liquor, Rookies Sports Bar, Hillcrest Family Restaurant and Stubby's Tavern, Albany Bowl, and Shady's Hometown Tavern and Event Center. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve the aforementioned license renewals. All voted for the motion and it carried.
- Club On-sale Liquor license: Albany American Legion Club and Albany Golf Club. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the aforementioned license renewals. All voted for the motion and it carried.

- Cigarette licenses: Teal’s Liquor, Teal’s Market, Albany Golf Club, Don’s I-94, Albany Tesoro, Holiday Store, Rookies Sports Bar, and Shady’s Hometown Tavern and Events Center. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the aforementioned license renewals. All voted for the motion and it carried.

After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the following:

- 3.2% Off-sale Malt (beer) Liquor License for Linn Companies dba Albany Holiday, 800 Shamrock Lane.
- On-sale 3.2% Malt (Beer) Liquor License for Albany American Legion Club to sell on-sale beer for the annual Car Show to be held on Friday, August 4th at the Albany Chrysler Center, 34650 225<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

All voted for the motion and it carried.

Sheri Thill, owner of Rookies Sports Bar, 481 Railroad Avenue, appeared before the council to request permission to temporarily block off 5<sup>th</sup> Street north of Railroad Avenue to the rear alley adjacent to their property to conduct their annual Bean Bag Tournament to be held on Heritage Day, Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Thill noted the area will be properly fenced and alcohol will be served in their outside bar. Mr. Schneider noted proper insurance is provided for the event and had no objection to the request. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the aforesaid request. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the council Payment Voucher No. 1 for the 2023 Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted the payment voucher includes site removals, sanitary sewer, and water main installation. After due discussion and upon recommendation from the city engineer, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve Payment Voucher No. 1 to Breitbach Construction Company, Elrosa, MN, in the amount of \$186,121.91. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal appeared before the council to recommend hiring Bryce Sloan, as a full-time Patrol Officer in the Albany Police Department contingent upon a successful completion of employment requirements. Mr. Carbajal noted the estimated hire date is July 5<sup>th</sup>. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to hire Bryce Sloan as a full-time Patrol Officer in the Albany Police Department contingent upon a successful completion of employment requirements. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the council consideration should be made to remove the Yield traffic signs at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street and replace with STOP signs being the former hospital clinic at 300 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is being renovated by the Albany School District to be used for an early childhood learning center. Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal informed the council he would agree with the recommendation and supports the request. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Keith Heitzman to direct Mr. Mergen to remove the Yield traffic signs and replace them with STOP signs at the aforementioned intersection. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mergen appeared before the council to present bids he received for the purchase and installation of a submersive channel grinder in the main lift station at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Mergen noted the purpose of the grinder is to grind large amounts of material collected in the sanitary sewer preventing issues with the diffusers in the aerated pond before being discharged into the wastewater ponds. Mr. Mergen noted the cost of the grinder is \$60,498.30. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to authorize Mr. Mergen to purchase and install the submersive channel grinder in the main lift station for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$60,498.30. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mergen updated the council on the North Park improvements. Mr. Mergen noted the following improvements are at or near completion near the Jaycee shelter: final grading and seeding, sprinkling system installed, pickleball courts/tennis court concrete poured, fiber brought to building for future security, buried electric wire to future light on observation dock and water feature in pond west of shelter. Mr. Schneider also informed the council that a local business donated a new Toro Z-Reelmaster lawn mower to be used in North Park and noted a formal presentation of the new mower will be done at a future meeting. Mayor Tom Kasner noted he and Mr. Mergen met with Bryan Schiffler, the individual and other volunteers working on the park improvements; whereby they requested permission to enlarge the parking lot east of the Jaycee shelter to accommodate the users of the shelter and park. Mr. Mergen recommended a concrete curb be considered to define the parking area to keep vehicles off the grass if permission is granted by the council for the improvement. Mayor Tom Kasner directed Mr. Mathiasen to forward to Mr. Schiffler an aerial of the parking lot east of the shelter to sketch the location of the proposed expansion for council to review at the next meeting. Mayor Tom Kasner encouraged council and park board members to visit the park to inspect the improvements completed to date.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the council he attended a meeting with the city attorney, Dustin Tomoson, an architect from Ringdahl Architects, Inc., Jason Arnzen, St. Rosa Lumber Company, Tom Blattner, President of the Albany Golf Club, Inc., Sue Dege, city attorney and city administrator to discuss the bidding requirements for the proposed clubhouse improvements. Mayor Tom Kasner noted the improvements consist of the addition of an elevator, upgrades to the bathrooms, kitchen, main floor, and board room/small meeting room expansion. Mr. Schneider noted the improvements will begin in September 2023 and paid for by donations to the club. Mr. Schneider also noted the golf club board will approve the bids and recommend to the council for final approval and paid by the city. Mayor Tom Kasner also noted an architectural agreement has been reviewed and approved by the city attorney. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize Mayor Tom Kasner to execute on behalf of the city an Architectural Agreement between the city of Albany and Ringdahl Architects, Inc. and approve Arnzen Construction, Inc., as the general contractor conditioned upon negotiation and review of a detailed contract for the aforementioned club house improvements. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The council took notice of a request by the Albany Chrysler Center, 34650 225<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to consider approval of a Large Gathering Permit application for their annual Car Show to be held on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schneider noted the activities will be the same as in prior years and recommended approval. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the aforesaid Large Gathering Event Permit. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a MN Lawful Gambling LG230 application submitted by the Albany American Legion to conduct off-site gambling at the Albany Chrysler Center, 34650 225<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Schneider noted pull-tabs will be provided to the public during the annual Car Show at the Albany Chrysler Center to be held on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-22  
APPROVING MINNESOTA  
LG230 APPLICATION TO CONDUCT OFF-SITE GAMBLING**

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Keith Heitzman and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors John R. Harlander, Keith Heitzman, and Al Amdahl and none voted against the same whereupon the said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. The full text of the said resolution is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Administrator for public inspection during regular office hours.

Mr. Schneider informed the council Molly Hoppe, part-time Administrative Office Assistant, successfully completed her 6-month probationary period and recommended her hour pay be increased from \$18.50/hour to \$20.00/hour. After due discussion and upon the recommendation by Mr. Schneider, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve Ms. Hoppe as a part-time

Administrative Office Assistant and increase her hourly rate to \$20.00/hour effective June 10<sup>th</sup> having successfully approved her six-month probationary period. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a Fireworks Event Permit application submitted by Premier Pyrotechnics, the company that will display the fireworks on Heritage Day, Saturday, August 5th, the annual community celebration sponsored by the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the aforesaid application to Premier Pyrotechnics to display fireworks on the golf course for Heritage Day on August 5th. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Keith Heitzman, Albany Golf Club Liaison, informed the council the golf course, kitchen, and Top Tracer driving range have been very busy with many tournaments and events. Mr. Heitzman noted the landscaping west of the clubhouse is near completion and the following individuals are current board members: Tom Blattner, President, Tim Buerman, Treasurer, Nate Ronning, Secretary, Mara Stroeing, Jon Hergen, Chris Kotzer, Joe Overman.

Mr. Schneider presented to the council his resignation letter for consideration to be effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schneider thanked Mayor Tom Kasner and council members for their support for the past 35+ years and informed the council a tentative hiring schedule for the position of Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer will be presented at the June 21<sup>st</sup> council meeting. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to accept the resignation of Mr. Schneider effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular council meeting for 6:30 o'clock or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> and adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

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Tom Schneider  
Clerk/Adm.