

City of Brownsdale

Garden Spot of Mower County

Mayor – Jeff Foster Council Members – Gene Crabtree, Jan Ball, Vacant, Carol Larick
City Clerk/Treasurer – Adria Vargas
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City Council Regular Meeting Jan. 3rd, 2018

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, Jan Ball

City Employees: City Librarian: Deb Smith, City Clerk: Adria Vargas,
and Police Chief: Carley Grunewald, City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner
Public in attendance: Ken Petzold, Mary Mortiz, Loren Swanson, Jessica Bakken, Becky Wollenburg,
Deb Schutte, Brian Gerhart and son Dylan, Ashley Shiwarski

Dec. 6th, 2017, minutes stood approved as written.

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

Brian Gerhart asked the City Council about the cellphone service in town and if they had decided to do a cellphone tower. The Council responded that due to cost concerns that a tower would not be feasible at this time. The Council also stated that Verizon is still constructing a tower out on County Road 19 and that hopefully that will help. Brain also asked about the City website if local businesses could be listed like they were on the old site. The Council commented that a list could be compiled and placed on the site with no problems.

Becky Wollenburg stated that after a service call from Frontier that the internet service is bad due to damaged lines from woodpeckers. The Council stated that possibly the City could have someone from Jaguar come out to talk about what they could offer.

City Engineer's Report: None

City Public Works Report:

Wayne discussed the updates with the Council. He stated that the City truck that was auctioned brought \$800.00 dollars without subtracting the fees and commissions.

Wayne also brought to attention that he has only received one bid to date for the clean up of the Meier Lots. He will discuss at the next council meeting provided that he receives a second bid.

Wayne discussed a lighting concern from a city resident over by the Lutheran Church. There is a metal pole that belongs to the City but the fixture and bulb belong to Freeborn Mower. They have been called to look in bringing more light to this area.

Wayne discussed the Sewer repair on SE Pleasant St. The City was responsible to do large root growth through the main and the elbow. The majority of the street will need repair. The Council agreed that instead of patching that, a mill and overlay should be done in the Spring.

City Police Officer's Report:

Available at the City Clerk's office upon request.

Carley discussed a set of lights that have to be installed on the Squad. The Squad will be taken in to complete the installation. Carley also mentioned that a duplicate set were ordered that have been sold to Mower County Sheriffs department and the City should be awaiting a check for about \$600.00 which was the cost to the City.

Carley also mentioned that no word on the titles of the vehicles in storage.

Hazardous Building report: Improvements and clean-up have come to a stand-still at Vista Village. The Clerk researched with Minnesota Department of Health on the Licensure of Vista Village. Vista Village is licensed for the next full year. The Council decided to wait until Spring to allow further clean up. Issue tabled.

Old Business

The Council discussed the park pavilion. They reviewed the plans and had a short discussion on building the bathrooms into the structure as well. The Council decided to look into this option and continue discussion at the next meeting.

New Business

The Utility Services Partners made a presentation to the residents and the Council on the benefits of the insurance services of the external water and /or sewer lines and indoor plumbing insurance options to the residents of Brownsdale. Mailers will go out to the residents of Brownsdale on the above program which is optional.

After brief discussion, **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to go into Contract with the NLC Utility Service Partners. Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 4 yeas 0 nays. Carried.**

Upon the start of discussion of annual appointments. The Council discussed the acting Mayor position. **Council Member Larick made a motion appointing Council Member Crabtree as acting Mayor. Council Member Ball seconded the motion. 3 Yeas 1 abstain. (Crabtree) Carried.**

Council Member Crabtree made a motion adopting Resolution 2018-1. Council Member Larick seconded the motion, designating annual appointments. 4 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

Council Member Larick made a motion adopting Resolution 2018-2 accepting the 2018 fee schedule for the City of Brownsdale with the following increases to Water and Sewer rates additional \$1.00 dollar to water rates and an additional \$1.00 to Sewer rates for residential and business. The other charges approved were a change to the returned check from \$25.00 to \$30.00, billable mileage rate from .535 to .545. Council Member Crabtree seconded the Motion. 4 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion adopting Resolution 2018-3 accepting a monetary park donation in the amount of \$108.60 from the Red Hat Ladies of Brownsdale and a second donation

of \$50.00 from the Brownsdale Study club. Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 4 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion adopting Resolution 2018-4 granting employee participation in the Minnesota State Retirement systems deferred compensation plan. Member Ball seconded the motion. 4 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

The Council discussed employee increases for the year. After much discussion on percentages, wage equity and cost of living.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to grant .75 cent raises to all City employees. Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 4 Yeas 0 Nays

The Council discussed the open Council seat. 4 letters were received and passed to Council. The council decided that interviews will be held at 7:00pm, the evening of Wed. Jan. 17th, 2018.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Larick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 4 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Adria Vargas
City Clerk/Treasurer