

# 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

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

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

Public in attendance: Jan Ball, Loren Swanson, Mary Moritz, Matt Sveen

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

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, regular Meeting Minutes stood approved

All votes are made by roll call vote.

## **Public Comment:**

All attendees were asked individually if they had anything to address to the council. After hearing none the Mayor moved on to old business.

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

## **New Business:**

Matt Sveen from Vista Village Mobile Home Park approached the Council explaining to them that he and his wife are writing a grant from the State of Minnesota for several different areas of work that need to be done at the park. He went on to say that the State looks more favorably on projects where there is collaboration between two entities. He stated that he would like to know if the City Council would consider contacting the City Engineer to find out the cost of the road project that runs through the park. Mayor Foster stated that he would personally call Jones, Haugh and Smith and talk to Brian to see if a ballpark figure could be obtained. Mayor Foster stated that the likelihood of being able to find out the figures by the end of the month before the grant is due may not be possible. The Clerk suggested that a letter of support may be able to accommodate in place of collaboration.

Matt continued to his second subject of business. Mentioned that he has roughly 11 or 12 homes right now that are vacant that they are currently paying a water and sewer bill on. He stated that he has been in legal process with several homes on his property and is seeking some assistance with the cost of his water and sewer bill. He started by stating that he would do as the Council requires but would like to know that at this point if he could forgo the step of the capping until a determination on each home take place. He

stated that he is respectable and would not use services without paying. Council Member Smith stated very abruptly that this topic has already been discussed and it was decided that they need to be capped as we have always requested of everyone. He stated that it doesn't matter how respectable people are now days, things happen. I have been under mobile homes and dealing with homes for 35 years. We are talking about buying a rubber plug and cap that costs about \$6.00 dollars from Menards, as long as its capped and inspected we are good. Matt again said he would do whatever the Council instructed.

Matt moved on to his third issue of business, He approached the Council by stating that work continues to move along at the park and there were some questions on his end about taking the first few lots and widening the lots to accommodate for some modular homes and garages on slabs. Council Member Smith commented that he can't just change the park it's a mobile home park, he bought a mobile home park, and it stays a mobile home park. The Clerk directed the Council on regulations of the State stating that the State enforces spacing, open waste and storm shelters. We can be more restrictive but not less than State specs. Matt stated that he was looking for some preliminary approval. Matt stated that he would not be changing the nature of the park but only allowing for a mixture of modular and mobile homes. He followed by stating that they don't want to rent homes they want to rent lots. Mayor Foster stated that if State regulations are complied with there shouldn't be any problems.

**Council Member Klingfus made a motion to suspend the regular meeting at 7:29pm for the Public Hearing on the preliminary tax levy. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The Mayor opened the hearing by calling on the public after hearing one comment from Loren Swanson that "You're going to have to raise it some, you can always lower it at the next hearing"

The Council discussed the levy, along with the rise in costs associated taxes.

**Council Member Klingfus made a motion to increase the Levy by 3% in the amount of \$139,990.00 in the general fund and \$69,396.00 debt service, total of \$209,386.00. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:44pm. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0Nays. Carried. The Regular meeting reopened.**

The Council briefly revisited the topic of reassessments on the tax forfeited property of 22.003.0223 in the amount of \$17.86 reassessing the property with no interest paid in full upon reassessment and ordering Resolution 2022-11. **Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-11 reassessing the amount of \$17.86 to PID 22.003.0223.5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

**Council Member Klingfus made a motion to reassess PID 22.005.0090 in the amount of \$34,771.53 with a term of 5years with 7% interest. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

**Public Works Report:** Wayne thanked the Council for all their support while he deals with his medical issue.

Wayne discussed the road patching and the difficulty in obtaining a bid. He stated that he reached out to Mower County Highway Department. Wayne stated this option was several thousand less than the other scary bid that was received. The Council instructed Wayne to move quick and get the patching done yet this season.

Wayne mentioned that Husemoller will be removing the trees and brush in the City ROW on Cedar Street come Monday.

Wayne also mentioned that he is waiting for the second bid for the shop construction

**City Police Officer's Report:** available at the City Clerk's office upon request. Officer Smerud updated the Council that the truck has been built but awaiting transport for delivery. Officer Smerud passed the graphic design to the council for their consideration. Officer Smerud and Wayne will be collaborating with each other to set up a drop off and pick up at Featherlite Graphics for both vehicles.

Officer Smerud stated that he has visited all the properties that have not been keeping up with lawn care and citations will be passed out as needed.

**Library:** Available by request from the Library. No report provided to the Council. The Council discussed very briefly the budget for the library but with no one present from the board to present prior to the levy, the subject was tabled.

**Bills were presented and signed**

**Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried**