

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, October 16, 2013, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors Laurie Dingmann, Tom Kasner, John Greer and Jack Evens. None were absent.

Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, Stantec, Inc., Brian Benjamin, Stantec, Inc., Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Mike Kosik, Staff Writer, Albany Enterprise, Ross Voit, resident, Lois Reber, resident, Arnold Meier, resident, and the following Albany High School students: Vanessa Ulrich, and Martha Amdahl.

After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by John Greer to authorize the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 63713 to 63743 and 14986 to 14997. All voted for the motion and it carried. The complete check register is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Adm. for public inspection during regular office hours.

Mayor Daron Gersch called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on October 2nd and hearing none declared them approved.

Jean Pundsack, 211 Railroad Avenue, appeared before the Council to inform the Council that vehicles should not be allowed to remain parked on Railroad Avenue throughout the evening in front of the Albany Apartments adjacent to her residence. Ms. Pundsack questioned what date the City approved the "No Parking" signs on Railroad Avenue that recently were removed from the older electric poles and noted that overnight vehicle parking on Railroad Avenue (mainstreet) is an eye sore. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that the only overnight parking regulations in the City's Parking Ordinance are during the winter months and none exist during any other month. Mr. Schneider noted that the "No Parking" signs on Railroad Avenue which prohibited parking from 3:00am to 6:00am were installed over 25 years ago and to his knowledge the signs were posted for snow removal purposes. Ms. Pundsack informed the Council that "No Parking" on Railroad Avenue had been enforced by the Police Department in the past. Mr. Carbajal noted that the current Parking Ordinance 51 prohibits vehicles from parking on a City street from November 1st through April 15th between the hours of 2:00AM-6:00AM during any snow fall which accumulates over one and one-half inches. Mr. Carbajal also noted that a vehicle may not remain parked for more than forty-eight (48) hours on a street and any vehicle moved less than one (1) block shall be deemed to have remained stationary. Mayor Daron Gersch informed Ms. Pundsack that there is no language in Ordinance 51 that would prohibit overnight parking other than the dates and times mentioned by the Police Chief. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, informed Ms. Pundsack that City staff will research the files to determine if any action had ever been taken by the Council years ago that authorized the installation of the "No Parking" signs on Railroad Avenue. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that final discussions regarding the removal of the "No Parking" signs on Railroad Avenue will be held at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Daron Gersch welcomed to the meeting those individuals from the public to discuss whether or not permanent "STOP" signs should be considered in those areas where temporary "STOP" signs have been placed during the reconstruction of Railroad Avenue or if additional intersections in the City should be considered for permanent "STOP" signs. Mr. Schneider presented to the Council eight (8) written responses received by the City from members of the public for review. Ms. Reber appeared before the Council to inform the Council that she is in favor of permanent "STOP" signs at the intersection of 4th Street and Forest Avenue. Mr. Voit recommended that if there are intersections that have experienced several accidents, then that intersection may warrant "STOP" signs, but would not be in favor of other intersections. Mr. Evens noted that if the Council considers the placement of additional "STOP" signs, there would be additional stops for the snow plow operators that may cause other problems to remove snow in a timely manner. Mr. Carbajal presented to the Council a 10-year traffic accident history report and noted that a significant number of the accidents were on Railroad Avenue. Mr. Greer noted that a pattern should be development that is workable for the public and is concerned for public safety having so many

uncontrolled intersections in the City. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, informed the public that no decision will be made regarding the placement of "STOP" signs until the construction on Railroad Avenue has ended and the temporary "STOP" signs will remain until a decision is made on the issue.

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council to update the Council on the 2013 Railroad Avenue (State HWY #238) Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted that concrete paving for the street is proposed to begin next week that would include sidewalk installation, but inclement weather has become an issue and steps will be taken to allow concrete to cure properly. Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council pay request number six (6) submitted by R. L. Larson Excavating, Inc., for the Railroad Avenue Improvements. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by John Greer to approve the pay application for R. L. Larson Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$290,661.01. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mergen recommended to the Council that an unpaid water bill at 441 7th Street be certified to the Stearns County Auditor to be collected as a special assessment in the tax year 2014. After due discussion, a motion was made by John Greer and seconded by Jack Evens to direct the City Clerk/Administrator to certify to the Stearns County Auditor the unpaid water bill at 441 7th Street in the amount of \$154.34. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider recommended that Richard Goebel, 150 High View Drive, be appointed as an election judge for the Special Primary and General Election to fill the vacancy in Stearns Commissioner District 5. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by John Greer to appoint Mr. Goebel as an election judge for the aforesaid Election. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that Molly Thompson, the City Auditor, recommended that the City transfer \$80,263 from the Tax Increment Savings Account into the General Checking Account as per the year-end 2012 Audit. After due discussion, and upon the recommendation of the City Auditor, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by Laurie Dingmann to direct the City Administrator/Treasurer to transfer the said funds. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider noted that with the addition of new ornamental street lights on 8th Street between Railroad Avenue and Shamrock Lane, the estimated cost for Christmas lights for the light poles is \$2,700. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, directed Mr. Schneider to purchase the additional Christmas lights to match the lighting to be erected on Railroad Avenue.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm.