

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

September 1st, 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, Loren Swanson, Don Peterson, Mike Hotopp, Richard Borcharding

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

August 2nd, 2021, regular Meeting Minutes stood approved with two corrections. Adding the statement that Mayor Foster appointed Council Member Bakken to the Library Board as Council Liaison. Correction #2 Ordinance 2021-1 is to be named Ordinance 2021-1A.

Public Comment:

Don Peterson asked the Council about the COVID money, he asked what the City's plan was for updating the infrastructure and roads. Don mentioned that there isn't better time than now to borrow money. The Interest rates are low. He stated that it would even be better to Bond now if needed because of the low low rates.

Mike Hotopp talked to the Council about snow removal in the winter- time, he stated that his neighbor adds his snow with his skid steer to the snow pile that Wayne has plowed to the shoulder of the road. He mentioned the neighbor ruins his grass with the equipment. He also mentioned that he has other issues with his neighbors about fences and gravel and property boundaries. The Council reminded him that all of these issues are civil issues and that the City doesn't get involved with things like this. They referred him to calling the police or hiring a lawyer. Mike also asked the Council about putting a fence up, he stated that he has a utility easement on his property. The Council instructed that he may place a fence but may not obstruct the easement or the ability to access it.

Old Business:

City Clerk Vargas did the second reading of Ordinance 2021-1A.

The Council after a brief discussion with public works on bids for road construction work. The Council deemed it too late in the year to go into a contract and tabled this discussion for next year.

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 to discuss the Preliminary 2022 Tax Levy after much discussion about funding, future projects and account balances the Council decided on a 4% increase across all the properties in the City of Brownsdale. **Council Member Bakken made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-13 the 2022 Preliminary Levy at a 4% increase to the General Fund at \$135,913.00, Debt Service fund at \$66,053.00 for a total of \$201,966.00 Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Council Member Bakken made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 7:42pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Mayor Foster reopened the Regular meeting at 7:42 pm

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-12 granting authority to Mower County to sell tax forfeited land and reassess the amount of \$ 17.84 to the property as originally assessed in 2012. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion 5Yeas,0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Bakken made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-14 granting ACH Authority to City Clerk Adria Vargas. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

New Business

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-11 receiving a monetary donation of \$100.00 dollars on behalf of the Library from Gene Tindal to purchase large print materials Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas/0Nays Carried.

The Council called on Richard Borcharding, who was there as a representative of the Brownsdale Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that he was there seeking a renewal and resolution for the Bingo and Raffle.

Council Member Bakken made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-15 allowing the Brownsdale Volunteer Fire Department the ability to conduct Bingo and Raffle at the Brownsdale Firehall Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas/0Nays Carried.

The Council discussed the RING doorbell that is affixed on the library entrance. The Council decided that due to the uptick in cases that the doorbell should stay to facilitate the curb side pick up option in case the library should have to close again due to COVID.

The Council also had an in- depth conversation about the potential of possibly selling off part of the roadway that dead ends off Melissa Street. It was determined that before vacating that piece of roadway and incurring Attorney fees the person who is interested will have to show commitment. This Council concurred that they are willing to sell off a portion of the roadway at this time.

Public Works Report: Wayne mentioned that all the patching for road repairs had been completed.

Wayne also brought forth two bids for the replacement of the plow to the loader. He reviewed them with the Council. After a short **discussion Council Member Schuette made a motion to purchase the plow from Rochester RDO in the amount of 13,864.29 with a trade in of the old one for \$2,000 trade in value bringing the amount to \$11,864.29 Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

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

Jon mentioned that the squad maintenance was completed and its running great. He spoke about the bids for the F150 will not be available until September 15th. Council decided to table the discussion until both bids were available for comparison.

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 8:25pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:25pm