

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 July 8th, 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, Chris Morgan, Jan Ball, Mary Mortiz, Bryce Johnson, Lowell Johnson, Robb Luthe, Richard Borcharding, Richard Schrantz (MyTech Frontier Communications)

June 3rd, 2019 meeting minutes stood approved as written

Public Comment:

Richard Borcharding asked the Council for a gambling license on behalf of the Fire Department to hold a raffle at the Fire Station. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to accept resolution 2019-07. Granting a gambling license to the Brownsdale Volunteer Fire Department to hold a raffle. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

Richard Schrantz from Frontier Communications approached the Council about pulling Cable through town from their office location out into the rural communities for DSL and phone service. He asked that if a permit was needed. This was out of confusion due to misinformation given to the Clerk about what they wanted to do. The Clerk was informed that they wanted to run Fiber Optic cable through town as if it was a new service and would need a franchise agreement to be able to do so. Richard understood the confusion and went back to let Frontier know that no permit was needed to complete their request.

Chris Morgan from Garden Tractor Pulls approached the Council about the map for the Tractor pull. After some discussion the Council agreed to block off Railway Street, Market Street and South Street on August 3rd, 2019 for Brownsdale Fest. This is pending receiving the insurance certificate by August 1st

Bryce Johnson directed some concerns to the Council regarding fair enforcement of City Ordinances. He stated that he was spoken to on several occasions be it for animal concerns and nuisance materials at the property that he resides in. He would like to see that the neighbor's animals are dealt with in the same manner. He noted that the neighbor's cat is at large and in his garage all the time.

Lowell Johnson also asked how much liability insurance would someone have to have to have a Pitbull. He referenced a recently happening in Mason City about a Pitbull and asked if the Council saw that.

Lowell also told the Council that he was unable to get to the gas pumps at the gas station the other day because someone is always parked on the sidewalk. The Council stated that we are a small community and that we need to give the small businesses in town some consideration. Gas N' go doesn't have much parking space to use for their business.

Lowell also stated that the Legacy Assisted Living is not full and the City granted them a million dollar tax abatement, and wanted to know what the City is going to do about filling that place up. The Council told Lowell that Legacy is privately owned business, and that there are contractually numbers that they need to uphold to validate the tax abatement. Lowell also stated the blind corners from side streets onto Highway 56 are very dangerous. The Council and previous Mayor Robb Luthe said that they have asked the MN DOT for many years for something to be done about this safety concern and nothing has been done.

Public Works Report:

Wayne reported to the Council that bids were in for 2019 weed abatement on City Property. The Council discussed what needed to be sprayed and what was sprayed last year and then went on to review the bids. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to accept the bid from Morem in the amount of \$1945.68 for a one- time application to the Park, Ponds including shoreline kill, lift station and the City Shop. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

Wayne told the Council that the pavilion is coming together. The work is being completed weather permitting.

Wayne discussed the need to address the state of the Christmas Decorations. He stated that he has replaced a lot of the bulbs and strands of lights. He also noted that the ribbons are in bad shape and need to be replaced. He was seeking approval to refurbish or look into some new items before winter approaches. The Council upon discussion decided to refurbish what we have yet instead of making another large purchase this year.

City Police Officer's Report: available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Officer Smerud discussed the timing of the siren. He commented that he had some concerned citizens that were not sure if the siren was going off as normal or if there was bad weather approaching. The Council along with Wayne discussed how the siren is programmed and how long it sounds and the difference between the tornado siren and the scheduled siren is different.

Officer Smerud asked if the City could clean up Grove Street, he has responded to two different instances of children sliding out and falling off of their bikes due to the excess dirt in the street due to the construction at the Pavilion.

Officer Smerud also reminded the Council and the Public that the new hands- free law for cell phones goes into effect August 1st, 2019.

Library:

Deb Smith stated that the Library has many activities scheduled for this summer and encourages everyone to stop out.

Deb also stated that the Library will be having talks in August with the County about Library budgets for the following year. Deb stated that she doesn't believe that the funding or budget will be much different for the upcoming year. Deb stated that as of the beginning of this next year she will be looking into different programming and a possible computer upgrade.

Old Business

The Council reminded everyone that the August meeting to Thursday August 1st at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Officer Smerud stated that he is using the new Squad laptop and its running smoothly but has yet to receive a bill from Mower County.

New Business

Wayne also mentioned that he received the necessary number of bids for tree trimming. He stated that he had contact Carr Tree Service and didn't receive a return phone call. He stated that he had spoken to Morem and that they were too busy to take on anymore work for this season. He then went on and presented bids from Johnson Tree service and Olson Tree Service. **Council Member Bakken made a motion to go with Olson Tree Service option 1 to remove 6 trees by the Fall of 2019, for the amount of \$4,400. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

Deb Smith touched on the subject of National Night out stating that things are coming together but that help is always needed and appreciated. Deb and Officer Smerud have an upcoming meeting to discuss bike safety as being a potential topic for the evening events.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve a change order to include two footing and CMU walls below grade for the amount of \$3,161.00 Council Member Smith seconded the motion . 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Bakken made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer