

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 January 6th, 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: Shelly Vogel (Absent)

and Police Chief: Jon Smerud City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance:

Mary Moritz, Jan Ball, Richard Borcharding, Loren Swanson, Jenelle Parks, MN Representative Jeanne Poppe.

December 2nd, 2019 meeting minutes stood approved as written.

Public Comment:

The Mayor addressed the public for comment.

State Representative Jeanne Poppe visited with the Council. She introduced herself stating that its always nice to put a name with a face. She stated that she has been visiting area City Council Meetings hoping to get acquainted with local leaders. She stated that she'd like hear everyone's concerns or comments that they may have. She also passed out materials and her contact information to the council.

Mayor Foster direct a question about the MN DOT snow contract and the concerns that the City has with the cleanup of our local Highway. Rep. Poppe stated that she will do some research and send it to the Clerk. Jeanne also stated that she has a letter from MN DOT and she will direct that to the clerks email as well. She also stated that it would be a good idea to call the League of MN Cities and solicit advice from them on how to proceed. She also suggested to keep documentation on the next years clean up preformed under this new contract. Other discussion items that we discussed briefly were ideas on how to calculate that cubic yards of snow or square feet and then base it by number of inches that fell in that snow fall, was a general fairness to the equation , a statement was made that sometimes it snows more in one spot or town more than another town.

Library Director Deb Smith discussed the lack of cell phone service in town. The Clerk stated that is close to a public safety risk. The discussion about the cell phone towers and the one that the potential of the site on County RD. 19 before they took preference to the work up at the stadium for the Super Bowl, nothing more has progressed. The Clerk stated that Buehl Contracting through Verizon had contacted the City several months ago about a potential spot for a new tower on the Barnum Property behind Grove Street, but has heard nothing since.

New Business

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01 setting the Annual Service Appointments. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to elect Gene Crabtree as acting Mayor in the event that Mayor Foster is unavailable. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 1 Abstain(Crabtree). Carried.

After a short discussion about the costs of water and sewer, and other fees to billable to the residents of Brownsdale after deciding no changes to take place, Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 adopting the 2020 fee schedule. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-03 combining the polling place with Red Rock Township for all elections. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-04 setting the meeting calendar for 2020 and January 2021. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried

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RESOLUTION 2020-04

SETTING DATES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, The City Council by Rights of Roberts Rules of Order hereby sets forth the dates and times of the following years meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the City will meet in a public forum at 7:00pm at 103 East Main Street, in the City Council Chambers

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Brownsdale that the City acknowledges, the public’s right to know, and will to the best of its power to abide by such.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Brownsdale, Mower County, 6th day of January,2020.

Jeff Foster, Mayor

(CITY SEAL)

Attest: _____
Adria Vargas, City Clerk/Treasurer

February 3rd, 2020 at 7:00pm
March 2nd, 2020 at 7:00pm
April 6th, 2020 at 7:00pm
May 4th, 2020 at 7:00pm
June 1st, 2020 at 7:00pm

July 6th, 2020 at 7:00pm
August 3rd, 2020 at 7:00pm
September 1st, 2020 at 7:00pm
October 5th, 2020 at 7:00pm
November 2nd, 2020 at 7:00pm
December 7th, 2020 at 7:00pm
January 4th, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-05 adopting the polling place as Brownsdale Community Hall at 103 East Main Street. Brownsdale, MN. 55918. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-06 allowing the Brownsdale Volunteer Fire Department their annual gambling licenses. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

The Council discussed employee raises, wage equity and the issues with wages in the past with the State. Mayor Foster stated that if something is given it needs to be kept compliant and straight across the board for all employees. "If it's done any other way it could be a big mess". Mayor Foster stated that "seniority also has something to do with it". Chief Smerud made a statement about a job posting he had seen up North this City is our population and they are advertising for \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year for the same job why not here? Council Member Crabtree stated that he would like a "better explanation, just like he'd like a better explanation of the snow removal from MN DOT". Council Member Crabtree "How do we determine how much to give then we just give everyone the same and if Jon is under paid then we over compensate, the others to keep all the same wage wise. That's why I asked for an explanation". Council Member Bakken stated that in the League Handbook Chapter 4 on wage compliance would be a good place to reference. Stating that the City should set and follow a policy with clear explanations. Mayor Foster commented back" that's all good while we are here and the next council can strike a policy and do and govern how they want too, nothing is set in stone". After much discussion Loren Swanson asked the Council to just make a motion. Council Member Bakken made a motion to raise all Librarians, Clerk and Public works by \$1.00 dollar an hour, and City Police \$2.00 per hour. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 3Yeas (Crabtree, Schuette, Bakken), 1 Nay (Foster) 1Abstain (Smith) due to how the motion was presented. Carried.

Public Works Report: Wayne reported that the water main leak on California Street. Had washed out under the road and created a sink hole and was washing into the storm drain. That's why we couldn't account for the water going through the lift station. Wayne commented on some points of interests after a visit with Jeff from Rural Water. Wayne stated that Jeff from Rural Water was a city maintenance person for many years and has seen and experienced a lot of things that go on in a city. He stated that during their conversation that a third-party inspection company can be hired to look over every phase of the process to see that the City is protected. One example is the mils of paint on the tower, whomever may paint it and we wouldn't know the thickness of the paint and then it starts to chip and peel but that years after the warranty has expired.

They also discussed soliciting bids through publication even if its below the threshold of \$175,000 thousand dollars. Wayne also stated that the contract should be read by possibly the City attorney for legal reasons and that the scope of work should be detailed to include lead paint, inspection of the riser and integrity of the pipe, and bacteria testing once the project is complete. Wayne also stated that the bid received from Maguire Iron has expired but that they will rebid with current years material costs. Wayne also commented that you can request a bid but that doesn't require a contract or an

inspection we must give them access and any other materials that we may have been given through a previous inspection.

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

Chief Smerud stated that all the equipment and vehicles are running well. He stated that after he takes a refresher course and shoots the taser he will then be able to carry it.

Library: Deb presented the January Calendar to the Council and reminded the Mayor Foster and Council Member Bakken about the Strategic Plan meeting on Thursday from 5:00pm to 8:00pm with a light supper being served. Deb also stated that Her and Jon have been talking about putting together a bike rodeo for the kids in the spring.

Deb asked the Council about the dedication of the Pavilion and putting that together on the same night as the Ice cream social in June. The Council decided to do a dedication for the pavilion in June, serve hotdogs, beans and chips like they do for national night out and at that time do a tree dedication for Kris Steiner.

The Council also asked Wayne to obtain a bid from Weis Landscaping to plant 5 shade trees to the South of the playground equipment to be completed in the Spring.

Old Business

None

Bills were presented and signed

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

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer