

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA
Monday, June 8, 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 Engineer Steven Jahnke, and City Clerk Shirley Slater-Schulte.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

Mayor Rasmussen, Jr. announced that the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board of Managers cordially invites the public to celebrate the completion of the Albert Lea Lake Dam and Fish Barrier, Friday, June 19, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. at the Albert Lea Lake Dam, 78755 180th Street.

Mr. Scott Erlandson, 704 Park Avenue, board member of the Shell Rock Watershed, also invited the public to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Albert Lea Lake Dam and noted that in case of rain, an alternate day is set for Friday, June 26th.

PUBLIC FORUM

Rich Newman, 1404 Penn Avenue, Albert Lea, MN stated that the lane change on South Broadway is going to be a huge mistake. Mr. Newman stated that the city is paying outsiders to complete studies when the city should be using the staff working for Albert Lea to complete the studies.

Milo Pechacek, 524 E. 4th Street, had questions about traffic counts on Broadway Avenue and Main Street, and stated that he would like Broadway to remain four lanes.

Alice Hanson, 612 E. Park Avenue, stated that she is not interested in changing South Broadway and expressed concerns about speed and lots of truck traffic on South Broadway.

Duane Vanderploeg, 1126 South Broadway, addressed South Broadway which is a main corridor and to narrow this road would be a mistake with truck traffic. He stated that all wide loads are coming down South Broadway. Mr. Vanderploeg commented that if the lanes are reduced on Broadway, traffic will increase on Broadway, Front Street and Garfield and this area is being proposed for the Land Between the Lakes area, and would be counterproductive. Mr. Vanderploeg does not support this project.

Tom Hestness, business owner at 1025 S. Broadway, and lived in this area for 26 years. Mr. Hestness stated that conducting a traffic study in January and February is not a good time of the year, traffic is much heavier during the spring and summer months. Mr. Hestness has several concerns about accuracy of the study. There are several issues on turning lanes such as Hardee's and the Bike Shop, issues with railroad crossing, emergency vehicles, and safety issues. Mr. Hestness is opposed to changing Broadway and encouraged Council to delay the vote on the project and do more research on this issue.

Lynn Hestness, business owner at 1025 S. Broadway, stated that the Blue Zones Project has brought us to the forefront, replacing the sidewalks will make this a walkable area, and encouraged the city to get bikes on the sidewalk and off the streets. Ms. Hestness stated that truck traffic is very heavy and encouraged Council to revisit and do more research on this project.

Tom Ferleman, 1109 S. Broadway, owner of Stevens Window and Hardware Building stated that the city has had a water problem in this area for the last 40 years and yet this project will not correct any of the water problems. Mr. Ferleman stated that the water problem is going to get worse with new construction and encouraged the council to vote no on this project and decide how to correct the water problem.

Stacy Palmer, 78689 180th Street, has worked with the Blue Zones project, is excited about more means of transportation on South Broadway, new option would be good for the city.

Gary Hagen, 501 Albert Lea Street, Hagen Trucking Service, stated that Council should make decisions based on community wants and needs. Mr. Hagen stated that he has been a trucker for over 40 years; trucks travel this road a lot and when you encourage children to ride on South Broadway it will be dangerous, what is one lost life worth?

Ellen Kehr, 1712 Plainview Lane, Program Manager for the Blue Zones Project, stated that she has attended many meetings regarding this project and would like to state the facts as she heard them at these meetings:

- Reliable studies show that this will reduce traffic accidents and personal injuries on South Broadway
- Redesign more than meets the traffic flows, with reduced speed, buffer zones, only two lanes of moving traffic; it will ease the parking and pedestrian crossing.
- Redesign is functional, safe environment for both motorists and non-motorists, friendly atmosphere
- MnDOT traffic experts have reviewed the entire study, they support it and it is a good choice for the community.
- Blue Zones Project is committed to this project.

Sheila Schulz, 1917 S. Shore Drive, stated that with the expert opinions on the studies she supports this project.

John Schulz, 1917 S Shore Drive, works for Mayo Clinic, stated that city has had experts work on this project and shares this perspective. City should embrace bike lanes and walkability.

Alice Englin, 411 South Broadway, SHIP Coordinator for Freeborn County, reviewed the Statewide Health Improvement Program, lowering costs through prevention and supports this project.

Jeff Nielson, 107 Willamor Road, has operated a business on South Broadway for the past 32 years, stated traffic backups during train crossings is an issue, left turn lanes are very confusing to drivers; truck traffic is much lighter during January and February than during spring and summer. Mr. Nielson stated that walking traffic is some but bike traffic almost none, I-35 detour traffic comes down South Broadway.

Mr. Randy Kehr, 1712 Plainview Lane, stated that economic development is critical to the community and change can be good. Minneapolis is ranked #3 and #4 with 118 miles on street and 92 miles off street bike lanes. Mr. Kehr stated that if Downtown Minneapolis can handle it so can Albert Lea, this is a good change.

Harold Kamrath, 326 Glenn Rd., talked about the new programming on the government channel and would encourage the city to televise the Watershed and Work Session meetings.

Steve Steele, 19475 660th Avenue, Alden, stated concerns about the parking, snowplowing, handicap spaces at the Government Center, etc.

Laura Lunde, 102 Lee Place, stated that she has participated on the proposed 3 lane changes on Broadway, encourages the city to become more progressive and look at things in a new light. The Lakes Association has made changes to Frank Hall Park, would like to encourage businesses that will enhance South Broadway. Ms. Lunde requested that Council consider making some changes to South Broadway.

Susie Peterson, 1716 Bay Oaks Drive, reviewed some of the streetscape projects and has seen a lot of positive changes and improvements to the downtown area.

CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes Of The May 26, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes Of The May 21, 2015 Work Session
- C. Licenses And Permits (See Attached List)
- D. Resolution 15-115-Authorizing Agreement Between Southeastern Minnesota Emergency Medical Services And City Of Albert Lea Fire Department For First Responder Service
- E. Resolution 15-116-Supporting Grant Application To Minnesota Energy Resources
- F. Resolution 15-117-Approving Purchase Of Equipment For Parks And Recreation Department

G. Resolution 15-118-Approving Administrative Lot Survey For Property Located At 1108 Allan Drive

MOTION: Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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 15-115-118
Included with these minutes)

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

CITY OF ALBERT LEA FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT FOR DECEMBER 31, 2014

Mr. Brad Falteysek from Abdo, Eick and Meyer, presented the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Management Letter as follows:

- General Fund
- Special Revenue Funds
- Debt Service Funds
- Capital Project Funds
- Enterprise Funds
- Reviewed Future Standards
- Unassigned Fund Balance

MOTION: Move to accept the audit as presented.

Motion made by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Olson. 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.

PRESENTATION OF ALBERT LEA ENTREPRENEUR ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM – ALEAP COMMITTEE

Pastor John Holt, 421 Ridge Road, explained that 23 attendees attended the Blandin Leadership Training in 2013; the groups decided that they wanted to do something for the community and they proposed the Albert Lea Entrepreneur Advancement Program (ALEAP).

The primary focus of the Entrepreneur Advancement program is to grow jobs and businesses in Albert Lea and Freeborn County. Pastor Holt thanked the council and everyone who will help and contribute to this program.

Savile Lord reviewed the Mission Statement and the five prong approach which includes the following:

- Training Program
- Mentoring Program
- Co-Working Space
- Shark Tank Concept
- Micro-Lending Program

Mariah Lynne and Abby Murray, co-founders of The Marketing Plant and also own the “The Outlet” located at 137 South Broadway Avenue. They explained that they have partnered with ALEAP and reviewed their plan for helping with this program. An open house is being held Tuesday evening from 6-8 p.m. at the Outlet for the ALEAP program.

The Albert Lea Economic Development Agency (ALEDA) and ALEAP Committee have been awarded \$20,000 in grant funding from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for the newly formed Albert Lea Entrepreneur Advancement Program (ALEAP). ALEDA is the fiscal agent for the grant; the funding will assist with hiring a contract facilitator for the mentoring/networking program

Council members had positive comments and are excited about the great opportunities for the City of Albert Lea.

REQUEST FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION REGARDING SPECIAL EVENT CAR SHOW

City Manager Adams provided some background on the request to declare the American Legion’s Car Show as a Community Event. Staff recommends approval of the declaration as it is a part of the community’s July 3 and July 4 activities.

Bob Mickleson, 532 Edgewood Avenue, Manager of American Legion, Post 56, stated that the American Legion Car Show brings many people into the City of Albert Lea. Mr. Mickleson is requesting an area on the street for food and liquor during the event. The area will be fenced off, and would seat approximately 48 people. Food and beverage will be served on site, tap beer, pop and water will be served in plastic glasses or cans. He is requesting that this event be deemed a Community Event.

MOTION: Move to declare the American Legion Car Show a Community Event.

Motion made by Councilor Anderson, 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.

DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Bruce Schwartzman, with BKV Group gave a presentation on the Components Master Plan Study for the Facility Comparison. Reviewed the City of Albert Lea Master Plan Implementation Schedule as follows:

- Airport Project
- Public Works Project Phase 1
- Fire Station Project
- Blazing Star Center & Site Development
- Existing Ice Arena
- Edgewater Bay Pavilion
- Public Works Project – Phase 2
- City Center Improvement
- New Arena at Blazing Star Center

BKV staff will continue to work with Ehlers for financing and moving the plan forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 15-119 REQUESTING MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MnDOT) TO INCORPORATE THREE-LANE ROADWAY

City Manager Adams explained that on December 29, 2014 the City of Albert Lea solicited proposals for engineering services to evaluate whether a three-lane roadway would operate safely and efficiently on TH-65 from 7th Street to Main Street. The work was approved at the February 9, 2015 Council meeting and the results of the study were presented to Council at their meeting of April 13th. City staff met with MNDOT on May 12, 2015 to review the study. Based on the findings of the study that a three-lane should operate efficiently and reduce crashes, MNDOT supports the three-lane roadway from 7th Street to Main Street. A neighborhood meeting was held on May 28th to seek additional input. Staff recommends approval to request incorporation of the three-lane roadway into the current MNDOT project.

City Engineer Steven Jahnke gave a presentation on this project as follows:

- Minnesota DOT Project
- Reviewed the timeline
- Proposed 4 lane to 3 lane
- It is a main corridor
- Level of Service by Mode, including car, bicycle, pedestrian, bus, etc.

- Reviewed 4-Lane and 3-Lane Operation
- Crash Summary
- Safety Benefits
- Reviewed Lane Widths
- Access and Parking
- Traffic Signals and Railroad
- Truck turning
- Detour Route for I-35
- 7th Street Intersection
- Reviewed the costs

City Manager Adams reviewed the Comprehensive Plan Non-Motorized Transportation Corridor's and Multi-Use Trails/Corridors in area. Adams explained that the City adopted a Comprehensive Plan Amendment which includes the South Broadway area in a redevelopment corridor and economic development.

Councilors had several questions and discussion regarding this proposed project.

Nancy Klema, District Traffic Engineer with MNDOT, explained that the project was only a mill and overlay project when the community requested that MNDOT review this new concept. Ms. Klema answered questions, provided information on the project, and noted the three-lane proposal is a safer option compared to the existing four-lane..

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-119
included with these minutes)

**RESOLUTION 15-120 APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR VIRGINIA PLACE AND 5TH STREET
RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (JOB 1557)**

City Manager Adams explained that on May 26, 2015 a Public Improvement Hearing for City Job No. 1557 was held and the project was authorized to proceed. The project involves the total reconstruction of Virginia Place from 4th Street to 7th Street, a distance of approximately 1,400 feet, and the total reconstruction of a 1,200 foot, four block section of 5th Street from TH-65 (South Broadway) to St. John Avenue. Virginia Place will remain the same driving width of 30.6 feet back of curb to back of curb from 4th Street to the east-west portion and approximately 27.5 feet from the east-west portion to 7th Street. Fifth Street is proposed to remain at 37 feet back of curb to back of curb from Broadway Avenue to Newton Avenue and 31 feet back of curb to back of curb from Newton Avenue to St. John Avenue. Work will include removal and

replacement of concrete curb and gutter, subgrade correction, granular base material, bituminous surfacing, watermain replacement, sanitary and storm sewer replacement, sidewalk replacement and the installation of drain tile. The sidewalk on Virginia Place is proposed to be replaced with sidewalk on one side of the street only. The plans and specifications have been completed and presented to Council for approval and authorization of bidding. The bid opening would be scheduled for July 7, 2015. Staff recommends approval of the plans and specifications and authorization to bid the project.

Motion made by Councilor Brooks, 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.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-120
included with these minutes)

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

First Ward, Councilor Schulte V reported:

- Ward Items – none
- Committee update - Library Board meeting updates, calls about South Broadway and grass complaints

Second Ward, Councilor Baker reported:

- Ward Items – Received a request for a boat dock at 817 Lakeview Blvd
- Committee Update – Reported on upcoming meetings

Third Ward, Councilor Marin reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Reported that Human Rights Commission is in need of members

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported:

- Ward Items – Grass complaints
- Committee update – none

Fifth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items – referred to staff
- Committee update - None
- Take a Kid Fishing – gave away 359 fishing poles; thanked everyone who helped with the event
- Requested City staff to research funding for existing business improvements similar to the downtown.

Sixth Ward, Councilor Brooks

- Ward Items – none
- Committee update – Port Authority update

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. reported the following:

- Update on Port Authority Meeting
- Thanked Commissioner Lee for all of his participation within the community
- Fri/Sat, Jun 12-13 – EDDIE COCHRAN WEEKEND – Cruise-in Social at 6PM on Friday night at the Green Mill, w/ root beer floats. The 29th Annual Car Show is from 8 to 3 on Saturday in the downtown. There will be music and a light show during the car show and awards given out at 2:00 Saturday afternoon. The public is invited -- come out and enjoy the food, exhibits, Downtown window decorating contest, and performances at the Marion Ross Theater!
- Sat, Jun 13 – UV SPLASH DASH – sponsored by the Rotary Club; the splash dash is a night-time 5k run where participants get sprayed w/ “glow in the dark” colored water. Registration begins at 8PM in the north Broadway parking lot. There is also a post run party with a DJ and more “glow in the dark” color.
- Sun, Jun 14 – FLIGHT BREAKFAST – sponsored by the Cloverleaf Lions; the annual flight breakfast is from 7AM to 12:30 PM at the Albert Lea Airport. The public is invited; adults are \$7, children 12 & under- \$4. Musical entertainment between 9 and 11 a.m.
- Wed, Jun 17 – ‘WIND DOWN WEDNESDAY’ OUTDOOR FESTIVAL & MARKET – this is the first WDW of the summer. The festival is held on Broadway Avenue in the downtown from 11AM to 8PM; there are activities for all ages, also various artists and bands performing, arts & crafts vendors, and food & drink from all around the region.
- Council Meetings are televised on Charter Communications Channel 180.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Adams reported the following:

Met with Senator Sparks to review the legislative session and unfunded mandates. Also thanked 2nd grade classes of Sibley Elementary and reviewed their participation on an exercise for the Skate Park, Fishing Pier, Splash Pad, and Climbing Wall at the Pool.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

RESOLUTION 15-121 APPROVING CONTRACT WITH COUNCILMEMBER SCHULTE V

City Manager Adams explained that the attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Clerk to make payment in the amount of \$537.50 on behalf of the City for a claim from Jones, Haugh &

Smith, Inc. and to issue payment for filing the affidavit of official interest by the interested official, Councilmember John Schulte V.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-121
included with these minutes.)

RESOLUTION 15-122 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 #56197 through #56347 in the amount of \$528,540.76, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-122
included with these minutes.)

ADJOURNMENT- 10:15 P.M.

Motion made by Councilor Schulte V, 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 7:00 p.m., on Monday, June 22, 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 8th day of June, 2015

Council Secretary