

# 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 September 4th, 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, Lynda Yates, Ardis Jensen, Jenelle Parks

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes stood approved with one correction.

To include the agreement of the Council to allow for a memorial bench and landscaping on City Property at the park.

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

During public comment Jenelle Parks spoke on behalf of the Library. Jenelle praised Deb for all her hard work that she has done with the library and always going above and beyond. She proceeded to ask the Council to increase Deb Smith's library hours to facilitate planning events, grant writing and meetings. Jenelle asked the Council to increase hours by 7 hours per week bringing Deb's hours from 25 hours per week to 32 hours per week. Mayor Foster stated that he would like to see those hours as open hours for library patrons. Council Member Larick stated that she would request that the hours be worked at the Library and not for working from home. Council Member Schuette stated that would be helpful in Debs planning stating that its fair to compensate her for her time.

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to increase Librarians hours from 25 hours a week to 32 hours a week increasing it by 1.4 hours daily. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 3 Yeas 2 Nays. Carried.**

Don Peterson mentioned to the Council that the need for more affordable internet and telephone services is a topic of discussion that should be addressed by the Council. He stated that he read the franchise agreement and that it is not an exclusive agreement. Don would like the Council to consider having Jaguar to attend a council meeting to discuss further moving services to town.

**City Engineer's Report:** None

**City Public Works Report:**

Wayne discussed that there had been a sewer line break on California Street (home owner responsibility) and with that a street repair will have to be made. Wayne noted that the last similar project of the same nature was around \$600.00 dollars. He asked the Council if he should proceed and call Black Stone to schedule something before the weather changes.

Wayne commented that he researched the meeting minutes and the skid pad on the corner of the ADA cutout and found that at the time the work was done that Groh had none and the bill was deducted by \$288.00 dollars so one is not owed to the City. Wayne noted that Cummings looked at this piece of concrete while in town and stated that the corner of the sidewalk needs work, replacing the 6x9 ft. rectangle and adding the skid plate would cost roughly \$625.00 dollars and it would be completed still yet this season.

Ardis commented that she had read that specific meeting minutes and referenced the water shut off being to high to install the skid plate. Wayne commented that he would mention something to Cummings but that the job had been inspected recently.

Wayne brought to the Council the stumps that need removal along the boulevards. Wayne stated that the job has been hired out and will be completed before winter.

Wayne discussed the siren, he stated that for emergency purposes the siren was always in working order. He commented that the timer is in need of replacement or repair.

**Public Hearing:**

**Council Member Crabtree made a motion to suspend the regular meeting at 7:29pm to hold the Public Hearing for the Preliminary 2019 Tax Levy. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays Carried.**

Mayor Foster discussed with the council the planning for the preliminary budget and levy for 2019. After a short discussion, **Council member Crabtree made a motion to raise the general fund by 3% to an amount of \$130,686.00, debt service amount \$114,063.00 for a total amount for the Preliminary 2019 Tax Levy is set at \$ 244,749.00 Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas 0 Nays carried.**

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:41pm and reopen the regular meeting at 7:42 pm. Council Member Larick seconded the motion. 5 Yeas 0 Nays Carried.**

### **City Police Officer's Report:**

Available at the City Clerk's office upon request.

Officer Smerud started his report by stating that his first month on the road patrolling has went well. He commented "I've met a lot of great people". He also stated that the department was audited by the MN Post Board and passed with flying colors all policies are in place and all needed training has been completed. Officer Smerud discussed burning issues in town along with talking about stray animals and ferall animals. He stated that no ordinance can be found but the one should be considered to correct the issues that have arisen due to this matter.

Officer Smerud approached the Council that he has been having problems with the Police Department computer. Quote presented, but further discussion is tabled until next meeting.

Officer Smerud asked the Council asked the council if there has been any discussion in previous meetings about an ordinance for ATV, UTVS. It was asked if the drivers can use it to drive to the post office going here or there. Mayor Foster stated that there are no vehicles of this sort to be driven on Highway 56 or County Road 2 or on City sidewalks. It's to get gas only its quickest way in and out of town. There is no ordinance for this potential issue they can drive on County 2 or Highway 56 until they get caught.

### **New Business**

Mayor Foster along with the Council appointed Officer Smerud to be the Emergency Operations Director.

Recarpeting the Clerk's office and Community Hall was discussed the council decided to have Floor Co come and measure and give an estimate.

Officer Smerud explained to the Council his need for a locked filing cabinet and printer for his office. After discussion **Council Member Schuette made a motion to allow Officer Smerud to purchase those items to not exceed \$500.00 Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5 Years 0 Nays. Carried.**

The Council discussed Roto Rooter videoing of sewer lines was discussed that areas of concern on level of severity has not been noted. The Council also discussed the 5 year contract is due and would like to invite him to the next meet to present both and explanation of the videos and pictures and a new contract for services.

Ardis Jensen commented on the condition of the sidewalk on Highway 56, stating that she had read meeting minutes from 7/12 stating that a visit from MN DOT had occurred and they stated responsibility for replacing sidewalks along Highway 56. Mayor Foster stated that MN DOT will not do that until the Highway is reconstructed, at which time the City will also replace the infrastructure underneath Highway 56. Ardis also asked the City if that was in the strategic plan for the City for years down the road.

Council Member Schuette added that she feels some more trees on the south side of the park to shade the playground equipment. Council Member Crabtree stated that's it better to plant trees in the fall. Others also commented that possibly some Red Maples would be good as they go quickly and have a nice umbrella for shade.

**Bills were presented and signed**

**Council Member Larick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:10 pm.**

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer