

City of Brownsdale

Garden Spot of Mower County

Mayor – Jeff Foster Council Members – Gene Crabtree, Jan Ball, Becky Wollenburg, Carol Larick

City Clerk/Treasurer – Adria Vargas

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City Council Regular Meeting September 5th, 2017

(These minutes are unofficial until approved by the City Council at the next meeting)

Mayor Jeff Foster called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.; everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Jeff Foster; Council Members: Gene Crabtree, Carol Larick, Becky Wollenburg, Jan Ball

City Employees: City Librarian: Deb Smith (absent), City Clerk: Adria Vargas, and Police Chief: Carley Grunewald (absent), City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance: Gene Tindal, Ken Petzold, Deb Schuette, Darrell Ingvaldson, Ashley Hartson, Brian Gerhart, Mary Moritz.

August 1st, 2017, Minutes stood approved as written after two changes were made Resolution 2017-16 was mis-numbered and should now read 2017-18. A resolution to approve the address change at the former Brownsdale Elementary School should read as Ordinance 2017-2 not resolution 2017-17.

Floor Opened for Public Comment: The Public was asked for comment.

Gene Tindal asked the Council what was going into the old funeral home. The Council answered that the property is going through some improvement and will be turned into a Scrap Booking retreat. All Other Community Members had no comment and the meeting moved forward.

City Engineer's Report: None

City Public Works Report: Wayne discussed with the Council the updates with the control panel at the lift station. The project is moving forward, the panel is being built and will be installed the week of the 19th of September.

Wayne noted that during the high winds the night before that he and the Mayor were out removing a large tree that had fallen into West Main Street.

The Murals that were previously donated to the City needs to be seal coated to protect them from the weather. The project needs to be researched further before a decision can be made. The Council feels that if Clear Coat sealant isn't compatible with the type of paint then the City would be liable for the damage to the beautiful art work. The Clerk will look back in the minute books to see when the Murals were donated to the City. Research would also be done to try to find what type of paints were used as to not cause damage.

Wayne also mentioned that there is an updated inventory of the City Garage.

The brush dump continues to be subject to unlawful dumping the Council decided to have Tanya Rumsey make up some lettering to add to the original sign at the dump notating that it is under surveillance.

The City Council Meeting was suspended at 7:59 pm., to hold the 8:00pm Public Hearing on Brownsdale's Preliminary Tax Levy.

The Council after looking at the needs of the Community, discussing the need to raise taxes due to debt service payments and the City's need for street or infrastructure projects moved to raise the tax base 4 % for the general fund.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to set the Preliminary proposed tax levy collectable in 2018 to a 4% increase to the general fund the amount of \$126,880.00 and the debt service continue to remain as stated \$116,650.00 for a total of \$243,530.00 Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 5 yeas 0 nays. Carried.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:20pm. Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 5 yeas 0 nays. Carried.

The regular meeting reopened at 8:21pm.

City Police Officer's Report:

Available at the City Clerk's office upon request.

Hazardous Building report: Improvements have been substantial and this matter is tabled again until next month.

New Business

The address discrepancy for the former school property was discussed and corrected by Ordinance 2017-2. Council Member Crabtree read the first reading designating the proper City address to the former Brownsdale Elementary School property. The new address designated to the property is 105 Latham St. N.E. The Ordinance will be published in the local newspaper and the second reading will occur at the next City Council meeting on October 2nd, 2017.

The Council addressed the tree estimates from Morem Tree Service.

The Council had a short discussion that resulted that the Council would like to see other bids for the same trees and make that comparison at the next meeting.

The Council discussed the need to do some research on landlord and rental properties. The Council instructed the City Clerk to do some research on other small towns around us. Information obtained from the City of Albert Lea was passed out for review. This item has been tabled until the next meeting.

The Council discussed the state of the park pavilion. Council Member Larick stated that we have a beautiful park, with brand new very expensive playground equipment. The pavilion and the bathrooms

need repairs. The City has the money and we should discuss it. The Council after a brief discussion stated that quotes should be obtained to demolish the pavilion and the bathrooms. The Council discussed the size of the pavilion. Mayor Foster added that plans could be drawn up free of charge from Geneva Lumber if the construction materials are purchased there. Also, Mayor Foster added that due to the time of the year and the destruction in Houston due to the flooding that the cost of construction materials will be rising and that Spring would be a better time to discuss the project.

Brian Gerhart, Ashley Hartson, Darrell Ingvaldson discussed grant opportunities and the restart the EDA but most projects need City backing.

A motion was made by Council Member Larick to adopt resolution 2017-19 accepting a \$36.00 donation to the City Library from the Anderson Family. Council Member Wollenberg seconded the motion. 5 yeas 0 nays. Carried.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm, Council Member Wollenburg seconded the motion, 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Adria Vargas
City Clerk/Treasurer