

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 February 4th, 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, Jessica Bakken, Rick Smith

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, Jared Parks, Ardis Jensen, Jan Ball, Mary Mortiz and Ben Simmons, Tanya Rumsey, Nicolee Holmgren.

January 7th, 2019 meeting minutes stood approved as written with one correction Deb Smith was inadvertently marked absent, but was present.

Public Comment:

Ardis Jensen spoke to the Council about the previous Brownsdale Development Corporation. She stated that she researched the topic and found that the City gifted some money more than \$14,000 in years past for a payment for a lot, brochures and a hearing for JOB Z. She went on to state that a City can't gift money to a corporation per state statute, its not legal. She feels that Hansmark was not a viable option to pay for these services. Ardis stated that the City should consider an EDA and that money should be contributed to that from levies that come to the City. The City then can apply for grants to make improvements to the City. Ardis also stated that in April she plans on going to a meet and greet at the Four Daughters winery to see how they are presenting grants for infrastructure. Ardis reiterated that the Council would have to develop an EDA and appoint either 3,5 or 7 members and have by laws to govern the EDA. She asked if members would have to live in town or could a business owner with a vested interest be able to serve as a member. After discussion about who was a member of the Brownsdale Development corporation to see what paper was saved to have more details to what arrangements were made. Council Member Crabtree as a nonvoting liaison in many years past stated that he would try to talk to either Phil Hatten, Jim Risuis, Maynard Akkerman or Steve Drennan.

Tanya Rumsey spoke to the Council about Brownsdale Fest. She stated that they would like to bring in new and bigger attractions this year, including a garden tractor pull. The Mayor stated that normally this would be done on a dirt track, we wouldn't allow anything to be ripped up. Tanya stated that this would be done on the street with slick tires that maybe it would leave tire track similar to burn out marks. Tanya stated that the company is fully insured. She also asked for the possibility of closing a few more roads down to accommodate the size of the event. She also asked about closing down a portion of Highway 56 to have a parade. The Council stated that to close down the Highway would entail many other entities and

that the side roads don't accommodate semi truck weight. The Council will not close Hwy 56 to have a parade. A parade route on a city street should be mapped and information given to clerk to discuss at the March meeting, along with any other information.

Public Works Report:

Wayne started by reminding the Council that he is going on vacation March 1st through the 10th. Wayne inquired what he should do with his cell phone while he's gone. The council told Wayne to leave it at home. Wayne asked who would be covering him for readings at the lift station and pump house and who would do snow removal. Mayor Foster said he would like a refresher on the Payloader and that Officer Smerud stated the he would also help. Wayne commented that if there is a significant snow fall that it takes sometimes 10 hours to clean up. Wayne commented that it is possible that They wouldn't have that amount of time out of their own jobs to finish. The Mayor also stated that Raughn Oakland may possibly come back to clean snow for Wayne. Wayne will follow through with calling him tomorrow morning to see if he would be available.

Wayne also stated that allow Labor Law posters are now available to be viewed in the council chambers. Wayne made the council aware that Phil Hatten is building a book shelf for the Clerks office for cost of materials only and is donating the labor. The Council thanked Phil Hatten and looks forward to seeing the work.

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

Officer Smerud stated that Mower County is upgrading software on their computers and that after talking in depth with the IT person from Mower County the county is upgrading to Windows 10. Officer Smerud will get quotes for an upgraded computer by the March meeting.

Officer Smerud stated that the Cigarette butts have been picked up at the bar. He also stated that the snow removal at Kvam's property had also been shoveled.

Old Business

Wayne commented that he has received bids for the Pavilion project. The Council after much discussion about the bids came to an agreement to hire Walter Builders. Council Member Crabtree made a motion to hire Walters Builders to construct the park pavilion at Gerbig Park for \$115,000 with both options to be completed by July 4th. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

New Business

Library: Deb Smith stated that January went well. Deb stated that there are any new things she is working on for the library for example YOGA, Healthy eating for both adults and children with the Dietitian from Hyvee. Deb started that she would be working on some grants and funding for these programs. She presented a handout to the Council.

Council Member Bakken commented that the Newly Elected Officials training in Mankato was great and very much worth her time. She had a great opportunity to network, she was surprised had seen many people she knew.

Council Member Smith stated that he also enjoyed the experience of the Newly Elected Officials training in Plymouth. He stated although he didn't see anyone he knew, he was happy to have met the Mayor of Rochester. He was able to meet new people from Cities whose budget are much bigger than ours.

Council Member Bakken addressed the Council on health insurance for the employees. The Mayor replied that when the former Clerk was still here they looked into this option and found that it was to very expensive to participate. The Mayor and Council Member Crabtree stated that the employee has the option to take out a Combined Insurance policy for something like sick and disability coverage that the City pays half of, and also are covered under Workmen's Comp.

Council Member Bakken also discussed the budget with the council. She stated that he City should have a more detailed budget. Mayor Foster said we tried that one year way back when. Taxes would be so high that we couldn't even live here. Council Member Bakken stated that funds should be held aside earmarked for road construction for example. Mayor Foster stated that its simplified here its small city government, you roll with what you get. You Bond for the bigger projects. If we need to have a more detailed budget the auditor would say that. Council Member Bakken agreed Simplicity is good but we need to look into the future that's good for us too.

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