

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 December 2nd, 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(Absent), City Clerk: Adria Vargas, Assistant Librarian: Shelly Vogel(Absent)

and Police Chief: Jon Smerud City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance:

Mary Moritz, Robert Loewen, Jan Ball, Don Peterson, Loren Swanson, Martha Hauschildt, Michael Novitzki (KLM Engineering)

November 4th, 2019 meeting minutes stood approved as written

Public Comment:

The Mayor addressed the public for comment.

Don Peterson asked if anything was ever found out about the theft of the toilet from the Pavilion restroom. Chief Smerud noted that nothing has been found as to date. Don Peterson also added a comment about infrastructure repairs and road repairs. Mayor Foster stated that inspections of the sewer and sanitary sewer lines are done yearly and a third of town is done at a time. Mayor Foster also stated that a few road projects have been done over the last year and more to come in the spring along with some sewer repairs will also be done when weather allows.

Jan Ball noted that the Siren has been going off over the past few days. She added that possibly its frozen due to the weather over the last few days.

Loren Swanson asked if a red light should be installed or is required on the water tower due to being so close to the Austin Airport. Mayor Foster stated that Maguire Iron has never mentioned it and they would do so if needed. Loren also asked if anyone knew how old the water tower is. Mayor Foster stated that the water tower has been there since he was a young kid. Council Member Crabtree stated the same, as being at least 54 years old.

New Business

Representative Michael Novitzki from KLM engineering spoke to the Council about the City's water tower needs. He discussed various topics including contracts, inspection, and reports that are available to the City with over 300 pictures of the interior and exterior of the water tower and the inner containment tank. He went on to discuss sandblasting and painting, types of paint and epoxies they use and the life of those products.

He also made a comment about the need for having an engineer sign off on all plans it's a requirement. He stated that they have an engineer on site that provides those services. He stated that fines for doing work without properly signed plans can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000 dollars per day. He stated that older water towers like our is almost a scrap and that money is better spent purchasing a new tower stating prices north of \$600,000 dollars depending on the choice of tower and how much water the containment unit would hold. More like \$800,000 to 1 million dollars. He stated that he is working with Dexter now on a new water tower. He passed some references and other materials to the Council to look at. The Council thanked Michael for his time.

The Mayor commented after that an inspection was just done, the water tower is cleaned every four years and that the last time it was painted on the exterior was 2000. So that puts the exterior at 19 years and the interior was repainted and sealed in 1979 putting that at 40 years.

Public Works Report: Wayne reported that the cement is in terrible condition outside of the City Shop. It's broken in large pieces since this last snow cleaning. The Council instructed Wayne to get bids on heavy duty concrete to be completed in the spring.

Wayne stated that he has a few more Cardio Rehab appointments left. He noted that Raughn enjoys working a few hours a week to fill in when needed and that they worked together during the last street clean up and it worked well. Wayne stated that it would save the City at least 50 percent of labor and comp time if Raughn was able to help clean when he's available. The Council stated that there wasn't a problem with working a two-man crew, as long as they know about it.

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

Chief Smerud stated that he's been to nearly 370 calls this also included mutual aid calls, year to date and foresees it being over 400 by the end of 2019. He also stated that he has received the taser and is waiting for the certificate to arrive. He also stated that it's been a pleasure working in Brownsdale this past year.

Chief Smerud stated that snow tires are on order and they will be installed when the oil is being changed next week.

Library: Deb presented a paper report in her absence. Martha did comment on the stake-holders surveys and urged the Council to complete theirs before the end of December. Martha also asked that two members of the Council attend the January meeting. Mayor Foster and Council Member Bakken have agreed to attend. She also commented that during wage discussion that they also think about Shelly when making their considerations.

The regular meeting was suspended at 7:29 pm to hold Public Hearing on Assessing past due water, sewer and lawncare bills to the residents of Brownsdale.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to suspend the regular meeting at 7:29 pm to hold the public hearing on the 2020 tax levy. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

Mayor Foster asked if anyone was in the audience for the hearing on the 2020 Tax Levy.

Robert Loewen asked the Council what recourse he has, being that he has been paying taxes on his home for many years and the square footage is off by 300Ft. Mayor Foster stated that the County Assessors Office at Mower County Court House is in charge of that. Robert had stated that the had been there and they weren't able to do anything for past years. He asked if there was anything else that could be done. The Clerk directed Robert to approach the County Board as directed on his preliminary tax statement. Council Member Crabtree Assisted Robert with finding that information on his statement. The County Board meeting is to be held Dec. 3rd, 2019 at the Courthouse in the Board room.

The Council after Public Hearing and discussion the Council adopted Resolution 2019-16 certifying the 2020 tax levy as follows by the excerpt of Resolution 2019-16

City of Brownsdale
MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION 2019-16

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CERTIFIED 2020 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 2020, upon the taxable property in said City of Brownsdale.

GENERAL FUND – \$130,686.00

DEBT SERVICE – \$ 70,873.00

Bond 2012- \$ 33,300.00

Bond 2016A- \$ 37,573.00

TOTAL – \$201,559.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

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

Passed by the City of Brownsdale this 2nd day of December,2019

By: _____ Attest: _____
Mayor (City Seal) City Clerk/Treasurer

A motion was made by Council Member Schuette to close the public hearing at 7:40pm and continue the regular meeting. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

Old Business

The Council discussed the DOT joint snow removal contract. The Council discussed the one block that is cleaned on downtown Mill St. that is in front of local businesses and how much time and manpower it takes to push the snow and then come back and haul it away. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-14 entering into joint snow removal with the State of MN Department of Transportation. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The Council discussed calling in a payoff of General Improvement Bond 2009A. The 2009 A Bond total is \$171,257.00 regular payment due before 02/01/2020 of \$38,257.00 with interest and the remaining to be paid by wire or check before 02/01/2020 in the amount of \$133,000 and a \$500.00 bond resolution notice fee. Savings of interest of \$21,424.00. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-19 ,Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Bakken made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer