

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, November 2, 2022, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

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

Other's present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer with Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, Police Chief Ozzie Carbajal, Joseph Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, and Tim Hennagir, Staff Writer, the Star Post. The following high school students were present for the meeting: Veronica Maus, Nyra Brown, Theresa Kalthoff, and Andrea Majchrzak.

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 Al Amdahl to approve/authorize payroll (33421-3431), electronic payments (900054-900058), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 72233 to 72261. 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 October 19th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Suzanne Thieschafer, Xcel Energy Product Portfolio Manager, and Mark Osendorf, Xcel Energy Manager Community Relations, were present for the meeting.

Ms. Thieschafer appeared before the council to present information relating to the installation of 21-DC Fast Charging Stations throughout greater Minnesota within their service territory between the years 2023-2024. Ms. Thieschafer noted the installation will be in sites that are highly visible in communities currently underserved for electric vehicle (EV) charging and Xcel Energy will design, build, install, and operate, the EV charging station under a 10-year agreement. Mr. Harlander questioned what the cost is for charging an electric vehicle. Mr. Osendorf noted it is approximately equivalent to a \$1.00/gallon of fuel. Mr. Osendorf noted EV's will be able to charge anywhere from 15 minutes to 30 minutes with two charging ports on a unit. Mr. Osendorf also noted the EV charging stations will be offered to businesses which will have the option of owning the unit, but there are other costs associated with private ownership to be considered. Ms. Thieschafer noted the EV charging stations will attract and retain visitors to communities, build goodwill with businesses, and available to the public 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Ms. Thieschafer also noted if the city is interested in becoming a host site, an application which is not a commitment, only an expression of interest, should be submitted to Xcel Energy on or before December 15th. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked Ms. Thieschafer and Mr. Osendorf for attending the meeting and providing information on EV charging stations.

Michele Bogner, a representative with Kerry Group, appeared before the council to inform the council their company recently acquired Kraft/Heinz, a powered cheese product producer located at 600 Railroad Avenue. Ms. Bogner informed the council Kerry is a public food company whose headquarter is in Ireland, a global company consisting of approximately 100 companies, and 26,000 employees. Ms. Bogner informed the council the Wastewater Discharge Permit needs to be assigned to Kerry. Mr. Schneider noted the current permit with Kraft/Heinz expires December 31, 2024 and recommended the council approve the assignment of the said permit to Kerry. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the assignment of the Wastewater Discharge Permit from Kraft/Heinz to Kerry. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mayor Tom Kasner, including other council members, thanked Ms. Bogner for attending the meeting and providing insight on the acquisition and continued operations at the Albany plant.

Councilor Adam Rushmeyer, Planning Commission Liaison, informed the council the city received letters of resignation from Planning Commission members Will Seiler and Jon Stueve. Mr. Rushmeyer noted Mr. Seiler is unable to attend meetings due to his evening work schedule and Mr. Stueve will be moving out of the city limits. Mr. Rushmeyer informed the council a notice was published in the local newspaper seeking two qualified candidates to fill a one-year term ending December 31, 2023, and a four-year term ending December 31, 2026. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by John R. Harlander to accept the letters of resignation from Mr. Seiler and Mr. Stueve effective immediately. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mayor Tom Kasner thanked each for their unselfish dedication and commitment to the community for many years as Planning Commission members.

Mr. Schneider informed the council a public hearing is typically held in November each year to consider proposed assessments for unpaid city charges to be certified to Stearns County. Mr. Schneider informed the council he was unsuccessful in collecting the amounts and therefore, published a notice in the local newspaper on November 2nd for a public hearing to be held on November 16th. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner and seconded by Keith Heitzman to hold a public hearing before the city council at 6:30 o'clock or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, November 16th to consider and possibly adopt the proposed assessment for unpaid city charges incurred in relation to Ordinance 77 and Ordinance 30. All voted for the motion and it carried.

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

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.