

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, October 3, 2018, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors Al Amdahl, Jack Evens, 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, Adam Rushmeyer, Anthony Milostan, Albany Police Patrol Officer, and the following students: Colton Leyk, Katelyn Rentschler, Courtney Arceneau, Katie Budde, and Kallie Linn.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 68571 to 68600 and 17117 to 17131. 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 September 19th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: Bob Dickhaus appeared before the Council to recap his own experiences having lost his bid for Stearns County Sheriff in the Primary Election held in August and encouraged the City Council to support Dave Bentrud, a candidate for Stearns County Sheriff on the ballot for the General Election to be held November 6th.

Dave Bentrud, a candidate for Stearns County Sheriff, appeared before the Council to provide background information on his career and experiences in law enforcement. Mr. Bentrud noted several challenges currently facing the sheriff's department and how each would be dealt with.

Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council to update the Council on the final construction progress for the 2018 North Lake Storm Water Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the project signs describing each raingarden purpose and plants should be erected next week.

Councilor Keith Heitzman, Albany Golf Club Liaison, informed the Council that the Club is accepting applications for the position of General Manager and the deadline is October 17th. Mr. Heitzman noted that the course will close on November 1st.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council a list of several accomplishments (benches along Lake Wobegon Trail, widened sidewalks on 1st St., Forest Avenue Stop signs, etc.) completed as per the Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. Schneider noted that each accomplishment is to improve pedestrian safety, encourage walking and biking in the community. Mr. Schneider noted that the committee is looking at several projects in 2019. Mr. Mergen noted that a Rapid Flash Pedestrian Crosswalk signal device will be delivered on October 4th and installed thereafter at the intersection of 1st Street and Forest Avenue, the west entrance to Albany Area Schools.

Mr. Schneider also presented to the Council the proposed 2019 Employee Personnel Policy. Mr. Schneider noted that he and the employees met with Mayor Tom Kasner and Councilor Keith Heitzman, Labor Commissioners, to discuss the proposed policy. Mr. Schneider noted that the major change is that sick and vacation hours will be combined into Personal Time Off (PTO) hours and accrued hours at the time an employee no longer works for the City may be transferred into a post-retirement health plan or a voluntary employee beneficiary association (VEBA) account. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Jack Evens to approve the 2019 Employee Personnel Policy. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner informed the Council that he and Mr. Mergen are preparing proper signage and trail grooming options to allow cross-country skiing on a designated trail on the golf course. Mr. Kasner noted that the City Engineer prepared a map depicting the trail location on the course which will be provided to the public when it opens. Mr. Mergen informed the Council that the Stearns County Park Department will groom the trail the first time at no charge and thereafter the City will have to continue the maintenance of the trail.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 and adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm.