

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, July 5, 2017, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors Tom Kasner, John Greer, John R. Harlander, and Keith Heitzman. None were absent. Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Grant Mayers, Albany Boy Scout, and Mike Mayers, Mike Kosik, Editor, Albany Enterprise, and Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, with Stantec, Inc.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by John R. Harlander to authorize electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 67437 to 67462 and 16574 to 16589. 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 June 21st and hearing none declared them approved.

Molly Thompson, CPA with the firm of Schlenner, Wenner and Company, St. Cloud, MN, the City's Auditor, appeared before the Council to present the final 2016 Comprehensive Financial Audit for all City operations including the Albany Golf Club, Inc. Ms. Thompson presented to the Council an abbreviated audit report. Ms. Thompson thanked Mr. Schneider and Ms. Diane Jesh for providing the appropriate financial information to conduct the said audit. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman seconded by John Greer to approve the 2016 Comprehensive Financial Audit and recommended transfers. All voted for the motion and it carried. The complete audit is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Adm. for public inspection during normal office hours.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council that the plans and specifications for the 2018 1st Street (HWY #238) Reconstruction Improvements have been forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for review. Mr. Mathiasen noted that the aforesaid plans do not include any work to be done in the intersection of 1st Street and Railroad Avenue. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the two mini-roundabouts being constructed in the City of St. James, MN are nearing completion and when the streets re-open, a trip can be planned to view the traffic patterns.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council a preliminary or draft Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that included the following: existing facilities, community destinations, roadway considerations, access to sidewalks, student locations, draft priorities, and preliminary implementation strategies. Mr. Mathiasen noted that with a Safe Routes to School plan, the City and school district will be able to encourage more students to walk and bike to school and provide a safer environment for all residents walking and biking. Mr. Mathiasen noted that each Council member and City staff is to review the preliminary draft and submit their comments to him in two weeks. Mr. Schneider noted that a meeting was held on June 29th at City Hall with members of the school district, Stearns County Public Health, City staff, and the City Engineer to review the community survey and preliminary draft of the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure maps. Mr. Schneider also noted the Planning Commission will review the preliminary plan at a meeting to be held on July 20th.

Peggy Cremers and Josh Achman, members of the Albany Area Jaycees, appeared before the Council to request approval of a Large Gathering Permit Application for their annual Street Dance/raffle on Saturday, August 12th to be held on 5th Street adjacent to Rookies Sports Bar, 481 Railroad Avenue. Ms. Cremers noted that Rookies Sports Bar will sell alcoholic beverages for the event inside their rear garage which is attached to the main building and consumption of alcoholic beverages will be conducted within a fenced boundary on 5th Street. Ms. Cremers also noted that ID's will be checked at each entrance to prevent underage drinking. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council had no objection to the request by the Albany Area Jaycees to temporarily close 5th Street for the said event on 5th Street between Railroad Avenue and the alley including the consumption of alcoholic beverages served by

Rookies Sports Bar within the fenced boundary. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve the Large Gathering Permit and the consumption of alcoholic beverages within the fenced area on 5th Street for the said event. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a Fireworks Event Permit application submitted by Premier Pyrotechnics, the company that will display the fireworks, for Heritage Day, August 5th, the annual City celebration sponsored by the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Schneider noted that in the event there is a strong southerly wind, the fireworks may be delayed or cancelled to avoid property damage to nearby homes and commercial/industrial buildings and if cancelled, the display will occur at the same location on August 6th at 10:00 PM. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Mayor Daron Gersch to approve the aforesaid permit to Premier Pyrotechnics to display fireworks on the golf course on August 5th for Heritage Day or if necessary, August 6th. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a request by the Albany Lions Club for a Temporary On-Sale Liquor license for Saturday, August 5th (Heritage Day), at 400 Railroad Avenue. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the said License for a period beginning August 5th and ending August 6th. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of an application submitted by the Church of Seven Dolours for a Large Gathering Permit and a Temporary On-sale Liquor license for the annual bazaar to be held on Sunday, August 6th. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve both permits. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council also took notice of a Large Gathering Permit application submitted by the Albany Chrysler Center, 34650 225th Avenue, for their annual Car Show to be held on Friday, August 4th. Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the Fire Chief requires additional conditions to the permit to improve safety. Mr. Schneider noted that the Fire Chief may have firemen attend the event being the crowds have increased significantly over the years. Mr. Kasner noted that the safety of the spectators is a high priority and he would support the presence of firemen at the event. Mayor Daron Gersch, with the consensus of the Council, tabled the request and directed Mr. Schneider to invite Bryan Schiffler, the event coordinator, to the next Council meeting to discuss the activities to be held at the aforementioned event.

Mr. Kasner noted that he and many others from State Agencies met at the golf club to discuss the sediment/silt that has been deposited in the South Two Rivers River that flows through the golf course. Mr. Kasner noted that the storm water capacity of the pond has significantly been reduced due to the sediment/silt and in the event of a large rain fall much of the storm water may be redirected to the adjacent fairway on number 17 causing property damage similar to what has been seen the past several years. Mr. Kasner noted that efforts will be made to contact property owners south of Interstate 94 or upstream, in an effort to reduce the sediment/silt from being deposited in the said River on the golf course. Mayor Daron Gersch directed Mr. Schneider to contact Stearns County Environmental Services to discuss options for removal of the sediment/silt.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council of the following:

- A notice seeking bids for two police bicycles, surplus property, was published on July 5th in the Albany Enterprise. Mr. Schneider noted that the two bicycles will be replaced with a new fat tire bicycle that is more durable, rugged, and larger. Mr. Schneider noted the bids received will be opened at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon on July 17th at City Hall.
- Representative Paul Anderson has been selected as a League of Minnesota Cities Legislator of Distinction for 2017 for his actions and leadership on a wide variety of legislative issues of importance to cities across the state such as, but not limited to, tax increment financing and restoring the local government aid funding to the 2002 level.

- New legislation was passed that will allow cities to transfer 20 percent of the balance of Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) funds to the state general fund before June 30, 2018; whereby the remaining 80 percent may be used for any lawful expenditure.
- Tri-Cap bus service will extend services from Holdingford to Albany each Wednesday from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM in addition to the transportation provided in the City each Tuesday from 9:30 AM until 1:00 PM.
- Due to continued vandalism in the bathrooms at City Hall, the exterior door will only be open only during regular Library and City Administration hours.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.