

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 November 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, 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:

Mary Moritz, Robb Luthe, Jan Ball, Jenelle Parks, Loren Swanson, Sharon Olson

October 7th, 2019 meeting minutes stood approved as written with one correction, Loren Swanson was not in attendance.

Public Comment:

The Mayor addressed the public for comment. After none being heard Mayor Foster continued to new business.

New 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. This topic is tabled until the next meeting.

The Mayor stated that the amount that was considered as reimbursement was very low and that he wants to speak to someone from DOT for reconsiderations of the contract.

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 pay off Bond 2009A Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

Public Works Report: Wayne reported that the picnic tables have arrived and been put together and are now for use in the pavilion. Wayne went on to report that the toilet has been replaced, the bathrooms have been winterized and locked for the remainder of this season. Wayne went on to direct the Councils attention to a bid and pictures of the inspection that was done on the water tower by Maguire Iron. After discussion the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

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

Officer Smerud stated that he had been looking into the theft of the toilet at the pavilion and has had no leads. He also stated that cameras should be placed outside the bathroom facilities due to the two incidents at the pavilion. He will look into bids for cameras and bring them to the next meeting. Tabled until December meeting.

Officer Smerud wants to remind people to watch for deer.

Library:

Deb stated that during the potato bar fundraiser noticed that the burners on the stove are not working well and asked the Council to consider purchasing a new stove for the Community Room. Council Member Smith stated that he had seen stoves at Lowes for around \$200.00 dollars. Council asked Wayne to get some prices on a new stove.

Deb stated that she had sent out over 450 strategic plan surveys and plans to go to the school during conferences and encourage people to participate. She also invited at least a few members of the Council to participate in a brainstorming session that is scheduled on January 9th, 2020.

Deb commented that she had been speaking with the City of Glenville and they purchased an electric sign, just like what the BABA had been looking at for around \$4500.00 dollars, she stated that the bank had made mention that they would possibly allow placement of the bank lot if this purchase was feasible.

Deb also stated that the Library is sponsoring the annual Small Business Expo that will be held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church on December 7th. Santa will be there and there will also be horse rides available.

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 Water, sewer and lawncare bills.

Sharon Olson went on to discuss with the Council the issues that she has been having with the tenants paying the water bill. The Council reminded Sharon that the bills are in the property owners names for that reason. Renters come and go, and the bills continue to need to be paid. The Council stated that no arrangements or payments will be made from the renters and that she should consider adding the water and sewer bill onto the rent and collect it that way and in turn pay the City. Sharon stated that she had requested that the water be turned off and wants to know what was done she said the Clerk had sent two shut off notices and public works was to shut off water. The Council instructed Public Works to go the house in question with Law Enforcement and exercise the hydrant to see if there are issues with the shut off valve. The Council commented due to winter shut off rules and possibility of damage to property the water can't be shut off. The Council stated that the bill continues whether the water is turned on or off, or whether there is usage or not.

The Council after Public Hearing and discussion the Council adopted Resolution 2019-15 assessing past due water and sewer and lawncare bills to the residents in the City of Brownsdale.

City of Brownsdale
MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION 2019-15

ORDERING 2019 ASSESSMENTS OF PAST DUE WATER/SEWER & LAWN CARE BILLS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS IN BROWNSDALE, MN

WHEREAS, a hearing was held on this 4th day of November, 2019, at which time all persons desiring to be heard were given an opportunity to be heard thereon;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BROWNSDALE, MINNESOTA: that each property owner on attached list will be notified and given till the 26th of November to settle their account or it will be certified to the County Recorder's Office to be attached to their property taxes as an assessment with an interest rate of 7 percent.

Passed by the City of Brownsdale this 4th day of November, 2019

By: _____ Attest: _____
Mayor City Clerk/Treasurer

A motion was made by Council Member Schuette to close the public hearing at 7:41pm and continue the regular meeting. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

Old Business

The Council discussed the City Clerk's office hours. Council Member Smith made a comment that the Clerks hours where set at 32 hours and week and with the change it brings the office hours to 36 hours. Council Member Bakken stated that she didn't see why its an issue. Council Member Crabtree stated that it was voted on and passed at the last meeting by all five members. Mayor Foster stated that he thought it was important to be open Fridays and that it should be as is, he directed the Council to make a choice. With that the Council left hours as voted on at the Oct. meeting to 36 hours a week.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to that was forgotten at the previous meeting approving two patches on Pleasant St and Johnson and Fremont Street in the amount of \$4,100 per patch for a total of \$8,200.00 to be done by Rochester Roto-Rooter. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer