

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, September 6, 2017, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors Tom Kasner, John R. Harlander, and Keith Heitzman. None were absent. Also present were: Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, Albany Police Department, Andrew Gravidahl, Patrol Officer, Mike Kosik, Editor, Albany Enterprise, Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer, with Stantec, Inc., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Greg Johnson, Superintendent, Albany Area Schools, Allison Dudek, Stearns County Public Health, Adam Rushmeyer, Chairman, Planning Commission. Albany High School students present were: Samuel Scherping, Elisha Duckson, Quinn Jensen, Carter Philippi, Emmett Vanderhagen, Jake Koltjes, and Ethan Hylla. Residents present were: Randy Pelzer, Tammy Hoxtell, Patty Winter, Tim Sand, Sharon Sand, Debbie Heinzl, Kevin Beuning, Jean Pundsack, Al Amdahl, and Marsha Winter.

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 67596 to 67639 and 16638 to 16671. 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 August 16th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comment: none.

Mayor Daron Gersch informed the public that the Council will conduct two interviews for the Council position that would commence upon appointment and end December 31, 2018. The Council interviewed and scored two applicants for the open Council seat. The candidates were interviewed in the following order: Jean Pundsack, Al Amdahl. Mr. Schneider, after tabulating the results, announced that Al Amdahl had the highest score. A motion was made by Mayor Daron Gersch and seconded by Keith Heitzman to appoint Al Amdahl as a Council member. All voted for the motion and it carried. Mr. Schneider administered the Oath of Office to Al Amdahl.

Pursuant to due notice, Mayor Daron Gersch called the public hearing into session at 6:55 PM to consider and possibly adopt the 2017 Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which is also on the City's website for the public to review. A proper notice was published in the Albany Enterprise, the local newspaper, on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Mathiasen appeared before the Council and public to present the said Plan. Mr. Mathiasen noted that members of Albany Area Schools, Stearns County Public Health, and City Officials/staff with the assistance of the City Engineer participated in several meetings to develop a Safe Routes to School program to improve sidewalk infrastructure, review funding sources, encourage safe environment or network for walking and biking in the community. Mr. Beuning questioned if a sidewalk will be constructed on 6<sup>th</sup> Street north of Lynden Avenue. Mayor Daron Gersch noted that the temporary sidewalk on the east side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street is being used by residents and will be removed mid-October. Mr. Mathiasen noted that no decisions have been made for the final location of a sidewalk on 6<sup>th</sup> Street north of Lynden Avenue, but there are options that can be discussed in the future. Ms. Hoxtell informed the Council that the street became very narrow due to the temporary sidewalk project and it would make sense to install new sidewalks on 5<sup>th</sup> Street or 7<sup>th</sup> Street which are less traveled by the public and slower vehicle speeds. Marcia Winter questioned if residents will be given a notice in the future prior to any sidewalk construction on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and if there was a designated area to walk, pedestrians would feel safer. Ms. Sand noted that vehicles travel very fast on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and pedestrians would be safer on 5<sup>th</sup> Street or 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Pelzer informed the Council that residents voted down a sidewalk on 6<sup>th</sup> Street north of Lynden Avenue in 2006 and the street became narrower after the project was completed. Ms. Dudek appeared before the Council to inform the public that the City received funding for the temporary demonstration projects on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Aliva Avenue and encouraged the public to complete an on-line survey and shared some of the results received to date to the Council. Mr. Kasner noted that it was a mistake by the

Council not to have installed a sidewalk on 6<sup>th</sup> Street north of Lynden Avenue in 2006, but as more development occurs north of Soo Line Avenue, a sidewalk may need to be constructed in the future. Mr. Kasner also noted that with the building expansion of the school, the population will increase and the City will become more attractive and the connection of sidewalks are for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. Mr. Shering informed the Council that the cross-country team feels much safer if they do not use 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Johnson noted that a plan would increase safety for the students and community members. Mayor Daron Gersch closed the public hearing at 7:40 PM. Mayor Daron Gersch thanked the public for attending the meeting and final discussion regarding the adoption of the said Plan will be considered at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Mr. Mergen presented to the Council a Wastewater Permit renewal between the City and Wells Concrete, Inc., 210 Inspiration Lane. Mr. Mergen noted that the term of the permit is three years and recommended approval. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the said permit renewal. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Councilor Tom Kasner, Chairman of the Albany Economic Development Authority (EDA) informed the Council that the EDA held a meeting on August 29th to review a Commercial Rehabilitation Program application for storefront improvements to the commercial building at 201 Railroad Avenue owned by Troy and Kelly Krebs, Albany. Mr. Kasner noted that two new transom windows will be installed, new entryway, interior improvements, exterior stucco and paint improvements at a cost of \$22,000+/- . After due discussion and upon the recommendation from the EDA, a motion was made by Tom Kasner and seconded by Mayor Daron Gersch to approve the aforesaid application for the proposed storefront improvements at 201 Railroad Avenue with the maximum EDA contribution to be \$10,000.00. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Katherine Pasker, Attorney, Tony Dorland, Attorney, with the firm of Moss & Barnett, Minneapolis, and Steve Fester, Development Consultant for Verizon Twin Cities, were present for the meeting.

Mr. Schneider informed the Council that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 24th on a request by the City to consider the following: amendments to the Zoning Ordinance 80, to allow Small Cell Facilities and support structures in the R-1 and R-2 Districts as a conditional use and in the other zoning districts as a permitted use. Mr. Schneider noted that the Planning Commission directed him to contact the City Attorney to clarify whether or not a conditional use permit is required for the installation of a small cell facility on a new or existing pole within the R-1 and R-2 District. Mr. Schneider noted that after consulting with the City Attorney, conditional use permits can only be required for new poles. After due discussion and upon the recommendation of the Planning Commission, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance 80 to allow new Small Cell Facilities and support structures in the R-1 and R-2 Districts as a conditional use, existing poles in R-1 and R-2 Districts as permitted, and in the other zoning districts as a permitted use. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council proposed 2018 Budget which includes the following departments: Administration, Police, Fire, Street, Park, Library, Water, and Sewer. Mr. Schneider noted that the City's monthly health insurance premium for family and single coverage increased 49%; whereas the employees will meet with insurance representatives to review options to reduce premium expenses. Mr. Schneider noted the preliminary 2017 property tax levy for payable 2018 is due on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> to the Stearns County Auditor's Office. Mr. Schneider noted that he will present the proposed levy to the Council at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Mr. Schneider presented a proposed levy increase of 6% or \$46,840, but noted that the City's tax capacity rate (42%) would not increase. Mr. Harlander noted that there is an adequate fund balance in the Public Works Department's Capital Equipment fund and recommended that the funds allocated in the 2018 Budget be reduced to lower the proposed levy. Mayor Daron Gersch informed the Council that the preliminary 2017 property tax levy for payable 2018 will be considered at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Daron Gersch appointed Tom Kasner as the Acting Mayor for the City of Albany.

Mayor Daron Gersch announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 and adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

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Tom Schneider  
Clerk/Adm.