

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 June 1st, 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(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 & BP Library Board), Jan Ball, Mary Moritz, Ben Simons, Tanya Rumsey, Don Peterson, Senator Gene Dornink, Rep. Patricia Mueller, Roxanne Holst

May 3rd, regular Meeting Minutes stood approved. May 19th Special Meeting Minutes stood approved.

Public Comment:

Rep. Patricia Mueller: Thanked everyone for their support and encouragement. She briefly touched upon the budget that will be discussed during the June 14th special session, there is a lot of work that needs to be done during these negotiations and stated that they are working with Governor on emergency powers. She also stated that the State of MN has received the ARPA funds, and that Mower County alone received 7-8 million dollars, She and Senator Dornink will be working together to provide funds to businesses and schools through micro grants. Help for childcare providers to streamline application and inspections to help providers and families find childcare to help with this crisis. She also stated that she wants to see incentives for Highschool students using more transferable credits towards Highschool and college graduation.

Senator Gene Dornink: Discussed the special session that will be starting on the second week of June. He stated that there are several committees that have been formed to discuss the budget the target is the 17th of June at midnight. He doesn't understand if there was a budget surplus of almost a billion dollars, why taxes would need to be raised. He stated his confusion on that matter and said he will be working against raising taxes during the budget talks. He wants to focus on Hometown Hero's bill and sickness bills to help out those that are still struggling. We as Representatives need to listen more and talk less, reach out and help us represent you.

Mayor Foster briefly discussed the matter of the snow removal contract with the DOT with Senator Dornink and Rep. Mueller and asked if they could help the City better understand the change in the agreement for snow removal along Hwy. 56, Representatives asked that some history and background be emailed to them so that the matter could be looked into. The City Clerk will email them the background on the next business day.

Old Business:

The Council briefly discussed pay equity compliance. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to submit the final report to the State based on the Compliance results from the preliminary report submitted after the Council last Special council meeting. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

New Business

Council Member Schuette made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-09 accepting a monetary donation of \$500.00 for the park from the Sons of the American Legion for the Basketball hoops in Gerbig Park. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

The Council discussed planting a tree in memory of Denise Gerhart. The tree will be donated by Akkerman and be planted in Gerbig Park in her Memory.

The Council discussed Frontier Lounge's liquor license for the 2021-2022 year. Mayor Foster pointed out that taxes need to be brought to date and the insurance is still needed to send to the State for the Liquor license approval and signature. Tanya said she would go tomorrow and pay the taxes and get the Clerk the information. She stated that she would put out another call to her insurance agent in Worthington and should have something by the end of next week and she'd bring it in to the Clerk. Tanya also discussed Brownsdale Fest. She discussed having the tractor pull on Market Street and blocking off California Street behind the bank and part of Grove for the Car show and water wars. Tanya stated that she'd like to get a mailing out to the community, so everyone knows about the road closures and the events. It was also mentioned that the County Emergency Services should know just in case an ambulance or emergency vehicles would need to be called. Tanya also discussed with the Council about her recent purchase of a food truck that will be in the back alley behind the bar. She discussed state licensure and the items that she may serve from the truck.

The Council discussed the purchase of a girl and a boy's bike for Brownsdale Fest/ HOBODays to be donated as prizes during bike safety. **Council Member Bakken made a motion to purchase two bikes not to exceed \$300.00, Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Public Works Report: Wayne stated that he wanted some discussion and feedback from the Council on what streets and what work he should be bidding for street repairs. Mayor Foster stated that due to the cost of the project two bids must be obtained. Wayne also stated that he had been to Scheels to pick up the Basketball hoops and accessories. Wayne stated that Scheels treated the City very well in the process of purchase and pick up of the materials. He said that with the help of Pat Roles and Foster Construction that the project is coming along nicely. Wayne and the Council discussed milling and overlaying the asphalt in the court area and extending the area out some. They also discussed removing some old wooden light poles from the park and disconnecting electric to one of those poles. They also discussed straightening the poles for the volleyball court and tilling up the sand and adding a net.

City Police Officer's Report: available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Chief Smerud discussed the possible purchase of a Body Camera, stating that the cost is roughly \$700.00 dollars but still didn't have a formal quote for the Council to act on. He and the Council also discussed the need for a new squad vehicle. He was asked for the current mileage being stated as 58,000 miles. Jon mentioned that the state vehicle bid is at Ford in Hibbing. He also mentioned that the process for a new 2022 model is still a week or more out due to timing of the year. It was also mentioned by Council Member Smith to see how much equipment could be saved to transfer over to the new squad. He also stated that it's been a busy month. Many of the nuisance complaints that were spoken about last month have been addressed and cleaned up.

Library: Library Director Smith submitted some written information for review in her absence. Among this information Deb made a request to have 25 hours of Comp time be paid out on payroll date 6/11/2021. The request was informally approved but sparked some discussion about library budget and staying within limits.

The Council went over the new Park Pavilion water policy. **Council Member Bakken made a motion to adopt the Park Pavilion water policy, Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

City Council was paid for the first half council wages for 2021 year.

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