

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 October 5th, 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(Absent), City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance: Jenelle Parks (Mower County Independent), Loren Swanson, Tammy Kester, Leslie Tabor, Darr Ehmke on behalf of the Brownsdale Volunteer Fire Department, Jan Ball, Mary Mortiz, Tim Duren, Martha Hauschildt.

September 1st, 2020 Minutes stood approved as written.

September 15th Special Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes stood approved with the following corrections to be noted. Council Member Crabtree absent, Mayor Foster Present and Librarian Deb Smith Present.

Public Comment:

Darr Emke, stated that he was attending on behalf of the Brownsdale Volunteer Fire Department requesting COVID funding for the purchase of pagers for the Fire Department the original bid proposed of 25 pagers at a cost of \$16,717.50. After a brief discussion **Council Member Schuette made a motion to purchase (13) 4 G single band, 800 MGHRTZ pagers for the Brownsdale Volunteer Fire Department for a cost of \$ 7546.50 out of the COVID Monies. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Tammy Kester commented on the elections, years ago when it was decided to go into the elections together that all issues concerning would be decided together. Tammy commented that because of COVID pandemic if the City was going to cover short term disability for election workers who fall ill and aren't able to go to their regular jobs. She stated that she is required to take PTO to quarantine. Tammy stated that she would be more than happy to step aside and let someone else take over. She also stated that we shouldn't have to do the same job for less pay, now knowing that the township has just recently passed hazard pay for the upcoming election. She stated that from now on all items should be brought up and discussed as to decide together. The Clerk will get a copy of Township minutes and discuss the topic of back pay for the August Primary at the November meeting. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to pay election judges and clerk an extra \$13.50 per hour as hazard pay for the November election. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

Old Business

The Council discussed chickens, Council Member Bakken presented an Ordinance to the Council. After a brief discussion on number of chickens, price, and disposal of dead chickens, **Council Member Bakken made a motion to adopt amendment to Ordinance 2008-3 section 6 adding Backyard Chickens, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Council Member Bakken read the first reading of the amendment to add section 6(Backyard Chickens) to Ordinance 2008-3.**

New Business

Mayor Foster asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-20 accepting two donations one in the amount of \$20.00 from Lea Osbourne to the Brownsdale Public Library and the other in the amount of \$25.00 in memory of Ida Foster for Gerbig Park. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-20 accepting the donations. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

Mayor Foster asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-21 accepting additional CARES ACT funding in the amount of \$563.63 for Elections. **Council Member Crabtree made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-21 accepting the additional CARES ACT funding in the amount of \$563.63 for elections. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

Public Works Report:

Wayne made mention that the HVAC has been ordered. He also noted that it has been hard to order these types of items but there hasn't been any issues with the City's order. He stated that they are aware of the time constraints.

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

Library: Martha Hauschildt and Jenelle Parks presented the 2021 library budget, asking for an increase from 30 hours to 35 hours for the Librarian with that request also included proposed paid time off and the additional hours for Shelley to cover Deb's time off. Mayor Foster stated that the Council at the Public Hearing meeting moved not to increase the 2021 Tax Levy. He also stated that he was unsure on collection of the levy even though no increase was passed. It was also stated that there may even be a change in LGA dollars coming in we just don't know. Mayor Foster stated that not raising taxes was to help the whole community out. Mayor Foster stated that we work with the Library as much as we can. But you are asking about a month too late now that we set the levy. Mayor Foster stated that during the uncertain time we allowed you to work and do various packet activities for outreach because its important that you had a job during that time. Mayor Foster asked for the council thoughts.

Council Member Bakken asked if Shelley could work more hours if there were things that needed to get done. Deb commented that she is banking a lot of hours now. Mayor Foster and Council Member Bakken both asked Librarian Smith if all of those banked hours where in Library hours. Deb stated yeah. A question was posed how many hours is the library open now? Deb stated that the Library is open every day, total of 25 hours a week.

Librarian Smith stated that she doesn't feel that anyone knows what it all takes to my job done. I struggle to cut back its not just a job for me, its my life. I believe it's so important, I don't know how to cut back. Deb also stated that she has requested extra funding from the County Commissioners for the Brownsdale Public Library. Deb stated that she could ask the Austin Public Library for funds to cover part of it, Deb stated that she isn't asking for money and time to just throw it away. Deb stated that when she does things for the library she never asks for mileage reimbursement she would prefer to buy materials for the library instead. Mayor Foster stated that Deb does an amazing job ,but the request is just too late. Deb

stated that SELCO has told her to be very careful with donating time or volunteering. Jenelle Parks commented that if they Council needed time to think about it, that was ok too, Jenelle also commented to consider calling it a salary. Some Library comparisons were discussed Grand Meadow, Hayfield and Leroy. Further discussion was tabled. Council Member Bakken asked for the topic to be tabled. Council Member Schuette stated that she thinks we need to hold off, not raising taxes and taking on another expense. We will be looking into raises in the near future. Topic was tabled at this time.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm. Council Member Crabtree seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:26pm.

Adria Vargas; City Clerk/Treasurer