

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 2, 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, Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal, 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 Al Amdahl and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 71682 to 71703. 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 February 16th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Dan Behnke, Senior District Manager, Waste Management-Sauk Centre, MN, the city's contracted residential refuse hauler, appeared before the council to report the following for the year 2021: 690 tons of garbage hauled, 232 tons of recycling, and 265 tons of yard waste. Mr. Behnke noted the tonnage is a bit less than 2020 which is surprising because many individuals worked from home due to COVID-19. Mr. Heitzman questioned when the refuse contract expires. Mr. Schneider informed the council March 31, 2023. Mr. Behnke instructed the council residents with questions may contact their Sauk Centre office at 320.351-7831 during regular office hours. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Mr. Behnke for attending the meeting and providing the yearly activity report.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the council a proposed Professional Services Agreement between Stantec and the city for the 2022 Midland Avenue Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Mathiasen noted the estimated engineering services is \$357,960. Mr. Schneider noted the same language in the said agreement has been used in the past for capital improvement projects. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Adam Rushmeyer to authorize Mayor Tom Kasner to execute the said agreement on behalf of the city. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The council took notice of Resolution 2022-10, a resolution to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Federal Recreational Trail Program. Mr. Mathiasen informed the council the application is a request to seek partial funding assistance to reconstruct 0.35+/- miles of a paved trail in North Park, along TH #238, and in Country Estates; whereby funding requires a twenty-five percent (25%) cash match from the city of the total project costs. After due discussion and upon the recommendation from the Park Board, a motion was made by Al Amdahl who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-10  
MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FOR FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM**

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 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.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the council the Stearns County Highway Department is currently planning a date for a public open house at the Albany City Hall for the proposed 2024 County Road 157 Improvement Project.

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 Adam Rushmeyer to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 40064-40090. 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. Heitzman informed the council the new bathroom is under construction at the Toptracer driving range, landscaping near the front entrance of the clubhouse is being designed, and miscellaneous improvements are wrapping up between the clubhouse and Toptracer driving range.

Mr. Heitzman informed the Council the golf board approved the execution of a Promissory Note between the City and Albany Golf Club, Inc. for the purpose of purchasing a new Toro lawn mower in the amount of \$52,000+/- . Mr. Heitzman noted the club agreed to pay the city one-percent (1%) interest over a five-year (5) period. Mr. Schneider informed the council the city has issued Promissory Notes in the past and no delinquent payments have ever been received. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve the Promissory Note in the amount of \$52,000+/- at one-percent (1%) interest to be paid over a five-year (5) period. Voting for the motion were Councilors John R. Harlander, Adam Rushmeyer, Al Amdahl, and Keith Heitzman and none voted against. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner, Albany Area Fire Board liaison, informed the council the board held a meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the fire hall to discuss the 2021 operation reimbursement schedule, 2022 capital equipment fund, delivery of 2021 Rosenbauer Pumper truck, sale of 2000 Darley Pumper truck, and other activities of the Albany Fire Department. Mayor Tom Kasner noted each jurisdiction reimbursements for 2021 fire department operations is higher than previous years, but overall, the department was slightly under their 2021 budget (\$245,101). Mayor Kasner also noted the 2001 aerial fire truck purchased from the Sauk Rapids Fire Department will be delivered at the end of the month.

Councilor Al Amdahl, Park Board Liaison, informed the council the Albany Area Jaycees donated \$28,000 to the city Park fund for future park improvements. Mayor Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the council, thanked the Jaycees for their generous donation to the parks.

Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal appeared before the council to request permission to consider hiring a fourth full-time Patrol Officer for the department. Mr. Carbajal informed the council it's been difficult for part-time Patrol Officers to work weekends, holidays, and evenings due to other personal interests. Mr. Carbajal informed the council his 2022 budget will be amended accordingly once the 2021 budget has been completed by the city auditor. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to offer to part-time Patrol Officers within the department a full-time Patrol Officer position. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The council took notice of two Minnesota Lawful Gambling applications submitted by the Albany Lions for the purpose of conducting a raffle, bingo, pull-tabs, and paddlewheel on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Shady's Hometown Tavern and Events Center and a raffle on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Albany American Legion Park. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08  
APPROVING LG230 MINNESOTA  
LAWFUL GAMBLING APPLICATION  
(April 23, 2022)

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-11  
APPROVING MINNESOTA  
OFF-SITE LAWFUL GAMBLING APPLICATION  
(August 6, 2022)

The motion for the foregoing resolutions were 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, John R. Harlander, Al Amdahl, and Keith Heitzman, and none voted against the same; whereupon the said resolutions were declared duly passed and adopted.

Mr. Schneider informed the council nineteen applications were received for the position of Administrative Assistant in the Administration/Police Department. Mr. Schneider noted the hiring committee recommended the position be readvertised and existing applicants notified instructing them they may re-apply. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize Mr. Schneider to publish a job opening notice in the Star Post for the aforesaid position. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mr. Schneider noted the deadline to submit an application is 9:00 AM, Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Schneider informed the council he failed to make the February 1<sup>st</sup> principal and interest payment on the \$1,773,000 G.O. Permanent Improvement Revolving Fund Bonds, Series 2020A in a timely manner. Mr. Schneider informed the council he could not recall receiving an invoice, but shortly thereafter the due date, made an immediate payment to rectify the oversight. Mr. Schneider noted the error was reported to David Drown Associates and S & P Global Ratings, a credit rating agency, as per law.

Mr. Schneider also informed the council of the following:

- The city received a notice from Stearns County they received a valid petition for redetermination of benefits for County Ditch 28; whereby the Stearns County Board of Commissioners, the Drainage Authority, will proceed according to MN state law at their March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to direct staff to seek out drainage viewers for the redetermination proceeding. Property owners in or near County Ditch 28 drainage system natural watershed are being notified of the aforesaid meeting which includes all properties within the city limits of the City of Albany. Costs incurred by the Drainage Authority will be shared with the property owners at a formal hearing to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments based on the viewers report.
- The new state budget forecast projects the state will end the biennium with a record setting \$9.253 billion surplus.
- MN Recapture Program: May 1, 2012, 641 Forest Avenue, debt cancelled as per confirmation number 0-716-777-120, submitted January 27, 2022. Original amount of debt for unpaid water bill was \$740+/-, remaining debt cancelled \$335+/-.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, and adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.

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Tom Schneider  
Clerk/Adm.