

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 3, 2020, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Continued social distancing of six (6) feet of space per person in the lobby and at the meeting will be adhered to as per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention guidelines related to the strategies to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Kate Asfeld, Editor Star Post, Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, and Jeremy Mathiasen, the City Engineer with the firm of Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, were present for the meeting.

Joyce Thull, Hillcrest Restaurant and Stubby's Tavern, Steve Bates, Albany Bowl, Dennis Mareck, Albany Legion Club, Sheri Thill/Chad Schmidt, Rookies Sports Bar, and David Belford, Barbacoa American and Mexican Restaurant.

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 Adam Rushmeyer to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 69969 to 70000, 70076 to 70083, and 17889 to 17905. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on May 20th. Mr. Schneider noted the Council approved temporary outside patio's for bars and restaurants, but should consider approving an end date. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, noted temporary outside patio permits shall expire November 1, 2020. Mayor Tom Kasner, hearing no other additions or corrections, declared the minutes of May 20th approved as written.

Open forum/public comments: Ms. Thill appeared before the Council to question if the Council would allow her outside patio to be open until 2:00 AM rather than 12:00 AM per ordinance 60. Ms. Thill noted several customers work a night shift at a local business and requested if her outside patio could be open until 2 AM. Mr. Schneider noted an amendment to the ordinance is required. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to allow a temporary outside patio to be open until 2:00 AM which shall expire November 1, 2020. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council liquor license renewal applications for the license period between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Mayor Tom Kasner questioned if any liquor license holder has any concerns or questions and hearing none proceeded to consider approval of all licenses. Mr. Carbajal noted he had no concerns regarding the operation of the liquor establishments.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve renewal of the following On-Sale Liquor licenses: Rookies Sports Bar, Shady's Hometown Tavern and Event Center, Albany Bowl, Hillcrest Family Restaurant and Stubby's Tavern, and JM Stationers dba Barbacoa American and Mexican Restaurant. All voted for the motion and it carried.

After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve renewal of the following Off-Sale Liquor licenses: Teal's Liquor, Rookies Sports Bar, Hillcrest Family Restaurant and Stubby's Tavern, Albany Bowl, and Shady's Hometown Tavern and Event Center. All voted for the motion and it carried.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to approve renewal of the following Club On-sale Liquor Licenses: Albany American Legion Club and Albany Golf Club. Voting for the motion were Councilors John R. Harlander, Adam Rushmeyer, Keith Heitzman, and Al Amdahl. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve renewal of the following Cigarette Licenses: Teal's Liquor, Teal's Market, Albany Golf Club, Don's I-94, Albany Tesoro, Holiday Store, and Shady's Hometown Tavern and Events Center. Voting for the motion were Councilors John R. Harlander, Adam Rushmeyer, Keith Heitzman, and Al Amdahl. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

The Council also took notice of a request by Albany Holiday, 800 Shamrock Lane, for 3.2% Malt (Beer) Liquor License to sell off-sale beer. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the said License. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the Council on-sale liquor establishments or bars have been closed beginning March 18th, but now can open for outside dining and consumption of liquor beginning on June 1st. Mayor Tom Kasner noted the Council may consider a credit for the number of days closed for the 2019-2020 fees, reduce the 2020-2021 fees, defer payment, or do nothing with the fees. Mr. Thill noted her business and others have suffered loss of revenues due to the Governor's executive order that mandated closure. Mr. Belford noted he doesn't mind paying a fee, but if a license is not useable, a refund should be considered. The Council discussed several options related to on-sale license fees. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to credit each on-sale licensee \$5.21/day or \$385 for the license period 2019-2020. All voted for the motion and it carried. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to reduce the 2020-2021 on-sale license fee fifty (50%) percent or \$950. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked all the owners of the liquor establishment for attending the meeting and sharing their thoughts and ideas with the Council.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council Payment Voucher No. 7 for the 2019 7th Street Reconstruction Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the Payment Voucher generally includes a reduction in the project retainage. After due discussion and upon recommendation from the City Engineer, a motion was made by Al Amdahl and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve Payment Voucher No. 7 to C & L Excavating, St. Joseph, MN, in the amount of \$43,830.75. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council Payment Voucher No. 2 for the 2020 Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted the Payment Voucher generally includes partial water main, sewer main, services, and storm sewer. After due discussion and upon recommendation from the City Engineer, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve Payment Voucher No. 2 to Breitbach Construction Company, Elrosa, MN, in the amount of \$130,075.96. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council there will be a preconstruction meeting on June 4th with Dakota Supply Group (DSG) to discuss the installation of new Kamstrup water meters in every residential and commercial building. Mr. Mathiasen noted letters will be mailed to all property owners about the project and COVID-19 precautions will be taken by the installers. Councilor Al Amdahl questioned if an insert can be included with the water meter notification letter reminding residents to complete a survey for the 2020 Census. Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council the 2020 Census information can easily be included.

Mr. Mathiasen noted C & L Excavating, the general contractor for the 2019 7th Street Reconstruction Improvements, will instruct their subcontractor to begin over-seeding areas along the boulevard where grass growth has been substandard or insufficient. Mr. Mathiasen also noted the areas will be sprayed with hydro-mulch which contains a mixture of grass seed, fertilizer, and mulch. Mr. Mathiasen noted these areas have seen little or no water over the past few months which has hampered adequate grass growth and questioned if the Council would consider offering homeowners a twenty-dollar (\$20) credit on

their water bill to encourage daily watering. Mr. Schneider noted the credit relates to nearly 3,000 gallons of water. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve a twenty (\$20) dollar credit to abutting property owners who perform extra watering for the first sixty (60) days after initial seeding for reconstruction improvement projects beginning with the 2019 Capital Improvements. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Carbajal appeared before the Council to inform the Council Patrol Officer Andrew Gravidahl has received a conditional job offer from another law enforcement agency; whereby part-time Patrol Officers will maintain the same police coverage to the community. Mr. Carbajal noted another part-time Patrol Officer will be hired as soon as he completes employment requirements. Mr. Carbajal also noted a resident requested the installation of “STOP” signs at the intersection of Midland Avenue and 3rd Street. Mr. Carbajal informed the Council there have been four accidents in the last five years at the said intersection. Councilor John R. Harlander questioned if there is more traffic on Midland Avenue having installed “STOP” signs on Forest Avenue a year or two ago. Mr. Carbajal noted he has not seen an increase in traffic on Midland Avenue. Mayor Tom Kasner noted he does not object to “STOP” signs if needed for safety purposes and has seen benefits to the “STOP” signs installed on Forest Avenue. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Carbajal to review the intersections on Midland Avenue and present a recommendation to the Council to consider the installation of “STOP” signs on Midland Avenue.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council the City submitted two applications to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Source Water Protection Competitive Grant program; whereby a licensed well driller sealed the abandoned well located in the alley behind the Fire Hall at 221 4th Street and all expenses incurred by the City were paid by the said Program. Mr. Schneider noted the second application was approved to seal an abandoned well in North Park, but the City is waiting for the state to authorize the contractor to complete the work.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the Council a member of the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce contacted him to question if the Council was going to cancel Heritage Day, the annual community celebration held on August 1st, or if modifications to the event may be considered to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Councilor John R. Harlander noted he would not be in favor of cancelling the event at this time because COVID-19 guidelines may be lifted by this time. Mayor Tom Kasner noted the City will continue to monitor the Governor Tim Walz actions related to COVID-19.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the Council the Governor’s Emergency Executive Order 20-35 Peacetime Emergency continues through June 12th due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Mayor Tom Kasner noted some local businesses have been allowed to re-open with COVID-19 requirements to ensure employee and public safety. Mr. Schneider informed the Council the library only provides curb-side pickup and will not be open to the public until the library staff can safely accommodate patrons within the confines of the square footage of the library. Mr. Schneider also noted the Jaycee shelter in North Park remains closed.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council the Albany Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on June 9th on a request by Dale Overman dba Albany Recycling Center, 34737 Co. Rd. 10, to consider an interim use permit to continue with recycling automobiles and handle solid waste items in the current Industrial District. No action was taken by the Council.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o’clock in the evening on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.