

City of Brownsdale

Garden Spot of Mower County

Mayor – Jeff Foster Council Members – Gene Crabtree, Debra Schuette, Jessica Bakken, Rick Smith

City Clerk/Treasurer – Adria Vargas

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City Council Regular Meeting April 1st, 2019

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, Debra Schuette, Rick Smith, Jessica Bakken,

City Employees: City Librarian: Deb Smith, City Clerk: Adria Vargas,

and Police Chief: Jon Smerud, City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance: Loren Swanson, Jenelle Parks, Don Konken, Jan Ball, Mary Mortiz, Gene Tindal, Libby and Jason Barnes

March 4th, 2019 meeting minutes stood approved as written

Public Comment:

Libby Barnes asked the Council if they could merge 4 land parcels into one. Property Identifications numbers 22.001.0470, 22.001.0451, 22.001.0480 and (22.001.0420) Libby stated that her mother is moving in and that they have an 18- year child that will not be leaving home and other living arrangements will need to be made. Council Member Smith made a statement about the water bill and numbers of residences in a parcel. The Barnes acknowledged that they are aware of the water bill arrangements that are involved. Council Member Smith also commented that he had no problem combining the smaller parcels to the Café parcel but not all 4 together as one, commenting that this means commercial property is no longer open for business on Hwy 56. After discussion on the zoning ordinance, Council Member Crabtree commented, really then I could live and homestead or combined my properties and lived there too. I could have saved a lot of money over 20 years if I would've done that. Mayor Foster commented that he doesn't see smaller towns growing like bigger towns and cities. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to combine parcels Property Identifications numbers 22.001.0470, 22.001.0451, 22.001.0480 and (22.001.0420) with the latter being the finished ID Number. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 4 Yeas ,1 opposed (Smith). Carried.**

Public Works Report:

Wayne thanked Raughn Oakland and Mayor Foster for help with snow removal so he could enjoy his vacation. Wayne discussed with the Council the thought of trading in the broom attachment for “Bambi” the newer tractor to purchase a snow blower attachment that would be a better used item he could then blow the sidewalk at the park and also use it to clean between the building and CHS property as it would have a 59in attachment instead of cleaning it by shovel or using his own personal equipment. The Council told Wayne to go ahead and get a quote before the next meeting. This then led to a conversation about the bad portion of sidewalk along the park. This will be discussed when Cummings comes to town to do the other cement work at the park.

Wayne stated that he had spoken to Mark Husemoller about the demo process. The MPCA permits have been submitted and now we have to wait for the 10- day waiting period. The demo should start weather permitting no sooner than April 17th. Wayne also stated that the electrician disconnected all the electrical that is running to the old pavilion. Wayne was instructed to call Freeborn Mower Coop. to see about changing electric service to the new box.

Wayne also commented that he had been to Rochester to purchase the supplies to fix the curb stop in front of 303 Mill St N. and at the same time bought the supplies for the pavilion and also the curb stop for the repair on Fremont Street.

Wayne presented the change orders to the Council in the amount of \$3,454.00 with recommendations that no snow guards be added. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve the change orders to Walter's Builders in the amount of \$3,454.00 Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5 Yeas ,0 Nays. Carried.**

It was discussed that building permits with the exception of plumbing and electrical will run through the city and CMS.

Wayne discussed the poor condition of the siding on the front of offices and Library. He stated that the siding had been damaged further this winter when he accidentally pushed the bike rack into the siding in front of the library. Other sections are all battered and broken and very brittle. Wayne stated that he looked into getting some white grain siding to fix to reside the front of the building under the under hang and the corners. Mayor Foster stated that the siding and the roof were both done at the same time and the supplies were purchased from Freeborn Lumber. The Council instructed Wayne to purchase the supplies and replace the siding and corners as his schedule allows.

Wayne told the Council that Damel had sent a letter for Street Sweeping at \$85.00 dollars per hour no price change. The Council instructed Wayne to call and get on the schedule, also for Wayne to specify what they should clean up first. The Council instructed the Clerk to hang up a notice so that he community is aware and can move vehicles. Notice to be posted at the three or better notice locations and on the Community Facebook page and the City website.

Wayne told the Council that he saw the first Muskrat of the season at the ponds and that it died of natural causes.

A brief discussion about storm drain on Latham and Oak Street this matter was tabled until more information can be found.

Wayne explained what was found during the last attempt to fix the siren, Fox Electric opened another box that feeds into the main box and found the manual switch was loose and not wired correctly, many loose wires and wires had been sniped and taped. Fox stated that work wasn't done but a professional electrician. Wayne stated that the other times he was out it was always a more apparent problem and that they we really surprised to see what was found. Fox was instructed to fix all faulty wiring to code.

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

Officer Smerud stated that things have been going well. Town has been very quiet.

Library: Deb Smith stated that she had scheduled a healthy eating class. Deb commented that it went really well, that was partially funded by a Mayo Clinic grant. Deb also stated that the Author that was

scheduled for February in scheduled for April 18th. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday April 20th at 1:00 pm and will be at the park as long as it isn't muddy. Alternate location is at Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Deb also mentioned the kick off of the Farmers Market will start with the weekend of the City-Wide Sales which is May 3rd and May 4th. Deb also approached the Council for the purchase of some new tables and chairs for the community room. The Council asked that Deb do some further research to next month's meeting at which time more discussion can take place.

Old Business

Pavilion: See Public Works report.

New Business

The Council accepted a donation from the residents of Brownsdale for \$1699.97 **Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt resolution 2019-4 accepting a donation from the residents of Brownsdale for the amount of \$1699.97 for the use of purchasing picnic tables, signage or accessories for the pavilion. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

The Council discussed the condition of the poles and the Volleyball net. This is tabled until the park pavilion location has been established.

The Council also discussed yearly tree trimming. Gene Tindal commented that he has a tree that is blocking he school zone sign on his boulevard. The Council stated that they will look into this tree when the tree service is in town.

The Council discussed potentially having Roto Rooter come to town to camera and clean the storm sewers. The Council discussed that a bid could be received the next time they are in town to camera the sewer lines. Wayne commented that Roto Rooter was out and cleaned the storm sewer done on the Corner of Market Street after he was only able to snake it 6 feet out and found while it was inspected that there was a very large tree root blocking the storm sewer. That were cut out and cleared.

The Council discussed the policies and instructed Wayne to schedule the cleaning of the water tower with Maguire Iron. As prescribed by policy this year it is to be cleaned.

The Council also made changes to the Frozen water policy language. This policy is available at the clerk's office pending changes to be made.

The Council also made changes to the returned check policy. This policy is available at the clerk's office and pending changes to be made.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer