

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA
Monday, January 12, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Vern Rasmussen Jr., Councilors John Schulte V, Larry Baker, George Marin, Reid Olson, Larry Anderson and Al Brooks. Also, present were City Manager Chad Adams, City Attorney Lee Bjorndal, City Engineer Steven Jahnke, and City Clerk Shirley Slater-Schulte.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

WELCOME TO RECENTLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Rasmussen, Jr. welcomed all of the following newly elected officials:

Councilor Larry Baker
Councilor Reid Olson
Councilor Al Brooks
Mayor Rasmussen Jr.

Oath of Office was administered prior to the Special Meeting of January 8, 2015.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO CLOVERLEAF LIONS CLUB - EDGEWATER COTTAGE PROJECT

Mayor Rasmussen, Jr. presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Cloverleaf Lions Club for the Edgewater Cottage Project and stated that this was a wonderful project well done.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO 2015 ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Rasmussen, Jr. read the appointments to the 2015 Advisory Boards, Commissions and Charter Commission.

Motion: Move to approve the appointments with the exception of Mary Laeger-Hagemeister. Ms. Laeger-Hagemeister resigned effective January 12, 2015.

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Marin. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Robert Fjelbrotten, 21458 775th Avenue requested a stop sign at the intersection of Wendy's and Loves Travel Stop.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes Of The December 22, 2014 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes Of The December 18, 2014 Work Session
- C. Licenses And Permits (See Attached List)
- D. Resolution 15-02-Establishing 2015 Appointments And Designations
- E. Resolution 15-03-Naming Official Newspaper For 2015
- F. Resolution 15-04-Designating Depositories Of City Funds-Signatories-Wire Transfers
- G. Resolution 15-05-Reinstating Assessments On Certain Properties
- H. Resolutions 15-06-Ordering Preparation Of Feasibility Report for 2015 Neighborhood Improvement Project (Job 1550), Resolution 15-07-Ordering Preparation of Feasibility Reports for 2015 State Aid Street Overlay (Job 1551), And Resolution 15-08-Ordering Preparation of Feasibility Report for 2015 Virginia Place And 5th Street Reconstruction Project (Job 0301)
- I. Resolution 15-09-Authorizing Funds Transfer
- J. Call Public Hearing For January 26, 2015 Regarding The Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) Grant Application
- K. Schedule Council/Staff Goal Setting Session For February 21, 2015

MOTION: Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Brooks. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-01-09
included with these minutes)

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

SOUTH BROADWAY COMPLETE STREETS VISION PLAN - DAN BURDEN

Mr. Dan Burden and his assistant Samantha Thomas presented findings from the 4-day charrette and public engagement process held January 9-12 for the purpose of assisting the City with the vision and design for the South Broadway Avenue project. City will be completing another street project and this will be the time to do some of the work. It offers a lot of opportunity to reclaim a part of who we are. State will be bidding the work to be done on South Broadway and this would be the best time to incorporate some of these changes.

Mr. Burden reviewed proposed changes that may be included in the upcoming State project proposed for South Broadway in 2015.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING CHARTER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND SECTION 8.03 OF CITY CHARTER

City Manager Adams explained that the Albert Lea Charter Commission voted on December 1, 2014 to amend Section 8.03 of the City Charter. This hearing is being held to receive public input on amending the Charter to permit unpaid and delinquent lodging tax to be levied upon the property on which lodging tax is due. This would be a new remedy available where such measures are needed. The Convention and Visitors Bureau supports the amendment. Passage would require a unanimous vote of the Council. The proposed ordinance is attached as background information.

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Keven Dulitz, 421 Garden Road, member of the Charter Commission and board member of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, gave comments regarding lodging taxes owed for several reasons and why some of the taxes are not being paid. As a Charter Commissioner, he stated that he was in support of the recommended amendment to Section 8.03 of the City Charter.

Letter was presented from Susie Peterson, CVB Executive Director in favor of the proposed changes.

Called three times and then closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: I will move to approve the recommendation to amend Section 8.03 of the City Charter.

Motion made by Councilor Olson, seconded by Councilor Marin. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

RESOLUTION 15-10 ESTABLISHING RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALBERT LEA

City Manager Adams explained that the attached resolution would establish the rules and procedures for the City Council to follow when conducting business throughout 2015. The attached resolution addresses a variety of issues, including meeting times and places, role of the presiding officer, public hearings, record keeping, voting, ordinances, resolutions, motions, petitions and communications, rules for addressing the council, rules of decorum and maintenance of order. Staff recommends approval.

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-10
included with these minutes)

**RESOLUTION 15-11 APPROVING DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN
THE CITY OF ALBERT LEA AND COHEN-ESREY AFFORDABLE PARTNERS, LLC**

City Manager Adams explained that in May, 2014, the City of Albert Lea and Cohen-Esrey Affordable Partners, LLC entered into a Development Agreement for the Jacobson and Freeborn Bank buildings. Project completion was dependent upon the receipt of tax credits in 2014 which were not awarded to Cohen-Esrey. Cohen-Esrey will apply for new funding in January, 2015, and will re-apply in June, 2015, if they do not receive the funding in January. The latest the property could be sold to Cohen-Esrey will be January 30, 2016. The attached resolution would authorize the Mayor and City Manager to extend the Development Agreement and Purchase Agreement one more year. Staff recommends approval.

Motion made by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Baker. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-11
included with these minutes)

**RESOLUTION 15-12 DECLARING CITY OF ALBERT LEA TO BE HEALTHY EATING
AND ACTIVE LIVING COMMUNITY**

City Manager Adams explained that the attached resolution affirms the City's commitment to support and promote healthy eating and active living for all citizens. The Blue Zones Community Policy Committee established the resolution being approved by the Council as one of the actionable goals to be implemented as part of the present Blue Zones initiative. Many of the items in the resolution are currently being completed. There are a few new items that can be achieved in the next year and in the future without much staff or community involvement that will improve the built environment, workplace practices, as well as alternatives to reach more healthy eating and active living in the community. Staff recommends approval.

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Brooks On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-12
included with these minutes)

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

First Ward, Councilor Schulte V reported:

- Ward Items – none

- Committee update- none

Second Ward, Councilor Baker reported:

- Ward Items – none
- Committee Update – none

Third Ward, Councilor Marin reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Reported on the Human Rights Commission
- Questions on tele-commuting policy and working from home for the City of Albert Lea

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported

- Ward Items – none
- Committee update –none.
- Skating Rinks have been flooded

Fifth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items –none
- Committee update- none
- Recognized Herb Neale for serving on the Airport Commission
- Thank you again for opening the library and to everyone that works at city hall.

Sixth Ward, Councilor Brooks reported:

- Ward Items – Comments on turning lanes on South Broadway
- Committee updates – update on Port Authority
- Ordinances regarding noise ordinance on snow blowing

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. reported the following:

2013 Water Fluoridation Quality Award –

The Minnesota Department of Health announced that the City of Albert Lea has been awarded a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Water fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the drinking water supply to a level which safely and effectively reduces tooth decay and promotes good oral health. The award recognizes those communities that maintained a consistent level of optimally fluoridated water throughout 2013. “Water operators in the City of Albert Lea continue to do a fantastic job of keeping fluoride levels right where they need to be for optimum benefits,” said Steven Jahnke, Director of Public Works. City Manager, Chad Adams stated, “We are pleased to receive this award as recognition of a great public health measure

for our community. I commend our City Staff for their hard work in implementing and obtaining such an important achievement for Albert Lea.”

Employee of the Quarter -

The Mayor congratulated Jim Osmundson for being voted Employee of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter of 2014. Jim’s nominator said, “In the last two years Jim has taken on a lot of new and different projects and duties. Jim never complains - just takes everything in stride. When Jim was first hired it was for Ice Arena maintenance; he has now taken on additional duties of City Hall, Theatre, Pool and the Freeborn Bank building. Jim works well with the public and other city employees.” Jim works for the Parks and Recreation Department – City Arena.

Mayor’s Medal of Honor Program -

New this year, the City of Albert Lea will be implementing a “Mayor’s Medal of Honor Program.” The program will honor outstanding achievements by citizens in 5 categories. Those categories are:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Services by Senior Citizens
- Human Services
- Good Neighbor
- Mayor’s Choice

Nominations will be taken throughout the year and will be due in the Mayor’s office by December 1, 2015. An awards ceremony will be held mid-December.

Nomination forms and more information on the criteria can be found on the City’s website, www.cityofalbertlea.org. Call 507-377-4330 for more information.

- Attended Port Authority Meeting
- Thanked everyone that has served as past Board Members
- Wished everyone a Happy New Year

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:

City Manager Adams reported:

- Attended several of the Blue Zones Programs
- Updates on the meeting with the seven highest water/sewer users within the City of Albert Lea, discussion was had on new MPC rules that may create more cost for the City of Albert Lea and the higher users.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

RESOLUTION 15-13 APPROVING CLAIMS

City Manager Adams explained that the attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Clerk to issue the payment of claims as presented in the Detail of Claims report.

Motion made by Councilor Anderson to approve payment of claims as presented for checks #54717 through #54897 in the amount of \$884,389.58, seconded by Councilor Brooks. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-13
included with these minutes.)

ADJOURNMENT 7:50 P.M.

Motion made by Councilor Marin, seconded by Councilor Brooks, that there being no further business, the Council meeting adjourn until the next regular meeting of the Albert Lea City Council at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, January 26, 2015. On roll call vote, all councilors voted in favor of said motion. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Mayor Vern Rasmussen, Jr.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2015

Council Secretary