

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA  
Monday, February 9, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS**

**APPOINTMENT TO PORT AUTHORITY BOARD**

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. requested that the council appoint Virginia Larson to the Port Authority Board:

**MOTION:** I will move to appoint Virginia Larson to the Port Authority Board for a 6 year term.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Randy Kehr, 1712 Plainview Lane, talked about the proposed study of South Broadway and requested that the council complete the study as proposed. Encouraged the council to include a portion of Main Street between Newton and Washington; businesses in that area have requested more parking.

Susie Petersen, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 1716 Bay Oaks, reported on the day at the Capitol as follows:

- Reported that the Boathouse in Albert Lea has served over 2,000 canoeists and kayakers this past year
- Water Trail encompasses both the lakes and the river
- Albert Lea Lake is the first lake as you come into Minnesota from Iowa
- Senators recognize the value of southern Minnesota Lakes

Mr. Bill Howe, 1642 Oakhurst Road, Chairperson for Advisory Committee of the Shell Rock River Watershed District stated the following:

- Attended the Senate hearing hosted by the Environmental and Energy Committee for Bill #266, which will designate the recently established Shell Rock River Water Trail as a State DNR Water Trail. The trail is 25 miles and begins in North Edgewater Bay and continues through all of the lakes system and into the Shell Rock River. This has been

approved by the Environmental and Energy Committee and it now goes to the Finance Committee.

Susie Petersen, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 1716 Bay Oaks, reported on the following:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Big Freeze, held in conjunction with Albert Lea Hockey Days
- Mayo Clinic is a major sponsor of this event
- Thanked the City of Albert Lea, Parks & Recreation Department, Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce, Fountain Lakes Sportsmen's Club, Fire Department, Fishing, Chili Cook-off, and many other events, organizations and people that helped to make this a wonderful event
- 1,256 lbs. of food was donated and given to the local food shelves and \$500.00 to the Salvation Army
- Thanked City Manager Chad Adams for his support and collaboration on events with the CVB.

Ryan Nolander, Albert Lea Economic Development Agency, 409 Crescent Drive, stated the following:

- Thanked the council for the study on the South Broadway and Main Street corridors
- Positive changes are taking place in economic development on North Broadway since the reconstruction of the street in 2013
- As an example, Albert Lea Economic Development Agency is working with City on 10 potential projects in downtown for 2015

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Minutes Of The January 26, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes Of The January 22, 2015 Work Session
- C. Approve Minutes of the February 2, 2015 Special Council Meeting
- D. Licenses And Permits (See Attached List)
- E. Resolution 15-24 Accepting Feasibility Report And Calling A Public Hearing For March 9, 2015 Regarding 2015 Neighborhood Improvement Project (Job 1550)
- F. Resolution 15-25 Accepting Feasibility Report And Calling A Public Hearing For March 9, 2015 Regarding 2015 State Aid Street Overlay (Job 1551)
- G. Resolution 15-26 Approving Two Handicap Parking Stalls At Hawthorne Elementary School
  - a. Resolution 15-27 Approving Administrative Lot Survey For Property Located At 217 Court Street
  - b. Schedule Joint Work Session Of The Albert Lea City Council And Freeborn County Commissioners
  - c. Resolution 15-28- Approving IAFF Fire Captain Union Contract

MOTION: Move to approve the consent agenda with the removal of I (Joint Work Session of the Albert Lea City Council and Freeborn County Commissioners).

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, and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-23-28  
included with these minutes)

## **PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **PRESENTATION OF CHECK FOR FOUNTAIN LAKE RAIN GARDEN AND UPDATE OF WATERSHED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS - BRETT BEHNKE, SHELL ROCK RIVER WATERSHED**

Mr. Brent Behnke and Judith Erickson, Lobbyist for the Watershed District, presented a check in the amount of \$17,000.00 for their contribution toward the Fountain Lake Park Rain Garden.

Mr. Behnke provided an overview of other Watershed projects and activities:

- Reviewing the storm water issues in the St. John's/Stables area
- Wedge Creek Restoration
- Update on dredging of Fountain and Albert Lea Lakes
- Hired a consultant to complete the engineering and dredge plan
- Albert Lea Dam
- Water Monitoring report
- Reported on rural septic program for 2015

Judy Erickson, Lobbyist for the Shell Rock Watershed, expressed her appreciation for all of the support for the Watershed Trail.

Councilmembers inquired about the timeline for the dredge and permits needed for the project. Also requested a report on the sales tax and encouraged more communication with the Watershed Board of Managers and staff.

### **REBECCA GISEL, ALLIANT ENERGY – PRESENTATION OF REBATE FOR ENERGY FEASIBILITY STUDY AND THE NEW HEATING, VENTILATION, COOLING AND BOILER SYSTEM AT CITY HALL**

Rebecca Gisel, representative from Alliant Energy presented an Alliant Energy Rebate check to the City of Albert Lea totaling \$23,789.62. The rebate check is for the replacement of the boiler, as well as the second half payment of the IPL's feasibility study. Ms. Gisel also provided an overview of other projects.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE EVALUATION OF THREE-LANE ROADWAY ON TH-65 FROM TH-13 TO 7TH STREET (JOB 1464)**

City Manager Adams stated that this item was discussed at the Work Session on Thursday and staff has had a chance to meet with MNDOT to discuss the possibility of a 3-lane on Broadway and a segment of Main Street. City needs to complete the technical study to evaluate access, parking, current traffic signals, detour routes, safety issues, etc. Mr. Adams stated that there would not be any roundabouts installed in 2015. Mr. Adams explained that on December 29, 2014 the City of Albert Lea solicited proposals for engineering services for evaluating whether a three lane roadway would operate safely and efficiently on TH-65 from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to Main Street. The scope of the project involved the following items:

- 1) Layout of a three lane with bike lanes
- 2) Evaluate Access, Parking, Safety and Traffic Signals
- 3) Evaluate the MNDOT Detour Route
- 4) Incorporate the Charrette Data
- 5) Correspond with MNDOT

The study is required to have the project done in early March in order to get the information to MNDOT to evaluate for incorporation in the 2015 project.

The City solicited and received proposals from three firms. The low proposal was from Bolton and Menk, Inc. in the amount of \$9,920.00. Reviewing the segment on Main Street from Newton to Washington would cost an additional \$2,000. The City of Albert Lea has received a \$5,000.00 grant from SHIP for this study. Staff recommends completing the final engineering analysis.

MOTION: I will move to approve the study as proposed with Bolton and Menk, Inc., in the amount of \$9,920 and to include the additional \$2,000 for the review of Main Street from Newton to Washington.

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, Olson, Anderson, and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Councilor Marin voted nay. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION 15-29 AUTHORIZING SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SCDP) FULL APPLICATION**

Mr. Jon Ford, representing the HRA, stated that this resolution would authorize the HRA to submit a Small Cities Development Program full application. Mr. Ford presented information regarding the program:

- Housing Rehab for 24 more units
- If the grant is awarded, this program will have completed over 100 housing rehab projects over the past 6-7 years
- Target area is from Hwy. 13, north of Main Street to Marshall Street, also includes some of College and Court Streets

- Total grant for each unit would be around \$4,800.00
- Hire local contractors and sub-contractors plus purchase all material locally
- Improved housing stock is very important to our community
- Thanked the council for all of their support

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. opened the Public Hearing.

Randy Kehr, 1710 Plainview, stated that he is in support of the Small Cities Program as it shows commitment from the community to improve the current housing stock.

Mayor Rasmussen called three times and then closed the Public Hearing.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-29  
included with these minutes)

**RESOLUTION 15-30 APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS FOR NW SANITARY SEWER AND WATER EXTENSION PROJECT (JOB 9432)**

City Manager Adams explained that on July 14, 2014 a Public Improvement Hearing for City Job No. 9432 was held and the project was authorized to proceed. The project involves the construction of a sanitary sewer lift station, watermain, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and bituminous and gravel street construction to service the proposed St. John's Lutheran Home Facility. The estimate includes the cost for design and construction oversight. This project would also lay the groundwork for infrastructure to a subdivision called the Stables Area north of Edgewater Park and provide future service to properties along Country Club Road. The design would also accommodate future extension of the sanitary sewer and watermain north along CSAH 20 to the West Plaza Street area. Staff recommends approving the plans and specifications and authorizing bidding of the project.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-30  
included with these minutes)

**RESOLUTION 15-31 APPROVING MN HIGHWAY 65 PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT HIGHWAY 65 AND HIGHWAY 13 INCLUDING SIDEWALK AND STREETScape ELEMENTS AGREEMENT WITH MNDOT (JOB 1464)**

City Manager Adams explained that this item would approve MNDOT Agreement No. 06772 with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation. The agreement details the City's share of the costs of bituminous mill and overlay, traffic signals, sidewalk replacements, ADA improvements, culvert work construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 65 from 0.5 miles south of T.H. 35 to Newton Avenue and on T.H. 13 from 0.05 miles east of Euclid Ave. to T.H.65 within the corporate City Limits under State Project No. 2404-41 and 2401-41. The estimated City portion is \$1,003,329.85. Long term the City is responsible for maintaining the sidewalk, performing replacement of bulbs, minimum maintenance of signals, and paying for the monthly electricity. This is consistent with past agreements. Staff recommends entering into the agreement.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-31  
included with these minutes)

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

First Ward, Councilor Schulte V reported:

- Ward Items – Commented that the city is moving forward on the St. John's Project
- Committee update - Reported on the HRA meeting

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 meeting

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported:

- Ward Items – none
- Committee update – none.

Fifth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items – Trucking company that was against roundabouts on Main and Broadway
- Committee update - none

Sixth Ward, Councilor Brooks - Absent

## **REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. reported the following:

- Attended Port Authority meeting
- Apologized to members of the Military for naming a new initiative, “Mayor’s Medal of Honor” and will be renaming this program
- Passed out evaluation forms to be completed by Council for City Manager’s review

Updates on Blue Zones Project

- Blue Zone Potluck Moai’s
- Winter Walking Moai’s
- First Blue Zone Worksite - Freeborn Mower Cooperative Services
- First Blue Zones Grocery Store - Albert Lea Hy-Vee

## **REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER:**

City Manager Adams reported:

- Legislative Day held at the State Capitol. Attending were City Manager Adams, Mayor Rasmussen, Jr. and Councilors Baker and Brooks. Work Force /Market Rate Rental Housing, and MPCA regulations pertaining to wastewater facilities were discussed.
- Consideration of a Tax Abatement Policy for the next Work Session/Council meeting

## **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

### **RESOLUTION 15-32 APPROVING CONTRACT WITH COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS**

City Manager Adams explained that the attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Clerk to make payment in the amount of \$322.15 on behalf of the City for a claim from Brooks Safety Equipment and to issue payment for filing the affidavit of official interest by the interested official, Councilmember Al D. Brooks.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-32  
included with these minutes.)

### **RESOLUTION 15-33 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 Baker to approve payment of claims as presented for checks #55038 through #55163 in the amount of \$773,466.50, seconded by Councilor Schulte V. On roll call

vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-33  
included with these minutes.)

#### **CLOSED MEETING – LAND ACQUISITION**

City Manager Adams stated that the purpose for the Closed Session is pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, Subd. 3(c); specific parcels to be discussed are 1329 Broadway Avenue South, 1344 Broadway Avenue South and portion of PID 31.318.0030.

MOTION: I will move to enter into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m.

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

#### **REOPENED THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. stated that staff was provided direction on parcel 31.318.0030 and to bring back more information on the possible land acquisition of the South Broadway parcels.

#### **ADJOURNMENT - 8:41 P.M.**

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Marin, that there being no further business, the Council meeting adjourn until the next regular meeting of the Albert Lea City Council at 8:41 p.m., on Monday, February 23, 2015. On roll call vote, all councilors voted in favor of said motion. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

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Mayor Vern Rasmussen, Jr.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2015

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Council Secretary