

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA
Monday, July 28, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**

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

Councilor Larry Baker was absent.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. presented plaques to the outgoing Charter Commission members Randy Kehr and Roger Jemming and thanked them for their commitment and service to the City of Albert Lea. Mr. Jamie Kyllö received a plaque but was not in attendance.

APPOINTMENTS TO CHARTER COMMISSION

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. presented the following names for appointment to the Charter Commission:

Reappointment of Mr. Randy Sternberg (2nd term)
New appointment of Doreen Dieser (1st term)

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Kevin Poppel, 75322 220th Street, had the following comments:

- Commended the City of Albert Lea for looking into Tax Abatement.
- Tax Abatement will benefit businesses and the community.
- Suggested that the process be simplified for city/county applications.
- City needs market rate housing; there is a need for different tiers of housing.
- New employees struggle to find market rate rental housing, major issue for new business.

CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes Of The July 14, 2014 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes Of The July 10, 2014 Work Session
- C. Licenses And Permits (See Attached List)
- D. Resolution 14-149-Accepting Donations Presented To The City Of Albert Lea
- E. Resolution 14-150-Authorizing Lease Agreement With National Vitality Center

- F. Resolution 14-151-Authorizing Funds Transfer To Establish New Special Revenue Funds
- G. Resolution 14-152 –Declaring Celebrate Albert Lea as Community Event

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolutions 14-149-152
included with these minutes.)

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST FROM HRA TO WAIVE BUILDING PERMIT AND LANDFILL FEES FOR 2014 SHINEFEST INITIATIVE

City Manager Adams explained that the Albert Lea HRA, Shine Fest, United Way and others have partnered to work with local homeowners for the annual 'Rocking the Block' week of giving project. This year, the collaborative has targeted four homes in the east and southeast sections of the community. Projects to be done will range from general interior improvements and repairs, to exterior painting, landscaping and foundation work. Additionally, the project will include four other homes that require a less substantial amount of work. HRA Director, Jon Ford, will be at the meeting to request that Council waive the building permit and landfill dumping fees associated with the project which are estimated to be approximately \$500. Staff recommends two weeks from the project end date to complete disposal of items at the landfill. State surcharge fees would still need to be paid and all building permit applications and inspections would still be required.

Mr. Jon Ford thanked the council for their help in the past. Mr. Ford stated that he is requesting to waive building permits and landfill fees for 2014 ShineFest Initiative. There have been many local businesses and over 200 volunteers for 2013 projects. They are planning to complete 8 houses in 2014. Updated housing study will be complete and released to the public in August.

MOTION: I will move to approve the request for the waiving of building permit and landfill fees for 2014 ShineFest Initiative.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION 14-153-APPROVING VACATION OF DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENT AT 907 EKKO AVENUE

City Manager Adams explained that a public hearing is being held to receive input on a request to vacate an easement at 907 Ekko Avenue. Kevin Poppel requested the easement vacation to vacate a drainage and utility easement along an existing property line, to be relocated as part of an administrative survey and to reestablish new easements along the newly created property line. Staff recommends approval.

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. opened the public hearing for vacation of drainage and utility easement at 907 Ekko Avenue

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. called three times and no one spoke to this issue. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. closed the public hearing.

Motion made by Councilor Anderson to approve vacation of drainage and utility easement at 907 Ekko Avenue, seconded by Councilor Marin. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-153
included with these minutes.)

RESOLUTION 14-153-AMENDING CITY OF ALBERT LEA TAX ABATEMENT POLICY

City Manager Adams explained the policy is being amended to include the use of abatement for professional services. The revisions outline the requirements and expectations of abatement for professional services. They include, but are not limited to, capital investment, minimum job creation, and wage requirements. The proposal also includes only providing abatement for five years on a sliding scale. In addition to professional services, the amendments include the approval process and reducing the application fee to reflect in house review.

Motion made by Councilor Anderson to amend the City of Albert Lea Tax Abatement Policy, seconded by Councilor Marin. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-153
included with these minutes.)

RESOLUTION 14-154-AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN TAX-FORFEITED PROPERTY

City Manager Adams explained that each year the city has the opportunity to obtain some tax-forfeited parcels. This year there are a number of parcels as listed below:

210 Main Street East
715 Washington Avenue S.
717 Madison Avenue
814 Jefferson Avenue
911 Jefferson Avenue
207 4th Street E.
1344 Broadway Avenue SE
1329 Broadway Avenue SE
1437 Frank Avenue

Staff recommends approval of this resolution.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-154
included with these minutes.)

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

First Ward, Councilor Schulte V reported:

- Ward Items – Need update on call from Kent Paulson
- Committee update – Attended HRA meeting – levy to remain the same as 2013

Second Ward, Councilor Baker was absent.

Third Ward, Councilor Marin reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – None
- Requested that a letter be sent to the Mayor of Austin offering our condolences regarding the fire at his residence

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported

- Ward Items – Referred ward item to staff
- Committee updates – Reported on the Park Board meeting

Fifth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items – Referred ward items to staff
- Committee updates-none
- Encouraged residents to drive safely

Sixth Ward, Councilor Brooks reported:

- Ward Items – none
- Committee updates – Attended the CVB Meeting

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. reported the following:

- Met with the Dr. Atewologun, President of Riverland Community College, reviewed the vision of the Community College and the changes that will occur in the near future.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Adams gave the following updates:

- City has received two Tax Abatement requests for Market Rate Housing
- Negotiations are continuing with St. John's
- Review of the Facility Master Plan is coming to a close and city will be seeking public comment.
- 3 Neighborhood Picnics are scheduled for August 14th 18th and 19th, starting at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

RESOLUTION 14-156-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 \$86.00 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 Anderson, seconded by Councilor Schulte V. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Marin, Olson, Anderson, and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Councilor Brooks abstained. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-156
included with these minutes.)

RESOLUTION 14-157-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 Schulte V to approve payment of claims as presented for checks #53153 through # 53283 in the amount of \$649,378.24, seconded by Councilor Brooks. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-157
included with these minutes.)

ADJOURNMENT 7:30 P.M.

Motion made by Councilor Olson, seconded by Councilor Anderson, 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, August 11, 2014. 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 14th day of July, 2014

Shirley Slater-Schulte, Council Secretary