

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA  
Monday, June 22, 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 Attorney Lee Bjorndal, City Engineer Steven Jahnke and City Clerk, Shirley Slater-Schulte.

**ABSENT:** City Manager Chad Adams

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS**

**DONATION OF CANOE/KAYAK BOAT LAUNCH BY LAKES FOUNDATION**

Mayor Rasmussen stated that the Lakes Foundation has donated a Canoe/Kayak Boat Launch on Albert Lea Lake and thanked them for their generous donation.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Marv Schultz, 305 Bancroft Drive, had questions regarding the total cost of the Blue Zones study on South Broadway. Requested copies of the invoices and they showed only \$3,215.00 and would like to know the true cost of this study.

Susie Petersen, 1716 Bay Oaks Drive, presented an update on the 2015 Tour of Minnesota; 150 bicyclists spent two days in Albert Lea. They enjoyed pickle ball, paddleboats, canoes, kayaks, Pelican Breeze, and American Legion Breakfast. Ms. Peterson shared an email that she had received from a participant saying that the welcome they had received was the best in Albert Lea and are planning another event to be held in Albert Lea during March, 2016.

Harold Kamrath, 326 Glenn Road, stated that we should be getting more information on the Government Channel. Mr. Kamrath requested a report on the art work at Fountain Lake, fire truck, building at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and what fund will cover these expenses.

Jennifer Ruberto, 616 4<sup>th</sup> Street, had several questions and comments about the contents of the spray being applied for mosquito control.

Randy Kehr, 1716 Plainview, presented a check in the amount of \$938.69 to be used for the purchase of the “spine” for the Skate Park.

**CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- A. Approve Minutes Of The June 8, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes Of The June 4, 2015 Work Session

- C. Approve Minutes Of The June 11, 2015 Special Council Meeting
- D. Licenses And Permits (See Attached List)
- E. Resolution 15-123 Accepting Donations Presented To The City Of Albert Lea
- F. Resolution 15-124 Approving Amendment To Resolution 15-10 Establishing Rules And Procedures For The City Council Of Albert Lea
- G. Resolution 15-125 Accepting Easements For Public Roadway Purposes As A Part Of Tiger Hills-3<sup>rd</sup> Addition

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 15-123-125  
Included with these minutes)

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION 15-126 GRANTING APPROVAL TO DISPENSE WITH REFERRAL OF LAND PURCHASE TO PLANNING COMMISSION – 1116 JAMES AVENUE**

City Attorney Bjorndal explained that public hearings were being held to receive public input regarding the purchase of real estate by the City of Albert Lea and the sale of real estate from the City to Habitat for Humanity-Freeborn/Mower. Council acted on four separate resolutions in order to approve the transactions necessary for the City to both purchase and sell certain properties.

Habitat for Humanity-Freeborn/Mower owns a lot at 1116 James Avenue. Habitat was set to start construction of a home on this parcel in June, 2015. The City has a 10" sanitary sewer line which runs through the parcel and would be under the home constructed by Habitat. The line needs to be replaced and it would be difficult to reconstruct if a house were built on the property. Habitat is willing to sell the parcel to the City for \$8,000 which is the amount they spent on removing the structure that was there. However, Habitat would then need a parcel on which to construct a home. Through tax forfeiture, the City has acquired a lot at 816 West William Street and subsequently removed an existing house. The City has no current use for the parcel and it is not on the tax rolls. The City would deed the property to Habitat as part of the transaction with the James property. These transactions would help solve the sewer line issue, provide a parcel to Habitat, as well as place a home on the tax rolls and save City money on the sewer line.

Typically, the Planning Commission reviews real estate transactions and makes a recommendation to Council as to whether it is appropriate to transfer the property. The City Council can vote to dispense with the referral to the Planning Commission with a two-thirds vote if the transaction is not related to the Comprehensive Plan. Staff believes these transactions are routine and not related to the Comprehensive Plan.

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, Baker, Marin, Olson Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-126  
included with these minutes)

**PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION 15-127 APPROVING PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FREEBORN/MOWER BY THE CITY OF ALBERT LEA – 1116 JAMES AVENUE**

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. opened the public hearing.

Bridgett Fisher, 206 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW, Austin, MN, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Freeborn/Mower Counties, thanked Council for the opportunity and explained that they owned 1116 James Avenue and it was their intention to build a home on this site but due to problems with the sewer line, the decision was made to stop the project. She stated that Habitat for Humanity is in need of another lot and that the property on William Street is an excellent site.

Councilors had several questions relating to the project and thanked Habitat for Humanity for their work in the city.

Harold Kamrath, 326 Glenn Road, had questions regarding this property and requested pictures and a map of the site.

Mayor Rasmussen closed the public hearing after calling three times.

MOTION: Move to approve the purchase of 1116 James Avenue.

Motion made by Councilor Marin, 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. Councilor Brooks voted nay. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-127  
included with these minutes)

**RESOLUTION 15-128 GRANTING APPROVAL TO DISPENSE WITH REFERRAL OF LAND SALE TO PLANNING COMMISSION – 816 W. WILLIAM**

City Attorney Bjorndal explained that this resolution would grant approval to dispense with the referral of land sale of 816 W. William to the Planning Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Marin, 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, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-128  
included with these minutes)

**PUBLIC HEARING AND 15-129 RESOLUTION APPROVING SALE OF REAL ESTATE FROM THE CITY OF ALBERT LEA TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - 816 W. WILLIAM**

Mayor Rasmussen opened the public hearing.

Harold Kamrath, 326 Glenn Road, requested a map and location of this site.

Mayor Rasmussen closed the public hearing after calling three times.

Councilor Olson stated the property should go for auction to be fair to all interested parties wanting to purchase this property.

Councilor Brooks stated that there are other people interested in this property and it should be up for public sale.

Councilor George Marin stated that this appears to be a win/win situation.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-129  
included with these minutes)

**RESOLUTION 15-130 AWARDING THE SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2015A, IN THE ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$4,900,000; FIXING THEIR FORM AND SPECIFICATIONS; DIRECTING THEIR EXECUTION AND DELIVERY; AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR PAYMENT**

Mr. Bruce Kimmel, Senior Municipal Advisor with Ehlers reviewed the sale of the \$4,900,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015A. Kimmel explained that they received five bids with

Piper Jaffray & Company, Minneapolis MN, as the lowest bidder. Mr. Kimmel explained the credit rating of the City by Standard & Poor is “AA-.” Kimmel also explained that this resolution would award the sale of the General Obligation Permanent Improvement Revolving Fund Bonds in the amount of \$4,900,000 and provide for the payment of these bonds.

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.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-130  
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 – Encouraged staff to make sure that all manholes are at street level after construction.
- Committee Update – Reported on Heritage Preservation Meeting, Preservation Fair Event and Wind Down Wednesday.

Third Ward, Councilor Marin reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update - Reported that the Human Rights Commission is in need of members. Requested update on patching/paving in Chapeau area, also thanked all Board and Commission members that serve.

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported:

- Ward Items – Grass complaints
- Committee update – Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, JustPlay Festival, attended the Ribbon Cutting for the Albert Lea Dam.

Fifth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items – referred to staff
- Committee update – Airport Commission meeting, Young Eagle Flights event
- Take a Kid Fishing – gave away 359 fishing poles; thanked everyone who helped with this event.
- Requested that City staff research funding for existing business improvements similar to the downtown funding.

Sixth Ward, Councilor Brooks

- Ward Items – Water issue in alley, South Shore Drive - parked cars
- Committee update – Port Authority update, Ski Club event

## REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. reported the following:

- **Buckets On Broadway** – The Humane Society of Freeborn County will be collecting freewill donations on Friday, June 26 at the corner of Broadway and Main in the downtown. The event runs from 7AM to 6PM. The Humane Society appreciates every donation to help with local pets in need.
- **JustPlay! Festival** – A brand new family event in 2015 called the ‘JustPlay Festival’ is sponsored by the City of Albert Lea, Blue Zones Project and the Convention & Visitors Bureau. It is an experience for adults, teens and children. This free family event will be held Saturday, June 27 starting at 9AM in the Frank Hall Park area. There will be sports and fitness opportunities, water activities, the annual bike rodeo, arts & crafts, hobbies, food, music and more. A lot of “playing and fun!” There will also be discounted rates for the Aquatic Center and Pelican Breeze. Come out and experience the fun at Albert Lea’s first ‘JustPlay Festival.’
- **Freedom Festival** – The July 3<sup>rd</sup> Freedom Festival is sponsored by ‘Beyond the Yellow Ribbon’ and is a way to support Service members and families in the community. The Freedom Festival will be held in Fountain Lake Park from 5 to 11 PM – the public is invited.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> of July Parade** - Annual parade begins at 6 PM at the Fairgrounds and ends at Central Park. Firemen will collect for “Fill the Boot” project during the parade.
- **American Legion Car Show** – The car show is on July 4th from 4 to 7PM – cars are displayed on North Broadway and judged by owners and the general public. There will be food and beverages sold at the American Legion and a DJ playing music.
- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks** – The annual Fireworks Display starts at approximately 10PM.

**April Sorensen Memorial Half-Marathon & Relay** – July 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 a.m., the event is sponsored by the Live-Laugh-Love-Run committee - the run starts at the Country Inn & Suites, runs along scenic Albert Lea Lake and the Blazing Star Trail, ending in Hayward. This relay event is held in memory of April Sorensen. The Mayor also provides updates on Blue Zones, the Family Bike Rodeo and the Senior Center meeting.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT – No report**

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

**RESOLUTION 15-131 APPROVING CONTRACT WITH COUNCILMEMBER**

City Attorney Bjorndal explained that the attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Clerk to make payment in the amount of \$224.80 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, Councilor Brooks.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Baker, 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. Councilor Brooks abstained. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 15-131  
included with these minutes.)

**RESOLUTION 15-132 APPROVING CLAIMS**

City Attorney Bjorndal 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 #56348 though #56520 in the amount of \$3,050,883.44, seconded by Councilor Brooks. 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 15-132  
included with these minutes.)

**ADJOURNMENT- 8:15 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, July 13, 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 22nd day of June, 2015

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Council Secretary