

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, March 16, 2022, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

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

Other's present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer with Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, Jason Murray, the City Financial Consultant with the firm of David Drown Associates, and Ellarry Prentice, Staff Writer, the Star Post.

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 Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by Keith Heitzman to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 71704 to 71734. 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 March 2nd and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Mr. Murray appeared before the Council to present two options to fund the 2022 Midland Avenue Improvements (1st Street to 6th Street and adjacent street and alleys). Mr. Murray noted there is \$10,000 +/- in savings to accept a private placement negotiated sale versus a rated, competitive sale. Mr. Murray noted the annual debt service payment to issue a bond for \$2,235,000 is approximately \$177,200 per year for a 15-year term at a confirmed annual interest rate of 2.25% which will be funded by a combination of tax levy and special assessments to be collected in the years 2023-2037. After due discussion and upon the recommendation of Mr. Murray, a motion was made by John R. Harlander who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTON NO. 2022-12
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE, SALE, AND DELIVERY
OF \$2,235,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT
REVOLVING FUND BOND, SERIES 2022A

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Al Amdahl and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Adam Rushmeyer, Al Amdahl, John R. Harlander, and Keith Heitzman, 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/Adm. available for public inspection during regular business hours.

After due discussion and upon the recommendation by Mr. Murray, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the Placement Agent Engagement letter and the final Terms of Offering with Robert W. Baird & Co., Incorporated (Baird), and the First Independent Bank, the purchaser. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the council a resolution to authorize the city to enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the purpose of providing the payment of the state to the city for the states share of the 1st Street and Railroad Avenue Intersection Improvements and the sidewalk improvements along 8th Street (TH238) south of Railroad Avenue (TH238). After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-13
RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE MN/DOT AGREEMENT
1st Street (TH238) Intersection and Utility Improvements & 8th Street Sidewalk Improvements**

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Adam Rushmeyer and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Adam Rushmeyer, Al Amdahl, John R. Harlander, and Keith Heitzman, 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/Adm. available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the council only two bids were received at 11:00 AM on March 16th for the 1st Street (TH238) Intersection and Utility Improvements and 8th Street Sidewalk Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the lowest bid was \$616,000 and his estimate was \$465,000, but many cities are experiencing similar bidding results due to higher costs due to inflation and material shortages. Mr. Mathiasen noted the majority of the costs will be funded by MnDOT or \$425,000, but would like to discuss with MnDOT options to lower the overall construction costs for the proposed improvements. Mr. Harlander questioned if the sidewalk should be eliminated or partially constructed to reduce the costs. Mayor Tom Kasner noted the sidewalk is something residents have shared positive comments to the council and would favor the sidewalk improvements. Mr. Mathiasen also noted a bituminous surface may be considered rather than concrete for the intersection improvement, a savings of \$90,000+/- . Mr. Mathiasen informed the council he will have additional information at the next council meeting to determine how to proceed with the aforesaid improvement.

Mr. Harlander questioned if the council should authorize the city engineer to prepare a feasibility study for roadway and utility improvements on Forest Avenue between 1st Street and 6th Street and adjacent streets and alleys as per the city’s Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Harlander noted material and labor costs continue to increase due to inflation and the information in the said study may be used anytime in the future to develop plans and specifications for the improvement. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the council, directed Mr. Schneider to prepare a resolution authorizing the city engineer to prepare a feasibility study for roadway and utility improvements on Forest Avenue between 1st Street and 6th Street and adjacent streets and alleys at the April 6th council meeting. Mr. Schneider informed the council prior to moving forward with the project, he will meet with Mr. Murray to discuss debt management and funding options to determine if the project is financially feasible to consider in 2023 or 2024.

The council took notice of a proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 71, Animals. Mr. Schneider informed the council potentially dangerous dogs would now be subject to all of the same requirements as dangerous dogs. Mr. Schneider noted the city is authorized by statute to adopt more restrictive requirements. Mr. Schneider noted there are other minimal changes to the ordinance which brings it in line with state law requirements and the registration fee for a potentially dangerous dog and dangerous dog is \$500 annually. Mr. Schneider informed the council the police department feels the stricter requirements are justified and recommended approval of the amendment. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander who introduced the following resolution and ordinance amendment and moved its adoption:

**CITY OF ALBANY
AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 71, ANIMALS**

**RESOLUTION 2022-14
AUTHORIZING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF AMENDMENT TO
ORDINANCE 71, ANIMALS**

The motion for the foregoing resolution and ordinance amendment 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 Adam Rushmeyer, Al Amdahl, John R. Harlander, and

Keith Heitzman, and none voted against the same; whereupon the said resolution and ordinance amendment was declared duly passed and adopted. The full text of the said resolution and ordinance amendment is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Adm. available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Mr. Schneider informed the council Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal recommended Derek Stommes be promoted from part-time to full-time Patrol Officer. Mr. Schneider noted the department has struggled to retain part-time officers and a fourth full-time officer would meet the needs of the department to provide adequate police coverage on weekends and during periods of personal time off. After due discussion and upon the recommendation by Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Al Amdahl to hire Derek Stommes as a full-time Patrol Office in the Albany Police Department. All voted and the motion carried.

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 Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 40091-40095. Voting for the motion were Councilors Keith Heitzman, John R. Harlander, Al Amdahl, and Adam Rushmeyer, and none voted against. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

Mr. Amdahl, Albany Area Schools Community Education liaison, updated the council on various winter and summer activities offered to the community through the community education department. Mr. Amdahl also updated the council on the 2021-22 Blattner Energy Arts Theater (BEAT) programming.

Mr. Schneider presented to the council a resolution to re-establish the city election precinct and polling place (400 Railroad Avenue) due to the new Congressional and Legislative districts. Mr. Schneider noted there are no changes for the city, but the city is required to adopt a resolution. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09
A RESOLUTION TO REESTABLISHING THE PRECINCT AND THE
POLLING PLACE FOR THE CITY OF ALBANY FOR THE ELECTIONS OF 2022
(Albany City Hall, 400 Railroad Avenue)

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Adam Rushmeyer and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Adam Rushmeyer, Al Amdahl, John R. Harlander, and Keith Heitzman, 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/Adm. available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o’clock in the evening on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.