

City of Brownsdale

Garden Spot of Mower County

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

City Clerk/Treasurer – Adria Vargas

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City Council Meeting

October 3rd, 2022

Present: Mayor Jeff Foster; Council Members: Debra Schuette, Rick Smith, Jessica Klingfus, Raughn Oakland (Absent)

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

Public in attendance: Jan Ball, Loren Swanson, Mary Moritz, Don Konken, Paula Pike, Ashley Hartson, Richard Borcharding

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

September 6th, 2022, regular Meeting Minutes stood approved

All votes are made by roll call vote.

Public Comment:

Mary Mortiz commented that she had been in contact with Chris Weis on regards to a grant opportunity for sidewalks in town. She went over preliminary details. Mayor Foster asked that the Clerk reach out for more information.

Old Business: After hearing no old business Mayor Foster moved onto New Business.

New Business:

Richard Borcharding on behalf of the Brownsdale Firehall asked the Council to approve the gambling license for Bingo to be held at the Firehall tentatively on November 5th, 2022. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-12 approving the gambling license for Bingo. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

The Council discussed the letter received from Kimley Horn Agency asking for the use of the City Shop property to lease for a cellphone tower. After much discussion and consideration, the council decided against the use of the City shop site (22.002.0341) as a potential location for a cellphone tower. Don Konken asked if a tower could be placed on the land behind the trailer court. Mayor Foster stated that the land behind the trailer court doesn't belong to the City it belongs to Akkerman farms. Don also asked if it could placed out on the end of town at the rocket site. He said he felt that if it was in town would have no affect on our service as it may be too close. Mayor Foster stated the City has no say in where the tower

will be placed or if a tower would be placed. He stated that other property owners have received the same letter for consideration.

The Council discussed employee wages. Mayor Foster commented that normally this is done in January of the same year. Wayne commented that the Council that works with us should be approving the raises not a new council that has only just started to work with us. Loren Swanson commented that the conversation could go on for days and nothing changes. The Clerk commented that it makes sense to do the raises sooner so that it could be figured into the next year's budget and made effective the first full pay period in January of the following year. After thought and discussion about percentages versus a flat dollar amount, inflation, COLA increases. Council Members and Mayor made it clear before the motion that the library board would approve all Library staff raises, and that compliance is a must in terms on the wage study. **Council Member Klingfus made a motion to raises wages for Clerk, Public works, and police by .75 cents per hour effective January 9th, 2023, payroll. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Public Hearing for Assessment of past due water, sewer and lawn care bills was scheduled for November 7th, 2022, meeting at 7:30pm.

Clerk will contact Jones, Haugh and Smith about the Lift Station project.

Public Works Report:

Wayne stated that the road patching was done by Mower County Highway Department. Wayne mentioned that it was a great alternative to the higher priced bid that was received.

Wayne discussed the plan for the city shop in detail. The Mayor stated that he feels that due to the time of the year that the building should be put off until Spring. That gives us all winter to work on the planning etc.

The plaque of appreciation was discussed and tabled for the November meeting. The Clerk to look through the previous year's minutes. The memorial bench in honor of Carol Larick was also discussed. It was decided that the next time concrete work is done at the park, to lay a slab where the bench can be attached.

City Police Officer's Report: available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Officer Smerud updated the Council that the truck is awaiting delivery to the local dealership. Officer Smerud stated that everyone has been very pleased with the addition of the Crosswalks in town but to use caution when crossing, just this afternoon there was a traffic chase in excess of 100 mph through town. The suspect was arrested so this is one example to take care while crossing Hwy. 56.

Library: Available by request from the Library.

Ashley Hartson presented the 2023 budget to the Council discussed the budget for the library they stated that the levy was only raised 3% and that all of that would be going to the library in essence to allow for their 5% increase. Ashley commented that SELCO is going through a restructuring. The library is unsure of the amounts that will have to be paid in to SELCO in the future. In the past \$5,000 of the budget goes to SELCO for their services. Mayor Foster asked the board if they know what the County will be contributing to the library. Deb Smith stated that will be determined in late October or early November. Deb stated that they budget only on the previous year's amount. Deb commented that the library shouldn't be penalized for saving money. Mayor Foster stated that the budget needs to be aligned to spending we can't have the library sitting on \$50,000 dollars of taxpayer's money in 10 years that's not being responsible. Mayor Foster stated that the levy has been set for 2023. Paula Pike commented that

they need more than a weeks' notice, to attend and present the budget at the September meeting. Mayor Foster stated that the levy is the same time each year and for the upcoming year they should be coming to the August and September meeting with materials in hand to present their budget.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve \$45,000 dollars for 2023 Library budget. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

The Council discussed the Library Board applications and asked Paula for her input. She stated that she was very happy with both Candidates applications and went on by saying that the Board would be happy to have either one. Paula stated that Amanda Rhodes has many positives and is always looking to be involved and Jan Ball has many, many years of board experience and that with a young/new board that would be very helpful. Mayor Foster asked the Council their opinions Council Member Klingfus stated that Jan's experience brings lots to the table, Council Member Schuette agreed with Council Member Klingfus. Council Member Smith stated that he believes it should be someone who uses the library. **Mayor Foster appointed Jan Ball to the Library Board effective 10/03/2022.**

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 4 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried