

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 August 10th, 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 (Absent), City Clerk: Adria Vargas, Assistant Librarian: Shelley Vogel (Absent), Police Chief: Jon Smerud, City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance: Jenelle Parks (Mower County Independent), Loren Swanson, Robb Luthe, Richard Borcharding, Kris Maier,

July 6th, 2020 meeting minutes approved with correction (Mayor Foster would speak to Brad Peterson about the curb cut out on California Street.)

Public Comment:

Robb Luthe spoke to the Council about some of his concerns. Unlicensed vehicles in City limits, cigarette butts strewn in front of the bar the weeds growing between the bar and the old barber shop, the lumberyard and the 5th wheel camper set up down there and the clutter at the old meat locker. He stated that when people drive through town they see all of this and it looks trashy. The Council and Officer Smerud stated that he is working on unlicensed vehicles and a lot of people just don't have the money right now, but that its being worked on. The 5th wheel camper can sit on commercial property by ordinance. This gentleman is working and is planning on within in the next year returning to Alabama. Robb stated that many of these places need to be spoke to or a letter written to have them clean up their properties.

The Council discussed the grassy area in question between Fremont Street and Cedar Street that runs through the trailer court. The Clerk reported to the Council that this property belongs to the City right of way and can be handled accordingly.

Old Business

The Council discussed chickens, this topic has been tabled for future discussion.

New Business

Kris Maier from C 37 Capital were she manages mobile home parks, came before the Council to seek some assistance for some projects at Vista Village. In the light of this firm possibly purchasing the park, she stated that they plan to clean up and remove all but 2 homes and replace with 15 new homes in the Spring. She passed a hand- out the Council on rules and regulations of the tenants. The Council discussed a feasibility study being completed. Mayor Foster mentioned that he had spoke to Brain Johnson from Jones, Haugh and Smith, stating that its almost unheard of that a smaller City pays 100% of a project of this nature, your talking streets and infrastructure that lots of money that small Cities don't have. Mention of the project in Austin over by the Nature Center being an 80/20 project being developers and City splitting the cost and having some of it assessed to taxes. Mayor Foster also added that the likelihood of needing a second lift station is possible if they are allowed to turn the other 8 acres into another set of lots for homes. This is a gravity feed system there may not be enough fall.

Council Member Smith stated that he would like to see that the sale goes through before spending any money on a study. Council Member Crabtree stated that he like to see how much this study would cost in relation to a project like this. Kris Maier went on to state that regardless of the Cities participation the sale will move forward, but would like to see that the City would like to help them build an upstanding park.

The Council discussed the bid for phone and internet service to Jaguar.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to go into a 36 month contract with Jaguar communications for \$319.75 monthly Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.

The City Council spoke briefly on COVID 19 relief funds, approved uses and audits that would incur for receiving the funds.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to receive the funds in the amount of \$ 51,457.00 for COVID 19 relief Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-17 accepting library and park donations. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Bakken made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-18 allowing the offsite and onsite relief gambling for the Brownsdale Fire hall. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Public Works Report:

Wayne made mention that the Chip seal project is almost completed, the rock just needs to get picked up. Wayne informed the Council about the water tower project, that the city water supply is now on bypass and asked how the water pressure is at their homes. He explained that there is a fine line on water pressure and possibly breaking some infrastructure. They agreed that if possible to try to switch off the pumps between the two, as to not burn the pumps out.

Wayne reported on the clean up of the brush and trees at the ponds. The left- over materials will be burned in January or February when conditions allow as to not disrupt the ponds and chemical makeup of the water for discharging. Rolling Green fencing will be doing the fencing as to the specifications that are mandated by the State of MN.

Wayne also stated that the light and pole have been installed on the south end of the playground at the park.

City Police Officer's Report: available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Officer Smerud stated that he is having issues with this battery for his radio. The Council told Jon to see if he would be able to order a new radio when the county orders their radios to ensure that a lower price can be received. Jon asked that the cameras for the squad be tabled for future discussion.

Library:

Deb was absent. She submitted a report to the Council in her absence.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18pm. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:18pm.

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer