

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

March 8th ,2022

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, John Mueller, John Troupe, Paula Pike, Greg Larson and Isaac Gorman (Feldmann and Company CPA's, P.C.)

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

February 7th, 2022, regular Meeting Minutes stood approved with the following correction Officer Smerud was inadvertently marked absent but was in attendance.

All votes are made by roll call vote.

Public Comment:

John Troupe asked if the Council would consider doing some clean up on the drainage ditch along the fence line on the rear of his property. The Mayor stated that could be done along with another clean out project scheduled for the spring but that the City doesn't own that land and permission would need to be had from the owner before driving equipment on their property.

County Commissioner Mueller gave the council and public an update on his first year as the commissioner. He stated that he's learned a tremendous amount this year and that there's a lot more to learn. He did a brief synopsis on the committees that he was on over the year and that the commissioners rotate as the year changes. He touched briefly on COVID funds being used in our area to increase broadband internet. Mayor Foster asked if there was any discussion about getting a tower near town to help with the cell service. Mayor Foster stated that many people don't have home phones anymore and rely on cellphones its almost a public safety thing. Mr. Mueller stated that with the new radios that Law enforcement are using he believes that the updates will have to be around the corner. And that he encourages continued communication about cellphone towers. He also stated that his once opposed view on the tax abatement program has changed, and he is full agreement with the program and urges the Council to consider adopting a tax abatement program and a means to increase revenue. He stated that it

changes people's mind to build in one state or county vs another. He also commended the County Workers for the dedication to their profession and the public they serve.

Old Business: The Council discussed the potential upcoming project at the lift station. Mayor Foster stated that he hasn't spoken to Jones, Haugh and Smith but knows that Brain Johnson has been in communication with Quality Flow about putting together a plan and a bid.

New Business

Greg Larson from Feldmann and Company CPA's went over the Audit report for the 2021 year. Mr. Larson stated, that the City received a clean opinion. Mr. Larson went through the audit along with the council on accounts and fund balances. He stated that after a review, note number 11 needed to be corrected to state that the Debt Service fund was not in the negative. As stated in the report the Council had made a transfer last year at the May meeting. Reflecting that account is in the positive as of today's date.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to accept the facts and findings of the audit report for 2021 as given by Feldmann and Company CPA's, P.C.; Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas,0Nays. Carried. (Yeas Foster, Oakland, Schuette, Bakken, Smith)

Council Member Schuette made a motion to forgive the remaining portion of \$13,869.00 of the Fire Hall building payments with the stipulation that the Fire Department pay all legal fees and closing costs. Council Member Bakken seconded the motion. 5Yeas,0Nays. Carried. (Yeas Foster, Oakland, Schuette, Bakken, Smith)

Council Member Oakland asked what the council's thoughts were to allow the Clerk to take a grant writing class. After brief discussion the idea was rejected.

Public Works Report: Wayne reported that he had left a message with MNDOT about the Jake Breaking sign on the south end of town and that they called and stated that he would investigate the request when he had the time and get back to Wayne when he could. Wayne asked the Council if they wanted to have him continue looking into options for the potential build of the new city shop. They stated to move forward. Wayne also asked the Council if there were any issues with paring back some of his work hours. He stated that in the Personnel Policy that 32 hours a week is considered parttime. He stated that he would continue to work as needed to plow or do on call as needed but would like to have some flexibility without having to use all of his PTO. The Council agreed that he is to use discretion.

City Police Officer's Report: available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Officer Smerud commented that he has been looking into updates for the new squad truck and there isn't a build date as of today. He stated that the new equipment is still trickling in little by little and that hopefully will have a truck soon.

Library: A library report was available that included a list of activities for the library and in the community.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5 Yeas (Foster, Bakken, Oakland, Smith, Schuette) 0 Nays. Carried.

