

# City of Brownsdale

Garden Spot of Mower County

Mayor – Jeff Foster Council Members – Gene Crabtree, Jan Ball, Debra Schuette, Carol Larick

City Clerk/Treasurer – Adria Vargas

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## City Council Regular Meeting December 3rd, 2018

Mayor Jeff Foster called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.; everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Jeff Foster; Council Members: Gene Crabtree, Carol Larick, Debra Schuette  
Jan Ball

City Employees: City Librarian: Deb Smith (Absent), City Clerk: Adria Vargas,  
and Police Chief: Jon Smerud (Absent), City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance: Loren Swanson, Gene Tindal, Jenelle Parks, Jared Parks, Mary Moritz, Lynda  
Yates, Nicolee Holmgren, Ryan Dorenkemper, Richard Borcharding, Faith Snater, Paul Severson, Don  
Konken, Leah Konken

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes stood approved with two corrections to be noted, approved with  
those corrections as written.

**Floor Opened for Public Comment:** The Public was asked for comment. After  
Hearing none the Mayor continued to next item of business.

**City Engineer's Report:** None

### **City Public Works Report:**

Wayne updated the Council on the progress of the carpeting, the job to be completed on Tuesday. The  
LED lighting upgrade will be made on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Wayne stated that on the first snow of the year that the snow plow was broken near the pivot on the blade.  
Parts were ordered and it was repaired. While in for the repair some other damage was found and was  
welded.

Wayne stated that he received a bid to expand the City Shop by adding an additional expansion to the  
lean- to, by 45 feet and 8ft in depth, to store the remaining items that are outside. The Council had a  
discussion on whether to spend the money now on an addition or look into building a new insulated and  
heated shop in the near future. The Council discussed what items are outside on a seasonal basis. It was  
determined that some other arrangements could be made. The council will look into building a new  
insulated and heated shop in the future that could house all items. Mayor Foster stated that equipment

lasts longer when it is stored inside where it's heated. The Council instructed Wayne to start getting bids for this project.

**City Police Officer's Report:** Available at the City Clerk's office upon request.

Officer Smerud requested by letter, that the Council reconsider the Squad Computer once again. Although right now it is running well, several Sheriff deputies stated to Officer Smerud that if it would have to be repaired that the availability to parts may not be available. Then he would have to work without a computer for several weeks or longer. The computer in the squad is a vital piece of equipment for the job and the safety of the community. The Council instructed the Clerk to tell Officer Smerud to obtain the necessary bids for the next meeting. The council will take action at that time.

### **Old Business**

Wayne commented that he has received only one bid for the pavilion and has sent the plans to several contractors and has had no bids returned. Wayne will push to have bids by the next meeting.

Mayor Foster stated that he spoke to Natalie about the Clerk training under her to obtain a water and waste water license. All arrangement to be made between Natalie and the Clerk as to when the training dates and times are concerned. The Clerk will be compensated upon gaining the licenses.

### **New Business**

The Council discussed hazard properties it was determined that some Council Members go along with the Police officer to make a determination if other properties needed to be added to the list.

The Council discussed the trees in the fence line down at the waste treatment ponds. Tim Meier had some problems with breakage in his tiling from the trees. Some trees have been removed and a new section of fence was replaced. The previous spraying of the tress and roots at the pond have made little to no progress. Mayor Foster stated that this will need to be discussed in the Spring.

Jenelle Parks from the Library Board read a letter to the Council on behalf of the Deb Smith Librarian.

Jenelle mentioned about the small business expo that will be held at the Lutheran church on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jenelle also mentioned about the Penguin themed Family Fun Night at the Library on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Jenelle also commented about changing Shelley Vogel's status as Assistant Librarian instead of Sub and would like to ask that Shelley be given a .50 cent per hour raise. The Council responded the employee raises are up for review in January. Tabled until the next meeting.

The Council raised that several complaints were made about the street sweeping this year. The Council suggested that the streets be swept twice next year. This year was difficult to plan for an appropriate time and that Winter was early this year.

The Council set the 2019 meeting schedule as follows

**2019**

**MEETING NOTICES**

Notice is Hereby Given that the Brownsdale City Council will hold meetings on the **FIRST MONDAY** of the month at **7:00** pm (**unless otherwise indicated**); in the Council Chambers for the purpose of conducting City Business. The schedule for 2019 is as follows

**January 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**April 1st**  
**May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**July 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**August 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**October 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to accepted Resolution 2018- 23 approving the 2019 on site and off -site gambling license for the Brownsdale Fire Department and Relief Association. Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

**Council Member Larick made a motion to adopted Resolution 2018-24 approving the Annual Tobacco License for CHS of Brownsdale. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-25 to accept a donation of \$ 350.00 from the Brownsdale Area Businessmen’s Association for the Park Pavilion. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion, 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

**Bills were presented and signed**

**Public Hearing:**

**Council Member Larick made a motion to Adjourn the regular meeting at 7:59 pm to hold the Public Hearing for Truth and Taxation; certifying the 2019 tax levy. Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays Carried.**

Paul Severson commented that property taxes seem to be high this year. Mayor Foster stated that the City was only increasing 3% percent this year and that across all property owners the City would roughly receive no more than \$3200.00 dollars more in revenue from this change. Mayor Foster stated that most of the property owners that he has spoken to have had higher taxes due to a change in the properties assessed values. He also stated that the County Tax levy for properties increased, as did the School District due to the passing of the referendum. The Council urged Paul to attend the Truth and Taxation hearing at the Courthouse as stated on his property tax statement on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Council stated that he could call to have the County Assessor's office back out to the property to redetermine the property values.

Don Konken also commented on county and state taxes and the percentage that the City of Brownsdale receives is not adequate to enhance our own town. He stated that all our tax monies are going to DMC project and not being used to build bridges or repair roads and sidewalks in our area.

**Council Member Larick made a motion to adopted Resolution 2018- 26 certifying the 2019 Levy Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

**RESOLUTION 2018-26**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING CERTIFIED 2019 TAX LEVY**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Brownsdale, Minnesota, Mower County that the following sums are the certified amounts to be levied for the year 2019, upon the taxable property in said City of Brownsdale.

**GENERAL FUND – \$130,686.00**

**DEBT SERVICE – \$ 114,063.00**

Bond 2009- \$42,289.50

Bond 2012- \$34,200.00

Bond 2016a- \$37,573.00

**TOTAL – \$244,749.00**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

The Brownsdale City Clerk/Treasurer is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of the Resolution to the County Auditor of the County of Mower, State of Minnesota.

Passed by the City of Brownsdale this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2018

**Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adjourn the hearing at 8:17 pm. Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. Hearing stood adjourned at 8:17 pm.**

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer