

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 Daron Gersch at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

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

Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, with Stantec, Inc., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Mike Kosik, Editor, Albany Enterprise, and Ozzie Carbajal, Albany Police Chief.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Tom Kasner to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 68033 to 68073 and 16889 to 16904. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Daron Gersch called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on February 21<sup>st</sup> and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comment: none

Mark Harren, Albany Building Official, appeared before the Council to inform the Council that he was hired a few years ago by Dan Marthaler, Albany Building Official, with the firm of Mid-MN Code Enforcement, Inc., to oversee and inspect commercial, industrial, and residential construction activities. Mr. Harren informed the Council that January 1<sup>st</sup> he purchased Mid-MN Code Enforcement, Inc., and noted that Mr. Marthaler will continue as an employee, but a reduced roll with inspections. Mr. Harren also informed the Council that his company does construction inspections for eight (8) cities and prior to working with Mr. Marthaler he owned his own construction company in Freeport, MN for fifteen (15) years. Mr. Schneider noted that the City hired Mid-MN Code Enforcement in the year 2000 and the services have been well received by property owners and contractors in the area. Mr. Schneider noted that the Minnesota State Building Code is a standard by which buildings have been constructed to provide citizens with a safe, energy efficient and accessible building. Mayor Daron Gersch thanked Mr. Harren for appearing before the Council and the services provided to the community.

Jason Murray, the City's Financial Consultant with the firm of David Drown Associates, appeared before the Council to present a preliminary bond analysis for funding the City's future Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Mr. Murray noted that the purpose of the said analysis is to determine how the CIP impacts the City's tax capacity rate. Mr. Mergen noted that the streets and utilities north of Railroad Avenue are very old and any chance of expedite the CIP, but not significantly increase the tax capacity rate, would be the best scenario. Mr. Murray noted that he will continue to review the data and report back to the Council at a future meeting.

The City took notice of a draft letter prepared by the City Engineer to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in response to their letter the City received February 6<sup>th</sup> in reference to the reissuance of the City's wastewater treatment plant NPDES Permit. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that language be included that requests credits from storm sewer projects that remove phosphorus to provide the City with additional permit limit capacity. Mr. Mathiasen noted that he will re-draft the letter and forward to the MPCA.

Councilor John R. Harlander informed the Council that he and Mr. Schneider met with a property owner adjacent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue intersection relating to the future construction of a standard roundabout. Mr. Harlander noted that two options were presented with one being a 120' roundabout northwest of the intersection in the area where the City had purchased property last year and the other constructed in the center of the existing intersection. Mr. Harlander noted that if the City proceeds

with a roundabout, the best option would be northwest of the intersection. After due discussion, a motion was made by Daron Gersch and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize the City Engineer to update the 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue preliminary engineering report to construct a 120' roundabout or a larger diameter if possible within the existing right-of-way already available northwest of the intersection. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Carbajal informed the Council that he has been contacted by the Holdingford School District about the idea of the Albany Police Department providing the services of a School Resource Officer (RSO) to the said District. Mr. Carbajal noted that the board of directors at the school will discuss the idea at a meeting to determine what services would be provided and how funded. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, had no objection with the idea and will wait to hear more on the topic at a future meeting.

The Council took notice of a MN Lawful Gambling LG230 off-site application by the Albany Lions Club to conduct a raffle at 2018 Heritage Day, Saturday, August 4th at 440 Railroad Avenue. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner who introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2018-04  
APPROVING MINNESOTA OFF-SITE LAWFUL GAMBLING  
(Albany Lions Club)

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by John R. Harlander and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Daron Gersch, Councilors Tom Kasner, 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 that he received a request from a property owner who resides west of the medical clinic or former hospital site on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue that the brush and trees be cut down along the northern shoreline to improve their visibility and the public's visibility of North Lake. Mr. Mergen noted that in November he did trim some trees and brush, but the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may prohibit the removal of the trees. Mr. Mergen reminded the Council that the DNR required the City to re-plant trees along this shoreline to replace the trees that were removed when the outlet pipe was constructed for the storm water holding pond east of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue cul-de-sac. Mr. Mergen noted that he will contact the property owner to answer any further questions.

Mr. Schneider also informed the Council that the City's grant application submitted to the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) in the amount of \$5,186 was approved. Mr. Schneider noted that the funds will be used to purchase Rapid Flash Beacon Crosswalk LED Warning System or a similar pedestrian safety crosswalk device.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 and adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

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Tom Schneider  
Clerk/Adm.