

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

Correspondence: PO Box 336, Brownsdale, MN 55918 (507)567-2177 (507)567-2250-fax email:brownsdale.mn.clerk@frontiernet.net

City web site: brownsdalemn.com

City Council Regular Meeting October 1st, 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, City Clerk: Adria Vargas,
and Police Chief: Jon Smerud, City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance: Loren Swanson, Don Peterson, Rick Smith, Mary Moritz, James and Courtney Hatten, Ken Petzold, Jenelle Parks, Laura Anderson, Jerry Morgan, Gene Tindal, Brue McGowen, Scott Wiederhoeft (representing Roto Rooter)

September 4th, 2018 meeting minutes stood approved as written.

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

Ken Petzold commented that he's praying for the Council and all the hard work they do.

Bruce McGowan asked for clarity on building a fence on his property to keep his animals in and his neighbor's animals out. The Council commented that he is allowed a fence not more than 7 feet high without a permit and the fence can run along the property line with the finished side out.

Laura Anderson discussed the design of the Akkerman Plaza at the Park. She shared the design plans from Weis Landscaping with the Council. The Council looked over that plans and questioned Laura on who would be responsible for maintenance and up keep. The Council also asked who would be responsible for keeping the flag hung and at the correct height during declarations from the Governor's office. Laura commented that Akkerman Manufacturing would be responsible for all up keep maintenance and flag care. The Council also asked when it would be completed. Laura stated that it would be Spring before all the work would be completed. The Mayor and the Council commented that they can't wait to see it.

Jerry Morgan asked the Council about the work on the pavilion. The Council commented in response that the pavilion work is out for bid and more than likely will not start the work until the Spring of 2019.

City Engineer's Report: None

City Public Works Report:

Wayne commented that he had a bid for a John Deere tractor that would be suitable for mowing and snow clean up jobs. The Council saw pictures and worked through the itemized list on the bid as to the cost as a package and the pieces separately. Council Member Larick questioned if the tractor could be plugged in the warm the block until its needed for use. Wayne stated that yes it could be plugged in and that he would always have it plugged in when its cold. After much discussion Council Member Crabtree made a motion to purchase the 2001 John Deere 4400 Tractor for \$15,850.00 total package to include wheel weights, rear blade, skeleton bucket, and to trade in the old Ford 420. Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 5 Yeas 0 Nays Carried.

Public Hearing:

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to suspend the regular meeting at 7:29pm to hold the Public Hearing for the Amending Ordinance 2008-2. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays Carried.

The public was asked for comment. After hearing none Officer Smerud stated that he believes that the Ordinance 2008-2 can remain as written and that he can enforce MN State Statute 609.74 in remedy of the complaints about feeding, harboring or enticing in feral and wild animals into City limits of Brownsdale.

Officer Smerud asked that letters be drafted to the homeowners where the concerns are arising. Officer Smerud stated that he would take care of this matter within the next few weeks as his schedule allows.

Council Member Larick made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:35pm and reopen the regular meeting at 7:35 pm. Council Member Ball seconded the motion. 5 Yeas 0 Nays Carried.

City Police Officer's Report:

Available upon request in the Clerk's office.

Officer Smerud stated that after the upgrade of the Jet Pack Wifi that the Computer has been easier to access and work with. Although he stated that sometime in the future that the computer will also need to be upgraded. Officer Smerud stated that when it is needed that a refurbished computer for roughly a \$1,000 would be just fine.

Officer Smerud also stated that he would be going to Mower County training next week for gun recertification.

Old Business

The Council discussed a previous motion from last months meeting in regard to the Librarians increase in hours. The motion was rescinded. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to rescind previous motion increasing the Librarians hours to 32 hours a week. Council Member Crabtree seconded the rescindment of the motion. 5 Yeas 0 Nays. Carried. Council Member Schuette made a motion to increase the Librarians hours from 25 to 30 hours a week and to use the assistant librarian 5 hours per pay period to not exceed 70 hours per pay period. 5 Yeas 0 Nays. Carried.**

New Business

Scott Wiederhoeft from Roto Rooter of Rochester discussed with the Council severity of sewer and infrastructure problems throughout town. He also provided some extra materials that will be available in the Clerk's office. Scott also presented a new 4- year contract. Scott stated that there was a small increase from \$1.00 to a \$1.05 per foot. Council reviewed the contract briefly. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to enter into a new 4-year contract with Roto Rooter with an increase from \$1.00 per foot to \$1.05 per foot. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5Yeas 0Nays Carried.**

The Council discussed Fall street sweeping. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to contract Damel to street sweep at the rate of \$85.00 per hour. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5 Yeas 0 Nays. Carried.**

The Council compared bids on carpeting the Council Chambers, Community Hall and Clerk's office. After discussion **Council Member Larick made a motion to contract Slowinski Flooring of Austin MN. To carpet all three rooms to not exceed written bid amount of \$6,380.00. Council Member Ball seconded the motion. 5Yeas 0 Nays. Carried.**

The Council discussed Council wages. The last time this was discussed was 2004 and took effect in 2006. The Council stated that data was compiled through the Clerk's office of various other local cities around our area. Council Member Crabtree made some calculations stating that if a minimum of 9.5 hours were put in monthly that the councils wage is roughly \$10.52 per hour. He feels that the council as a whole should be compensated for the time spent working on various items and issues with the City. After terminating the discussion, **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-17to change council wages to Mayor to \$2,100 per year and Council to \$1,700.00 per year. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 4 Yeas 1 Abstained (Larick) Carried.**

The City of Brownsdale accepted a donation of \$60.00 from the Brownsdale Fiber Arts group. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-16 accepting a monetarty donation of \$60.00 to the park pavilion. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas 0 Nays. Carried.**

The City received an application for employment and it will be kept on file at the Clerk's office. No action taken at this time.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Larick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer

