

# City of Brownsdale

Garden Spot of Mower County

Mayor – Jeff Foster Council Members – Debra Schuette, Jessica Bakken, Rick Smith, Raughn Oakland

City Clerk/Treasurer – Adria Vargas

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## City Council Meeting

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Present: Mayor Jeff Foster; Council Members: Debra Schuette, Rick Smith, Jessica Bakken, Raughn Oakland

City Employees: City Clerk: Adria Vargas, Police Chief: Jon Smerud, City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance: Jan Ball, Mary Moritz, Loren Swanson, Paula Pike, Don Konken, Don Peterson, Leone Peterson, Lynda Yates

Mayor Jeff Foster called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.; everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, regular Meeting Minutes stood approved with one correction. Omit Librarians Deb Smith and Shelley Vogel from attendance as they are not required to attend monthly Council Meetings.**

### **Public Comment:**

After hearing no public comment Mayor Foster moved on to old business.

### **Old Business:**

Mayor Foster stated that the old business tabled from July's meeting should be attended to,

The Council had a brief discussion on the June 19<sup>th</sup> Freedom Holiday it was decided that gathering some more information was going to be needed before a decision could be made.

The Council also discussed setting Library hours into the personnel policy to state library hours should not exceed a total combined hours of 35 hours per week. **Council Member Schuette made a motion that the library not exceed no more than, 35 combined total hours. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion, 4Yeas, 0Nays, 1 abstain RS. Carried.**

**Council Member Bakken made a motion to suspend the regular meeting at 7:29pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Mayor Foster opened the public hearing by doing the first reading of the ordinance to include the Addresses at 116 Mill St. South to include 116 ½ A and 116 ½ B. **Council Member Schuette made a**

**motion to adopt the ordinance 2021-1A Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 7:33pm. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Library Board President Paula Pike approached the Council with the proposed 2022 Library Budget. Hand outs had been provided prior to the meeting. The figures are to include the County and State Aid as awarded to the library yearly. The amount proposed was \$53,475.00. After a very in depth conversation on many points of interest in regards to the Library and the budget. One key points discussed was the Boards desire for adequate funding so that the Librarian Smith can focus just on her work and not grant writing. Council Member Smith commented that saves the City a lot of Money. Paula commented that she has other things that need to be done in the allotted time she's being given. I'm not saying that if a grant comes through that could be useful and fits the need and the timeframe absolutely but if we take in more funds each and every time a new budget will have to be proposed, then all we would ever talk about is readjusting the budget. Another question was the windows on the east wall, leaking during heavy rain. Wayne mentioned that he has caulked the windows there before. Council Member Smith commented that now there's electrical there that should be considered. Mayor Foster stated that new windows can be brought up again in the spring. Paula asked about painting and updating and a remainder of \$1700.00 dividend check. Mayor Foster asked that the Library Board get firm numbers before the Council will be able to vote on to the 2022 budget.

### **New Business**

The Council had a brief discussion about the animal ordinance. They went on to mention that roosters being heard in town, along with the addition of ducks and question the language of the ordinance and permits that have been requested to maintain these animals on the premises. They also questioned the limit of dogs that are able to be had per ordinance.

The Council discussed the request from Keith and Char Gillette to remove a boulevard tree removed that is blocking them exiting safely from their driveway. The Council read a short note from the Gillette's and convened that the tree could be removed and asked that Wayne look into that request.

The Council discussed the Tractor Pull on Market Street. Mayor Foster asked Jon if he had knowledge if the bar had notified the families of the pull on Saturday. Jon stated that he had spoken again with Tanya and it hadn't been done yet. Mayor Foster stated that this was an issue last year and if they weren't notified the will not be allowed to have a Tractor pull next year.

Mayor Foster appointed Council Member Bakken to the Library Board as Council Liaison.

Paula Pike also mentioned that Jenelle Parks has also resigned from the Board and that she is the President of the Library Board.

**Council Member Bakken made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-10 accepting a monetary donation in the form of a grant from Freeborn Mower ORU for the purchase of picnic tables for the park. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas/0Nays Carried.**

The Council reviewed the park loan paperwork, after a short discussion, **Council Member Schuette made a motion to pay off the park equipment loan in the amount of \$46,133.03 as of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas/0Nays Carried.**

The Council discussed the purchase of picnic tables yet this calendar year. Wayne stated that the prices have went up almost \$100.00 from a year ago or better. Wayne also mentioned that due to timing if tables were ordered now they may not be here until October, and would like to see that they not spend an additional year in the elements. The council discussed tabling the item until Spring hoping that the prices would decline and the potential of purchasing two at that time.

**Public Works Report:** Wayne mentioned that Husemoller repaired the storm sewer culvert washed out down on Fremont Street. He reported that Husemoller also assisted in repairing a cracked riser and shut off under the water tower in the park.

Wayne stated that he is working on the bids for the road construction and the plow blade for the loader.

The Council had a in depth conversation about road construction and the resurface of the basketball court. Wayne stated that it has been difficult to get the needed bids. Mayor Foster stated that he had Randy (who has since retired) in town from Rochester Sand and Gravel and they drove around together look at various parts of town. They discussed the trailer court, in possibility of tar and doing a tar curb, Council Member Smith stated that it wouldn't work and they should go to the trailer court in Hayfield because it was done there. Wayne mentioned that it's getting so late in the year and that it looks like all of these projects are going to be next year's work. He stated that the areas in town will be patched by Blackstone.

Mayor Foster discussed a Utility Easement down on Shania Street. He stated that he was attempting to mow it and almost tripped the mower over. He stated that the bank in very steep and that there is a lot of overgrowth that needs to be addressed. He stated that he spoke to Husemoller to get the numbers to grade the easement out and get it cleaned up.

**City Police Officer's Report:** available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Chief Smerud mentioned that the Body Camera had arrived and is in service. He stated that he is working on a retention policy for data storage.

Jon mentioned that the squad will be in for some maintenance it's making some vibrations when driven. He believes the rotors and the issue, while in it will also get new brakes and an oil change. Don Peterson asked the mileage of the squad. Jon stated that it has roughly 61,000 miles.

Jon stated that bids are available for the explorer but that the bid for the Ford F150 are not available until September. They Council decided that it would be better to wait for both bids to allow for a comparison. He stated that the explorer as wider and added that the changeover of equipment would not allow for the items to transfer over. He stated that it is his opinion to look into the F150 because it would be more versatile for him to have a truck bed for moving road debris, picking up other large items that he isn't able to put into the backseat.

**Library:** Library Director Smith submitted a monthly library report for Council's review.

**Bills were presented and signed**

**Council Member Bakken made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:15pm**

