

# 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 April 13th, 2020

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, Assistant Librarian: Shelley Vogel (Absent), Police Chief: Jon Smerud, City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner (Absent)

Public in attendance: Jenelle Parks, Loren Swanson

**March 2nd, 2020 meeting minutes stood approved as written.**

### **Public Comment:**

Loren Swanson conversed with the Council about the sewer issues at his home. They discussed the work, scope and findings after the job was finished. Loren also stated that the Manhole cover on 56 looks to be in poor condition and asked if at some point if that could be replaced to one that doesn't have a hole. He believes that all the sand that was in the sewer had infiltrated into the sewer through the cover. The new styles have no holes to allow for infiltration of that kind. The Council directed the Clerk to speak to Public Works about having that piece of sewer televised the next time Roto Rooter is in town. The Mayor told the council this wasn't even in the sewer maps.

### **Old Business**

The Mayor stated to the Council that the drive around ( in separate vehicles and by phone) for chip seal and crack sealing would be the end of this week pending schedules.

The Mayor also stated that there is an issue with some drain tiling at the pond structure that belongs to adjacent farmer. Husemoller was scheduled to come out late fall but couldn't make it due to weather, he was also scheduled to come out today, but the weather was an issue again. The tree in question along with some others will be taken out pending weather.

### **New Business**

Council Member Crabtree commented that while he was out cleaning snow at the Legacy of Brownsdale, that he heard the County plow hit the shut off near the Fire Hydrant and wanted to make Wayne aware so that he could look to see if there was damage or if it was needing some maintenance.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to approve the Frontier Lounge's 2020 Liquor License in the amount of \$1200.00 for On-sale, Off sale and Sunday sales, Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve 2020 Cigarette License for GAS N' GO of Brownsdale. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

The Council also discussed the need for Social Distancing between co workers at the City Clerks office and asked that all foot traffic be limited to the Clerks office on a need basis or emergency basis only as the Clerk has obtained a Doctors note stating that she is in a high risk category for complications to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to approve the opening of a Shell Gas card for City use, Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

**Public Works Report:** The Public Works report was held this month as to adhere to the Social Distancing guidelines given by the CDC and MDH.

**City Police Officer's Report:** available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Officer Smerud asked the Council if he could push the Police agenda to next months meeting.

**Library:**

Deb presented the Council with a formal request to set up a reservation calendar for the pavilion. She also requested a shatter proof marquee board to be placed up at the pavilion to make reservations known to the public, uses would also include community events. The council also discussed fee- based rental vs. reservation and decided to proceed with unpaid reservation. The Council also discussed opening the restrooms for the Summer in light of the recent vandalism and theft. The Council touched briefly on the thoughts of reopening the restrooms and would make a formal decision next month. They also asked if a bid could be secured by Custom Alarm for a security camera system, like they are doing in Hayfield at their pavilions.

The Council also discussed the library with the pandemic being essential vs. nonessential. The Council decided that due to free Wifi usage from outside the building, the need for curbside resources for shut ins and homeschooled children and over-all mental health of the community the City Council would deem the Library an essential community resource. The Library will remain closed to the public but could email and phone for necessary materials. Council Member Bakken made a motion to deem Brownsdale Grace Gillette Library an essential service. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

**Bills were presented and signed**

**Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 7:53pm.**

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer