

# 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 September 9<sup>th</sup>, 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: Don Peterson, Mary Moritz, Aaron Port, Jason Berge, Loren Swanson, Don Konken

**August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes stood approved with a correction made to reflect that the council met at 5:00pm rather than 7:00pm.**

### Public Comment:

The Mayor addressed the public for comment.

Aaron Port and Jason Berge came before the council with concerns about the Forced waterway easement that runs along their properties. Aaron Port stated that he would like clarification on what's going to be done and also the language worded in this easement. To what extent is this going to be graded, and where the actual measurements are being made from. The neighbors agreed that it would be measured from the pin. Mayor Foster stated that it would be gradual fall 5 feet drop, dirt and pile back 15 feet. No burms made the City to clean it out and then the responsibility of the landowners then to maintain it. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to contract Husemoller to clean out the easement to grade and remove trees as needed. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.** The Clerk commented that she had spent more than three hours at the Courthouse and the County looking for clarification and nothing was found in regard to written documentation on this easement. The Council instructed the Clerk to call Hoversten Law office at the appropriate time to discuss this easement and the new building covenants to be recorded to these properties.

### New Business

**Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-11 accepting a memorial donation of \$25.00 for the park pavilion in memory of Former Council Member Carol Larick. Council Member Bakken Seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

Wayne showed two different purchase options for ADA compliant picnic tables for the park pavilion. After discussion and showing some pictures the Council decided to use the monies donated for accessories on the purchase of two green metal lattice construction ADA compliant two ended picnic tables in the amount of \$1565.22. **Council Member Bakken made a motion to approve a purchase two metal lattice construction ADA compliant picnic tables for \$1565.22 cost to include shipping and handling. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

The Council after consideration made a motion to increase the wage of the Police Chief by \$1.00 per hour. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to increase the Police Chiefs wage by \$1.00 per hour starting immediately. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.** Mayor Foster stated that the remaining employee's wages would be reviewed in January.

The Council discussed paying off Bond 2009A in February 2020 in hopes to alleviate the tax burden on the community come tax year 2021. The Council discussed the steps need to call in a Bond. The Council discussed the incoming LGA and tax funds that would be due to the City at the end of this year and to use those funds pay off the debt service fund of 2009A. This discussion has been tabled until a future meeting.

**The regular meeting was suspended at 7:30 pm to hold Public Hearing on 2020 Tax Levy.**

**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 Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

Mayor Foster stated that the general fund was set last year at \$130,686 and the debt services which must remain untouched due to debt obligations, last year was a \$114,063.00. He stated that its time to lower taxes and maintain them low by paying off some debt. Mayor Foster stated that he believes that the general fund remains at \$130,686 and the debt service fund is set at \$112,558.00 its lowered some but not enough. A continuation hearing on certifying the 2020 Levy will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 7:30pm in council chambers. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt resolution 2019-12 setting the preliminary tax levy for 2020 at \$243,274.00 Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

*City of Brownsdale*  
MINNESOTA

**RESOLUTION 2019-12**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY 2020 TAX LEVY**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Brownsdale, Minnesota, Mower County that the following sums are proposed amounts to be levied for the year 2020, upon the taxable property in said City of Brownsdale.

**GENERAL FUND – \$130,686.00**

**DEBT SERVICE – \$ 112,588.00**

Bond 2009A- \$41,715.00

Bond 2012A- \$33,300.00

Bond 2016A- \$37,573.00

**TOTAL – \$243,274.00**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the continuation hearing will be held on December 2nd, 2019 at 7:30pm at the monthly City Council meeting.

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

Passed by the City of Brownsdale this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor (City Seal) City Clerk/Treasurer

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to close the 2020 tax levy hearing at 7:43pm. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried.**

### **Public Works Report:**

Wayne and the Council also discussed an extra light to be placed at the park illuminating the park equipment from behind due to some recent graffiti. Wayne also stated that he plans on moving/turning an already existing fixture to light another area there, that is also dark. Wayne stated that there is already an extra pole and light fixture it would be just the cost of having it placed and wired. The Council agreed that this should be completed as time allows. Wayne secured one bid from Fox Electric in the amount of \$1825.00. He stated that he reached out to another electrician, but no bid was made. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to contract Fox Electric to add a light on the south side of the playground in the amount of \$1825.00. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

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

Officer Smerud reminded the Council and public in attendance that school has started and to slow down and watch for kids.

Officer Smerud stated National Night Out had a great turn out. Lots of food was served. Deb smith stated that at least 160 hotdogs, 120 cookies and chips and 100 water bottles were passed out during the event.

Officer Smerud discussed the Squad that recently had repairs made for a recall, the oil has been changed and the mileage is roughly at 22,000 miles and rising.

### **Library:**

Deb stated that the Library has a newsletter out that give details for fun events at the library. The Newsletter also describes the strategic planning that SELCO is hosting. Surveys will go out to patrons, the stakeholders which would be the Council and public. SELCO will collect the information and then report on it. Deb stated that she thinks it will help. She's been at the library 16 years and feels that it will bring new fresh ideas to keep things going at the library.

### **Old Business**

The Council discussed tablets for meeting use. Council Member Bakken brought more research to the Council about a less expensive I Pad option of \$249.00 per unit, that could be ordered off Amazon along with a two pack of screen protectors for around \$10.00 dollars and cases ranging from \$10.00 and up. Council Member Smith stated, “what happened to the idea of they pay for their own?” Council Member Smith stated that he doesn’t want one. Mayor Foster stated, “I’m old school but if you’re into it, I’m fine with it.” Council Member Crabtree said he’d want one, if we can’t agree I’d buy them and donate them. The public commented, Don Konken asked the City if they had seen what had happened recently on TV about a City having to pay a ransom to have their own information unlocked. This City was harassed and they were using spyware on them. It cost them almost 3 million dollars. Don Peterson asked if the City Council would limit what information would be out there on the tablets? Mayor Foster stated no account numbers only things relevant to the Council meetings would be on the tablets. **Council Member Bakken made a motion to purchase 4 iPads with screen protectors and cases not to exceed \$1,500.00. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 3Yeas, 2 Nays (Foster, Smith). Carried.**

Wayne and the Council discussed cracks and chip sealing in the Spring of 2020. On the previous discussed roads noted in the August meeting minutes. Wayne was instructed to purchase some crack sealant and seal a few areas around town weather permitting and to call and scheduled to be on the roster for chip sealing in the Spring of 2020.

#### **Bills were presented and signed**

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:37 pm.**

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer