

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

Correspondence: PO Box 336, Brownsdale, MN 55918 (507)567-2177 (507)567-2250-fax email:brownsdale.mn.clerk@frontiernet.net

City web site: brownsdalemn.com

City Council Meeting

February 6th, 2023

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, Mary Mortiz, Loren Swanson, Ashely Hartson, Deb Smith

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

January 3rd regular Meeting Minutes stood approved with one correction Raughn was inadvertently marked absent but was present.

All votes are made by roll call vote.

Public Comment: Mary Moritz asked the Council if there were any more thoughts on updating the City signs on the north and south ends of town. She stated that she watered the flowers throughout the summer and wasn't sure how much was actually absorbed by the plants due to the amount of overgrowth of weeds, leaves etc. She also stated the signs are in need of work or replacement, the wood is rotten, and the landscape bricks are all chipped and broken. Mayor Foster stated that he had originally thought that at some point a more permanent sign like a granite stone be purchased. He stated that also it would depend on what happens later on in the meeting tonight. Mayor Foster also added if the BABA would have any funds to contribute to the project. Council Member Oakland asked if there were any grants available or if there was some time to research that option. Clerk Vargas will investigate potential grants available.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ashley Hartson was present to discuss the Library Account. The Library is seeking an amount of dedicated library funds from the previous accounts closure and added money from a memorial after the passing of Grace Gillette. The Clerk presented the income and expense reported to the Council and added the comment of needing to choose a date to start at since the board and budget method changeover. Mayor Foster and the Council asked the board present and Librarian Smith if \$18,417.50, Starting as 12/31/2021. Loren Swanson stated that should be the starting date as when the new board and budget started and everything else stays in the past. Librarian Smith and Ashley Hartson felt that was fair.

Public Works Report: Wayne presented the bids for the City Shop. The Council reviewed the bids, discussed details, and posed questions to Wayne as he had studied the bids in more detail.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to accept a Walters Builders bid with conditions of securing approved financing and including the added addendum of the City hiring and paying of Husemoller Excavating. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 1Abstain (Oakland) Carried.

Wayne also updated the Council on the progress of the Lift Station project. Bids are due in March 1st at 2:30pm and will be opened at the Council Meeting on March 6th, 2023 with Brian Johnson present for questions.

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

Officer Smerud stated that the new pick-up is working great and that the start of the year has been good. He stated that there have been several scam type phone calls happening around town and urged the public not to give personal information over the phone and if you feel that you have given too much information to call law enforcement to file a report, and also to call your bank to stop any fraud that may occur.

Bills were presented and signed.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm, Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.