

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

Correspondence: PO Box 336, Brownsdale, MN 55918 (507)567-2177 (507)567-2250-fax email:brownsdale.mn.clerk@frontiernet.net

City web site: brownsdalemn.com

City Council Regular Meeting December 7th, 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), Jan Ball, Tim Duren, Loren Swanson, Alfredo Vargas-Santana, Richard Borcharding, John Mueller

November 5th regular meeting and November 12th Canvas of the votes were approved without corrections.

Public Comment:

During Public Comment Alfredo Vargas- Santana asked to approach the council with a letter and some pictures of his property located in Brownsdale. Alfredo's complaint to the City was damage to his driveway during the removal of a Boulevard tree. It was determined that the tree was removed in the late Summer of 2019. He stated that there are scuff marks where he believes they entered his property without permission and mobilized equipment causing the cracks in the driveway. Mayor Foster commented that to wait a year to come to the Council almost makes it impossible to try to find the cause to the damage. Mayor Foster stated that himself, Council Member Crabtree and Public Works Wayne Baldner would inspect the driveway during daylight hours to see what couldn't be seen in the photos due to the quality of the photos. Mayor Foster stated that the City would be in contact in regards to the findings.

John Mueller introduced himself to the Council and Public in attendance. He stated that he is running for County Commissioner District 1 and stated that he wanted to be able to have folks put a face with the name. He stated that he grew up in Austin, has lived in the district for 26 years, drives truck part time for Krueger Trucking. He stated that he is also has served on the Austin Police Department for 30years. He stated that is getting ready to retire and has time to invest now into the County Commissioner seat.

Old Business

Council Member Crabtree rescinded his previous motion to approve the October 5th meeting in minutes to include a correction as requested by the City Clerk, to include the amount of the Pagers

as \$7546.50 not the written amount of \$7456.50. The City Clerk inadvertently mistyped the amount and needed the record to be corrected. Council Member Bakken seconded the rescinded motion to reflect the correction. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.

An outstanding check written to Council Member Smith was addressed briefly. The Clerk was asked to stop payment and reissue a check to Council Member Smith.

Mayor Foster addressed the Council about the need for more adequate heated space for the Loader. He stated that he noticed that Woodpecker Products has the block garage for sale that adjoins the City property. He states that he would be interested in speaking more with them on cost of the property as time allows. He asked if Wayne could work on getting some numbers to see what the cost would be to insulate the building due to the sweating that the block causes. He stated that he once owned the property and when he had no use for it sold it to Woodpecker Products.

New Business

The Council after a brief discussion about old records and instructed the Clerk to go through documents, per the Records retention Schedule and discard as able by contracting with Shred it, to not exceed 20 boxes.

The Council had a very brief discussion about the 2020 audit. Council Member Crabtree made a motion to contract with Hill, Larson. Council Member Smith Seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Richard Borcharding approached the Council looking to renew the Fire Departments Charitable Gambling licenses with the City for Onsite and Offsite. Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-26 approving on and offsite gambling. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Mayor Foster thanked Council Member Crabtree for his 8 years that he served on the Council.

Public Hearing

A motion was made by Council Member Crabtree to suspend the regular meeting at 7:28pm. to hold the Public Hearing to certify the 2021 Tax Levy, motion was seconded by Council Member Schuette. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried. After a brief discussion and no public comment.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-25 to certify the 2021 Tax Levy against all properties in Brownsdale, MN. in the amount of \$130,686 in the general fund and \$62,000 in Debt Service for a total taxable amount of \$192,686.00 Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:35pm and reopen the regular meeting. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.

Public Works Report:

Wayne made mention that a call was placed to the Clerk and then a call to himself from the Clerk to address a water outage in the early morning hours of Veterans Day. He said that he thinks many were unaware that a shortage had happened. A call was placed to Fox Electric who diagnosed a burned-out component in the control panel which was replaced correcting the outage.

City Police Officer's Report: available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Jon stated that he had the bid for the rifle to share with Council. The Council had a brief discussion on the Police Departments

rifle. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to purchase the rifle and suppressor in the amount \$1299.98 from Alex Pro Firearms LLC. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Jon also stated that there are a few trailers in the roadway that will be moved before the upcoming weather in order to facilitate cleaning the potential snow fall.

Jon also stated that the Fronter Lounge can be open to sell off sale and pizza during the new orders imposed due to Covid 19.

Library: The Librarian in here absence supplied the Council with a report. Report available at the Clerk's office upon request.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 7:58pm.