

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA  
August 12, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Rich Murray, Councilors Rachel Christensen, Larry Baker, Jason Howland, Reid Olson, Robert Rasmussen, Brian Anderson, City Manager Ian Rigg, Public Works Director Steven Jahnke, City Attorney Joel Holstad of Lake National Law LLP, and City Clerk Daphney Maras.

**ADDITIONAL STAFF PRESENT:** Sergeant-at-Arms Public Safety Director JD Carlson.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** - Mayor Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. City Clerk Maras administered roll call.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Mayor Murray asked all in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MAYORAL APPOINTMENT**

**A. Resolution 24-144 Appointing Reid Olson to Fill the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Vacancy**

Rigg explained upon the resignation of 4<sup>th</sup> ward Councilor Sherri Rasmussen in June of 2024 the City is obligated to fill the vacancy and after discussion amongst Council members at the last meeting a motion was made for the Mayor to appoint a qualified individual to fill the 4<sup>th</sup> ward vacancy. After communication with individuals interested in serving the fourth ward, Mayor Murray chose Reid Olson to fill the vacancy.

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve the appointment of Reid Olson to 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilor, seconded by Councilor Howland. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Anderson, Rasmussen, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 24-144  
Included with these minutes)

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS**

**A. Oath of Office for Reid Olson to the City Council**

Clerk Maras administered the Oath of Office to new 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilor Reid Olson. Mayor, council, and staff welcomed Olson back. Olson spoke of his enthusiasm to have the opportunity to once again serve city Ward 4.

**PUBLIC FORUM** – None

**CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- A. Approve Minutes of the July 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the July 22, 2024 Work Session
- C. License & Permits

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve the consent agenda as read, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Rasmussen, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

**PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS** – None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Ordinance 24-126 Repealing Part II - Chapter 14 Elections Section 14.001 Through Section 14.004 in its Entirety (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

This ordinance is being repealed in its entirety as the city does not have a ballot counting board. The Auditor/Treasurers office handles all absentee balloting processes. Additionally, in 2022 the City of Albert Lea redistricted and, by resolution, reestablished the boundaries thereby annulling this ordinance.

Motion made by Councilor Christensen to approve as read, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Anderson, Rasmussen, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Ordinance 24-126  
Included with these minutes)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution 24-145 Authorizing Advertisement of Requests for Proposals for the Sale and Development of City Properties**

The Council approved acquiring 821 Jefferson Avenue on March 25<sup>th</sup> of this year (by resolution 24-062) and has since invested approximately \$30,000 into stabilization and repairs. The attached resolution authorizes an RFP for a potential housing re-development opportunity as well as blight mitigation.

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve as read, seconded by Councilor Rasmussen. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Anderson, Rasmussen, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 24-145  
Included with these minutes)

**B. Resolution 24-146 Accepting Donations as Presented to the City of Albert Lea**

The City of Albert Lea is generally authorized to accept donations pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens. Staff recommends acceptance of the following donations as submitted for Council review and approval.

- Tree: Godtland Family – In Memory of Ayden Brackey

Motion made by Councilor Howland to approve as read, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Anderson, Rasmussen, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 24-146  
Included with these minutes)

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:**

First Ward, Councilor Christensen reported:

- Ward Items –
- Committee Update – Spoke of the informational meeting held by the Shellrock River Watershed District. She implores the public to reach out to the DNR to let them know the importance of supporting the dredging project.  
She asks residents to be good pet owners and control their pets by not allowing them to run loose.  
Asks residents be considerate of others when riding eBikes on the sidewalks.

Second Ward, Councilor Baker reported:

- Ward Items – City Manager is looking into a ward item on Baker's behalf.
- Committee Update – Attended an ALEDA meeting last week where updates were provided on possible businesses coming to Albert Lea.

Third Ward, Councilor Howland reported:

- Ward Items – Still looking for clarity on weight limit on a street in the third ward. Looking into Children at Play signs for a resident to put in their neighborhood.
- Committee Update – Attended a CVB meeting. Enjoyed attending the Freeborn County Fair.

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported: Tonight, is his first night on council. He spoke of his appreciation for the opportunity to re-join the City Council and looks forward to contributing to future progress.

Fifth Ward, Councilor R. Rasmussen reported:

- Ward Items – Working on a Ward item.
- Committee Update - None

Sixth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items – Reported on the progress of the construction project on E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street and the railroad project on Margaretha Ave.
- Committee Update – Attended the budget meeting last week. Enjoyed attending the Freeborn County Fair last week. Reported the Relay for Life had another successful event.

**MAYOR REPORT:** Attended the Following:

- Thursdays on Fountain
- Hope Church event at Memorial Park
- Honor Flight program on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. This program raises money to assist veterans to

- fly out to Washington DC to visit the Veterans Memorial
- Freeborn County Fair
- 4H Livestock auction and reports a lot of money was raised to support the 4H projects.
- ALEDA meeting last Wednesday reports good discussion continues on potential projects moving forward.
- Relay for Life. Extended appreciation to staff who assist in these events, specifically Councilor Brian Anderson.

Announced upcoming events within the city and encouraged the community to participate.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

- Received notice that the recipients of the Workforce Housing Grants will not be announced until September
- Will be reviewing some upcoming TIF and Development Agreements
- The CIP is now wrapped up and does not predict any big changes
- Staff will present changes to Human Resource Policies at the next council meeting
- Planning Commission was cancelled due to staff illness. Rescheduled to August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

**A. Resolution 24-147 Approving Claims**

**(1). Presentation of Claims Over \$25,000**

The attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Treasurer to issue the payment of claims as presented in the Detail of Claims report. In addition, Maras displayed a list of claims over \$25,000 for the public’s viewing, transparency and education.

Motion made by Councilor Howland to approve as read, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Anderson, Rasmussen, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 24-147  
Included with these minutes)

Councilor Howland motioned for adjournment; Councilor Christensen seconded. 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 26, 2024. On roll call vote, all councilors voted in favor of said motion.

Mayor Murray declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:27 P.M.**

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Mayor Rich Murray

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Daphney Maras  
Secretary of the Council