



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 24, 2022
Council Chambers, City Hall
Hybrid format

Approved: September 14, 2022

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Dick Olsen, Matilda Novak, Stacey Bartholomew, Ray Kopczynski, Bessie Johnson, and Marilyn Smith

Councilors absent: None

Proclamation

- a. September 11 Remembrance Day
The mayor read the proclamation.
- b. Suicide Awareness Month, September
The mayor read the proclamation.

Second Reading of Ordinance

6:05 p.m.

- a. Vacation ordinance, Jefferson Street, VC-01-22

Councilor Matilda Novak said in light of the staff resignations at Helping Hands, the council should consider tabling the vacation until they hear from the shelter's board. Councilor Dick Olsen agreed, and said he wants to see a drawing of the proposed new building.

City Attorney Sean Kidd said the council cannot consider the building now. This ordinance is only for the street vacation. The City is the applicant, and the council requested it. Kidd suggested withdrawing the application or tabling it to a date certain, so another public hearing doesn't have to be advertised.

MOTION: Councilor Bessie Johnson moved to withdraw the vacation. Novak seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-4, with Councilors Ray Kopczynski, Marilyn Smith, and Stacey Bartholomew voting no, and Johnson II breaking the tie by voting against.

MOTION: Johnson moved to table consideration of the ordinance to the second council meeting in October. Novak seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-4, with Kopczynski, Smith, and Bartholomew voting no, and Johnson II breaking the tie by voting against.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the ordinance. Kopczynski seconded the motion. Olsen asked if it makes sense to vacate the street if a building won't be built. Johnson reminded the council that when

the ordinance was read for the first time, Kopczynski asked about the possibility of doing a variance for the parking, instead of a vacation. Kidd said there is no way to make that change in this motion.

Director of Community Development Matthew Ruetters said this ordinance is only about the vacation. This is right-of-way that the City will never use for a street. If it's vacated, it simply reverts to the adjoining property.

Olsen asked about allowed uses for the reverted property. Novak asked if the residents of the single-family houses will still be able to park their cars where they do now. Ruetters said if they park on their property, yes. If they park on the right-of-way, potentially yes.

VOTE: The motion to adopt the ordinance passed 4-2, with Novak and Olsen voting against.

Business from the Public

6:35 p.m.

Ilynn Winn, of Albany, invited the councilors to join Just Serve to volunteer in the community on September 10.

Kathryn Sandoval, a resident of Albany, spoke against the recent changes to the senior center. Gene Hiebert also spoke against the changes. Johnson II said he would ask City Manager Peter Troedsson to look into their concerns.

Tina Vanderburg gave documents to the recorder.* She said the Helping Hands shelter has plans that will destroy her drainage system and her rose bushes. Johnson II said he would ask Ruetters to speak to her concerns at the end of the meeting.

First Reading of Ordinance

6:54 p.m.

a. Unnecessary noise ordinance, AMC 7.08.050

Kidd read the ordinance for the first time in title only: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ALBANY MUNICIPAL CODE (AMC) SECTION 7.08.050 UNNECESSARY NOISE

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to have the ordinance read a second time in title only. Smith seconded the motion, which failed 5-1, with Olsen voting against. A second reading in title only in the same meeting requires a unanimous vote of the council. The ordinance will come back to the September 14, 2022, council meeting for an automatic second reading.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes

- 1) July 13, 2022, city council meeting
- 2) July 27, 2022, city council meeting

b. Adoption of resolutions

- 1) Accept storm drain easement, Henshaw Farms, SS-22-05 RES NO. 7131
- 2) Approve sewer and water grant, Takena Manufacturing RES NO. 7132
- 3) Approve sewer and water grant, CorrQuest RES NO. 7133

MOTION: Bartholomew moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Smith seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

Business from the Council

6:57 p.m.

Troedsson said seniors have not been “kicked out” of the senior center. The council voted in favor of changing the name to the Riverfront Community Center. The Parks and Recreation Department has to use its resources the best it can and be more inclusive as well. Including more people in the community center is a good thing.

Troedsson said there are still many things for seniors to do at the center.

Novak said a North Albany constituent has asked for information on how many and what kinds of police calls are related to the new low-income apartments on Hickory Street.

Johnson said her appointee has resigned from the Library Advisory Board. She asked the councilors to let her know if they know of anyone who would be interested in serving.

Olsen said he observed Ruetters talking to Vanderburg in the audience. Ruetters said he made sure Vanderburg knows where her property lines are. If she has further questions, he will be happy to answer them.

City manager report

7:16 p.m.

Troedsson said Community Conversations will resume September 6, at the Riverfront Community Center, after a hiatus due to covid. The conversations will be advertised on social media.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, September 12, 2022; 4 p.m. work session

Wednesday, September 14, 2022; 6 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Allison Liesse
City Clerk

Peter Troedsson
City Manager

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. Documents from staff are posted to the website after the meeting. Documents submitted by the public are available by emailing cityclerk@cityofalbany.net.*