

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA
January 27, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Rich Murray, Councilors Rachel Christensen, Larry Baker, Jason Howland, Reid Olson, Keith Van Beek, 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.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS - None

PUBLIC FORUM - None

CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of the January 13, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the January 13, 2025 Work Session
- C. Appointment of Marlys Steele to the Senior Center Board
- D. Resolution Accepting Feasibility Report and Calling a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM, February 24, 2025 for the 2025 Neighborhood Improvement Project (Job 2501)
- E. Resolution Accepting Feasibility Report and Calling a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM, February 24, 2025 for the 2025 State Aid Street Overlay Project (Job 2502)
- F. Resolution Accepting Feasibility Report and Calling a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM, February 24, 2025 for the 11th Street Reconstruction Project (Job 2503)
- ~~G. Resolution Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the City of Albert Lea on Behalf of its City Attorney~~ - REMOVED FROM FINAL AGENDA

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve the consent agenda with the elimination of item 5G under the consent agenda and 8C under new business, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On voice call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 25-018 through 25-020
Included with these minutes)

PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 25-021 Entering a Professional Engineering Services Agreement with HDR Inc. - Front Street Basin Project (Job 2507)

Rigg explained the City has received an \$885,724.21 Stormwater Resiliency Grant for design and construction of a stormwater raingarden type basin, including access and public use trails on City owned property located at 1300 Front Street. The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,027,789. The location of the drainage area is prone to flooding and consists of City owned parcels that are to be repurposed as stormwater detention basins. These parcels were donated to the city for the purpose of creating stormwater storage. Staff is recommending hiring HR Green based on a proposed fee not to exceed \$129,700.00 for professional engineering services to develop construction plans and cost estimate for the Front Street Basin design, perform wetland delineation, stormwater modeling with additional Geotech coordination, and ADA walkway and access improvements. Staff also recommends including approval of the option for an additional sum not to exceed \$44,000.00 for optional construction oversight. Total cost not to exceed \$173,700.00. Staff recommends approval.

Howland commented that he appreciates this project is moving forward as flooding has been an issue in that area. Although this will not fully eliminate the flooding, it will most definitely help. Additionally, a walking trail will be added in the same area providing beautification. He said, as discussed at the work session, this project is expected to be completed by the end of 2025 or spring of 2026.

Motion made by Councilor Howland, seconded by Councilor Christensen. On voice call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 25-021
Included with these minutes)

B. Resolution 25-022 Accepting Donations as Presented to the City of Albert Lea

Plans for remodeling the City Arena included building a small changing room for referees and hockey players in an unused corner of the skate-changing area outside the Nystrom Rink. Recreation staff members planned to build this room themselves, but Attig Construction offered its services as a donation. Geneva Lumber, Rink Systems and Albert Lea Electric have also offered supplies and services for the project at no charge. The in-kind donations total nearly \$6,500. In recognition of the donations, the 9.5 X 17-foot room will display the names of the donors, similar to a dasher board ad and similar to recognition at the City Arena for other donors.

Councilor Howland extended his appreciation to the businesses for their donations. Mayor Murray and Council Anderson echoed Howland's appreciation

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On voice call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 25-022
Included with these minutes)

~~C. Resolution Permitting Loan with Pro Manufacturing, Inc. – REMOVED FROM FINAL
AGENDA~~

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

First Ward, Councilor Christensen reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Has attended several board meetings including the Senior Center meeting. She welcomed new board member Maryls Steele. She also attended the Age Friendly Group meeting and described their goals. Attended the Blue Zones Leadership team where they discussed safe routes to school and relaunching the walking moais. The renowned speaker, Dr. Joseph Gaugler from the U of MN will be at the Albert Lea Fire Department this Thursday, January 30th to give a presentation to Freeborn County residents. He is traveling across the state this year delivering Alzheimer's related resources directly to Minnesotans in their communities.

Second Ward, Councilor Baker reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – None

Third Ward, Councilor Howland reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – None

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported:

- Ward Items –
- Committee Update – None. Thanked Public Safety for monitoring the depth of the ice on the lake. Mentioned the upcoming Wrestling meet.

Fifth Ward, Councilor Van Beek reported:

- Ward Items –
- Committee Update – He has been attending Albert Lea sporting events. Will be attending his first HRA meeting tomorrow. Will also be attending the Legion Riders meeting and Ride for Heroes.

Sixth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items – Has one Ward item
- Committee Update – Will be attending the HRA meeting tomorrow. He is part of the City Center Remodel Committee and spoke of the glaring security concerns as well as the need to address better use of space. He will be participating in the Polar Plunge during the Big Freeze event this next weekend.

MAYOR REPORT:

Attended the following meetings:

- ALEDA meeting discussing HRA Housing Project
- Noted several high school events and encourages everyone to attend
- Martin Luther King event at Riverland on Monday, January 20th.
- Albert Lea Robotics Fundraiser at the Moose Club. He thanked the Moose Club for all their support for local clubs and fundraisers

Mentioned the upcoming events and noted the events are also listed on the City’s website.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Working with agencies and staff related to housing projects
- Will be meeting with Public Safety staff regarding organizational concerns and create ideas and/or strategic plans to assist in proficiently
- Will be participating in the Polar Plunge at the upcoming Big Freeze event.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

A. Resolution 25-023 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 Anderson, to approve the claims, seconded by Councilor Baker. On voice call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Howland, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary’s Original Resolution 25-023
Included with these minutes)

Councilor Howland motioned for adjournment; Councilor Anderson 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, January 27, 2025. On roll call vote, all councilors voted in favor of said motion.

Mayor Murray declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:22 P.M.

Mayor Rich Murray

Daphney Maras
Secretary of the Council