

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA  
Monday, November 10, 2014, 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.

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. thanked Boy Scouts Troop 7 for being in attendance at the council meeting and working on their Citizenship and Community Badge.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Dylan Hunt, 1801 Bellview Lane, member of Boy Scout Troop 7, requested bases and sand to be added to the baseball diamond at Wedgewood Park.

Joshua Floyd, 1437 Margaretha Avenue, member of Boy Scout Troop 7, stated concerns about bullying within the school.

Paul Shea, 1003 Frank Hall Drive, stated concerns about parking on Frank Hall Drive near the Pickleball court and encouraged participants to use the parking lot across the street.

Carol Bertelson, 2215 Rowe Lane, referred to her letter which was sent to each councilmember regarding the reorganization plan. There were several questions and comments regarding this issue. Ms. Bertelson encouraged Council to take time, visit with employees, and treat the employee with compassion, dignity and respect.

Harold Kamrath, 326 Glenn Road, expressed concerns about the budget and money spent on City Hall improvements, and had questions regarding parking assessments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Minutes Of The October 27, 2014 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes Of The September 23, 2014 Work Session
- C. Licenses And Permits (See attached list.)
- D. Resolution 14-245-Accepting Donations Presented To The City Of Albert Lea
- E. Resolution 14-246-Approving Contract Between Albert Lea School District 241 And City Of Albert Lea To Provide School Resource Officer Services
- F. Resolution 14-247-Accepting Feasibility Report And Calling Public Hearing For 2015 Lakeview Boulevard Reconstruction Project (Job 1001)
- G. Resolution 14-248-Authorizing Joint Powers Agreement Between South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) And City Of Albert Lea

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 14-245-248  
included with these minutes.)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION 14-249 ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR 2015 STATE PROJECT 2404-41 PAVEMENT RESURFACING, MN HIGHWAY 65 AND TH-13 INCLUDING SIDEWALK AND STREETScape ELEMENTS (JOB 1464)**

- City Manager Adams explained that a public hearing was being held to receive public input on the proposed improvement. City Engineer Jahnke presented information on the design changes, streetscape elements, estimated project costs, and reviewed Blue Zones/Complete Streets; Main Street to Pearl, Pearl to 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Euclid to Newton Avenue.

#### **Summary of Improvements**

- The resurfacing project consists of a bituminous pavement mill and overlay on Hwy. 65 and Hwy. 13.
- The project will also include replacement of the sidewalk and driveway approaches within the project limits.
- Guardrail replacements and storm sewer and culvert repairs within the project limits.
- Sidewalk improvements will include brick pavers, trees and tree grates and decorative street lighting from Front St. to Main St.
- Traffic Signal Replacements – Margaretha Avenue, Main and Broadway, Newton and Main
- The City of Albert Lea will also be preparing a plan for litter receptacles, benches, and flowers along the corridor from Main Street to Front Street. MNDOT will need to approve these locations and these will be 100 percent funded by the City.

#### **Design Changes from Phase I to Phase II**

Because this phase of Broadway is on MNDOT right of way, some changes were made to the design layout of the project. Some of these changes are:

- No brick pavers in the crosswalks; brick pavers were moved to the curb vs. walking path. This was due to concerns about the brick being bumpy for wheelchairs.
- Less flower pots, benches, and receptacles. MNDOT must approve placement of these items on the right of way and will not be participating in the costs.

### **Assessments**

The project is a MNDOT project and MNDOT is responsible for the overlay portion of the project. MNDOT is cost sharing the sidewalk and other items as outlined in the draft agreement. The estimated project cost is \$5,865,258.93. The proposed assessments for the property owners are for 20% of the first six feet of width of the sidewalk and 50% for any width greater than 6 feet. There is also a parking lane which is proposed to have 40% of the cost assessed to the property owners. There have been two vaults identified under the sidewalk. Filling of these vaults is proposed to be assessed to these property owners. It is also proposed that the City be responsible for the City portion of the signals, lighting, and decorative items. The average assessment is less than \$2,500. Therefore, it is proposed that the assessments would be paid over a 5 year period per the assessment policy. Staff recommends approval.

### **Remaining Project Schedule**

- Early 2015 - Neighborhood Meeting (date to be determined)
- Early 2015 – Authorize MNDOT Agreement and authorize bidding of the project.
- February 2015 - MNDOT Bid project
- July 2015 - Construction Start Date
- October 2015 - Complete Construction

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. opened the Public Hearing.

Harold Kamrath, 326 Glenn Street, inquired about the timetable for this project. Also, had questions regarding sidewalks, holding ponds, lights and trees related to the project.

Thomas Ferlelman, 2208 Eunice Dr., owner of business at 1109 S. Broadway, stated the following concerns:

- Need to look at this project and make sure that it does not create more flooding.
- Requested a meeting with the City Engineer to review the project; the street needs repair but cannot create a water channel.

Carly Baily, 2124 Richway Dr., owner of business at 1018 South Broadway, also requested a meeting with the City Engineer and stated this is a blighted area and improvements are needed. Also asked about water issues; needs clarification on proposed assessments as her understanding from MnDot is that all assessments would be paid for due to the use of the right-of-way.

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

Councilor Brooks asked about the assessments and cost of the project. He noted that Kelley Plumbing just installed a new sidewalk in front of their business; Engineering will check on this issue. General discussion was held by Council.

Motion made by Councilor Brooks, 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 14-249  
included with these minutes.)

#### **AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT**

City Manager Adams explained that the bulk of equipment used for the City of Albert Lea Government Access Channel was purchased in 2007. The past year has seen a steady stream of equipment failures. DVD players no longer work; the hard drive on the Bulletin Board system crashed and the Compix CG works intermittently. Staff requested an update of the delivery system and has received bids from AVI Systems and Tierney Brothers. Staff is recommending the bid from AVI Systems in the amount of \$32,296.00. This will replace the current DVD delivery system with a 4TB hard drive system that includes Cablecast automation and Carousel Server Software to work as a bulletin board system. All equipment is HD compatible when an upgrade is required by Charter Communications. The upgrade would be funded out of the Administrative Services Fund. Staff recommends approval.

Councilor Anderson encouraged staff to contact Freeborn County and encourage them to use this equipment and hold County board meetings in this facility.

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.

#### **RESOLUTION 14-250 APPROVING AMENDED FINAL PLAT FOR ST. JOHN'S ADDITION**

City Manager Adams reviewed the final plat, trails and easements as proposed on the amended plat. The plat will dedicate the easements; the City will maintain the trails.

City Manager Adams explained that the amended plat includes new lot lines for the project that provide a distinction between the taxable and tax-exempt parcels, to coincide with the Tax Increment Financing District and ultimate TIF Agreement. The plat also provides more information on public trail easements and right-of-way. Staff recommends approval.

Motion made by Councilor Marin, 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 14-250  
included with these minutes.)

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

First Ward, Councilor Schulte V reported:

- Ward Items – updates for residents on St. John’s Project, received more phone calls on the reorganization plan
- Committee update – HRA meeting

Second Ward, Councilor Baker reported:

- Ward Items – referred to staff
- Committee Update – attended the Blue Zone Kick-off Event
- Thanked the community for supporting him through the election

Third Ward, Councilor Marin reported:

- Ward Items – none
- Committee Update – Human Rights Commission meeting
- Thanked the City Clerk for an excellent job in conducting the election
- Congratulated all of the candidates that ran and were elected to office
- Would like to hear from the people in favor of the reorganization plan.

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported:

- Ward Items – received more telephone calls regarding the reorganization plan
- Committee update – none

Fifth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items – referred to city staff
- Committee update - thanked the City Clerk for conducting a good election.

Sixth Ward, Councilor Brooks reported:

- Ward Items – received numerous telephone calls on the reorganization plan
- Committee updates – Blue Zones Kick-off event
- Thanked those in Ward 6 that voted in the election
- Thanked all Veterans for serving this country

## **REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. reported the following:

- Port Authority meeting updates
- Update on Ruby’s Pantry event
- Reported on Blue Zones Kick-off event

## **REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Adams thanked everyone that contacted him regarding the reorganization plan.

## **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

### **RESOLUTION 14-251 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 #54157 through #54304 in the amount of \$466,906.68, 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 14-251  
included with these minutes.)

## **ADJOURNMENT 8.02 P.M**

Motion made by Councilor Anderson, 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, November 24, 2014. 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 10th day of November, 2014

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Council Secretary