

# 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 Regular Meeting January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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: Debra Schuette, Rick Smith, Jessica Bakken, Raughn Oakland  
City Employees: City Librarian: Deb Smith, 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, Mary Moritz, Loren Swanson, Mary Oakland.

**Newly Elected Officials took their oaths before starting the City Council meeting.**

**December 7 th, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved without corrections.**

### **Public Comment:**

Jenelle Parks asked if she could say a prayer before the meeting. Permission granted and Jenelle lead a prayer.

### **Old Business**

Mayor Foster addressed the Council on the Newly Elected Officials training. Council Member Oakland declined the virtual training.

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 stated that Woodpecker Products had an offer that they didn't accept. The offer that was not accepted was more than the Mayor thought the City was able to pay. The Council discussed what would need to be done to update the current city garage to heat the space and make additional space for larger equipment.

## New Business

**Mayor Foster in the absence of previous Council Member Crabtree the need to call another acting Mayor in case of his absence. Mayor Foster stated that the highest seated current council member should be named, this being Council Member Schuette. Council Member Bakken made a motion naming Council Member Schuette as acting Mayor. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 0Nays. 1Abstain (Schuette). Carried.**

**Council Member Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-01 addressing all of the designation Services for the City of Brownsdale. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

**Resolution 2021-02 adopting of the 2021 Fee schedule for the City of Brownsdale. Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-02 setting of the fee schedule for the 2021 year. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

**Resolution 2021-03 combining polling place with RedRock Township. Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-03 combining polling place with RedRock Township. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

**Resolution 2021-04 accepting monetary Library donations. Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-04 accepting a monetary library donation of \$50.00 dollars form Darrell and Laura Anderson and a \$100.00 donation from Gene Tindal. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The Council discussed 2021 City Council meeting dates. The next City Council Meeting dates are as follows, 02/01/2021, 03/01/2021, 04/06/2021, 05/03/2021, 06/01/2021, 07/01/2021, 08/02/2021, 09/01/2021,10/04/2021,11/01/2021, 12/01/2021 and January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

The Council discussed employee raises. City Clerk wages, Council Member Smith suggested a .40 cent increase. Mayor Foster stated to make it easy let's say .50. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to increase city clerk hourly wage by .50 per hour starting the next pay period of 01/11/2021. Council Member Oakland seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays, Carried.**

The Council discussed Public works raise, a comment was made if we raised the Clerk .50 cents it's fair to raise Public Works .50 too. **Council Member Bakken made a motion to increase Public Works hourly wage by .50 per hour starting the next pay period of 01/11/2021. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays, Carried.**

The Council discussed Librarian and Assistant Librarian raises, **Council Member Bakken made a motion to increase Librarian and Assistant Librarian hourly wage by .50 per hour starting the next pay period of 01/11/2021. Council Member Oakland seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays, Carried.**

The Council discussed Police raise and touched the subject of pay equity and scales, Mayor Foster suggested that due to an upcoming pay equity report that he wanted to suggest that Police Chief be raised \$2.50 per hour now and revisit a possible \$2.50 raise again in July. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to increase Police Chiefs hourly wage by \$5.00 per hour starting the next pay period of 01/11/2021. Council Member Oakland seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 1Nay ( Foster), Carried.**

**Public Works Report:**

Wayne made mention about the miss timed siren, he stated that he is not able to rest the timer, no new input can be added. He stated that this will continue to worsen over time. Wayne stated that the cost is roughly \$600.00, City Council requested that a call be placed to Fox Electric to order a new timer for the siren. Wayne mentioned to the Council that any projects will need to be discussed; soon in order to be added to the schedule as needed per project. Wayne stated that he has one pending project at the well house. He stated that due to the hazardous chemical fumes put off in the rooms, there is corrosion on the inside plumbing of the wellhouse, he stated that it can also be seen on both outside doors. He stated that it would need to be sandblasted and painted to not further any damage that is currently occurring.

Mayor Foster stated to Wayne that he had a phone call about the water pressure on California St. Wayne stated that he added a foot of water to the tower to adjust pressure. Wayne stated that he would take to the neighbor and any other folks he sees out and about on California about potential issues with water pressure at their home.

**City Police Officer's Report:** available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Jon thanked the Council for another year, joking stating that he's sure everyone was glad to see that over with. Jon stated that due to recent uprising all over the USA, many policies have been updated this last year, He stated the Police Department is in compliance. Jon stated that a very unfortunate event happened in Brownsdale, a women was found deceased on her property, the public is not in danger, this was more than likely a medical incident. Jon also stated that he had new snow tire and a new rim replaced on the squad car. The transmission fluids were changed and everything is running very well.

**Library:** Librarian Smith went over the Library budget and stated that they ran under budget by roughly \$1700.00 last year. Librarian Smith stated that the Library board is working on performance evaluation marking her 18<sup>th</sup> year as the Librarian. She also stated that at tomorrows board meeting they will be starting to discuss library policies, review of the strategic plan. Librarian Smith stated that Martha Hauschildt resigned from the Library board. She stated that the board has not yet formally accepted the resignation and that would be done tomorrow evening at the board meeting.

**Bills were presented and signed**

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