

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

March 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, Loren Swanson, Isaac Gorman and Greg Larson (Feldmann and Associates CPA, PCA) Brian Johnson(Jones, Haugh and Smith Engineering)

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

February 6th regular Meeting Minutes stood approved with one correction Adria was inadvertently marked absent but was present.

All votes are made by roll call vote.

Public Comment After hearing none the Mayor moved on to new business.

New Business:

Feldmann and Associates presented the 2022 audit report. Greg Larson reviewed the audit report with the Council. He stated that they are presenting a clean opinion. He asked the Council if they had any questions. After hearing none, Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve the 2022 audit report as presented by Feldmann and Associates. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. **5Yeas, 0Nays, Carried.**

Brian Johnson presented the Council with the full bid for the lift station project in the amount of \$323,489.00 after much discussion. Council Member Schuette made a motion to award Tom's backhoe the bid for the lift station improvement project. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. **5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

Mayor Foster discussed financing with the bank in the amount of \$200,000.00 plus the roughly \$125,000 in ARPA monies that will be used to fund the project. Mayor Foster and the Council discussed a rate increase of the water and sewer bills to make the annual payment. Council Member Schuette made a motion to amend the 2023 Fee Schedule to include a raise of the sewer rates by \$2.00 and the water rates by \$1.00, to fund the annual payment. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. **5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Clerk Vargas will announce the increase on the bills mailed out on 3/27/2023 and will take affect the next billing cycle in April.

The Council discussed the Public Works shop and Police office and financing related to the project. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve the loan from First Farmers and Merchants in the amount of \$300,000.00 Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.**

The Council decided to move the July meeting from July 3rd to July 10th to accommodate the Independence Day holiday.

The Council discussed a community garden that had been suggested to be in the park in the open spot to the side of the Rumsey property where the small playground equipment used to be. The Council stated that the park isn't the best place to plant a garden and they tabled the discussion in hopes that a more suitable place be found.

Mayor Foster discussed a Veterans Memorial that Darlene Darnell suggested being placed at the park she in Leonard's memory. Mayor Foster stated that the cost of the project would be so considerable that there would be no possibility at this time. He asked Clerk Vargas to call Mrs. Darnell and suggested that she contact the VFW, Legion or the Courthouse to the Veterans Council about a project that they may use the funds for in his memory.

Mayor Foster updated the Council about the Community signs, he stated that he contacted Weis Landscaping but hadn't heard anything back before the meeting.

Mayor Foster and the Council discussed an opening on the Library Board. Mayor Foster stated that one application had been received, with little hesitation he appointed Amanda Rhodes to the Library Board to fill Michelle Swanks position.

The Council discussed the finding of a letter from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the Emerald Ash Borer found in varying stages in the Cities trees. The Council tabled this for future discussion. Wayne stated that he had met and did a drive around with Conrardt tree service and that it was determined that, there are 135-140 Ash trees in various stages of disease and that there are 35- 40 trees right now that should be addressed. Conrardt stated that it would cost approximately \$40,000-\$50,000 to remove trees and stumps.

The Council discussed the 2024 Fire Contract. No increase is slated for the services for the upcoming year. After hearing no further comments or questions **Council Member Schuette made a motion to accept the 2024 Fire Contract in the amount of \$ 22,238.00 Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The Council after a brief discussion on cellphone towers made a motion to set a moratorium on cellphone towers until Nov.8th,2023 an ordinance can be drafted and adopted. Council Member Schuette made a motion to set a moratorium on cellphone towers until Nov. 8th, 2023. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Old Business: None

Public Works Report: Wayne had nothing extra to report.

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

Officer Smerud stated that everything in town is good to date. He stated that he has had some problems with the squad computer and is working on getting a quote for a new one from Dell but that he hadn't heard anything before tonight's meeting. Mayor Foster stated that he should get a quote and bring it to the next meeting to be acted upon.

Bills were presented and signed.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm, Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.