

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

August 7th, 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, Mary Mortiz, Rep. Patricia Mueller, Wendy Anderson, Matt Steiner (Aurora Web Solutions)

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

July 10th, 2023, regular Meeting Minutes stood approved as written.

All votes are made by roll call vote.

Public Comment: none

Matt Steiner approached the Council to discuss the building and design of a potential website for the City of Brownsdale. Matt stated that he is currently working with the library in designing their website. After some discussion and questions.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to contract with Aurora Web solutions design, develop the city website not to exceed \$4,000 Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to contract with Aurora Web Solutions to host the city website and assist with renewal of domain name, not to exceed \$500.00 pd. yearly Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5 Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

New Business:

After a very brief discussion **Council Member Schuette made a motion to allow amendment of Ordinance 1993-3 setting the age to purchase tobacco from 18 years to 21 years to match the current state laws in place. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The City Council discussed the grant of \$250.00 awarded to the City from Freeborn Mower operation round up (ORU) for the use of City welcome signs.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-03 accepting the grant from ORU for \$250.00 for City welcome signs. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Mayor Foster set two Public Hearing for Sept 5th, 2023, meeting. A hearing for 2024 Preliminary tax levy will be held at 7:30pm. A second hearing has been called for Sept. 5th at 7:45pm to set addresses for empty lots in Akkerman Addition.

Mayor Foster suspended the regular meeting at 7:29pm to open the public hearing on the Noise Ordinance.

Mayor Foster stated that issues like this don't happen very often, if it's adopted, then it will need to be enforced. Mayor foster stated that when the county is in town for mutual aid, they will not enforce city ordinances. Officer Smerud stated that the only way the County will enforce ordinances in town is if they are contracted. Council member Klingfus asked what happens if we need something like this in the future. She asked if the Clerk could keep it on the computer just in case. No action taken.

Council Member Schuette adjourned the public hearing at 7:34pm. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Mayor Foster opened the regular council meeting at 7:35pm.

Representative Mueller was given the floor. She thanked the Council for all the work that they do. She commented that the City of Brownsdale will be receiving over \$21,000 in Small City Aid in 2024. She commented about legislation on school mandates and that when school is in session, she is going to speak to the school board to see what she can do to lobby. She also stated that there have been several tax increases passed in the last session, some of which were gas tax, license tax, tab tax, hunting and fishing licenses. She also commented that many new laws went into effect August 1st some of which were Marijuana, gun laws and mandates on schools and businesses. One specific one is paid sick leave. She also mentioned that there are several pots of money related to public safety to investigate if the City of Brownsdale needs something for public safety uses. She also stated that when the city starts to discuss the legalization of marijuana, she can ask someone to come down to assist the Council in laying out ordinance to manage the dispensaries etc. Council Member Oakland asked about rifle hunting and how that would affect managing that. Rep. Mueller asked if Council Member Oakland could email her with his questions so that she could research the answers as she wasn't clear on all the new updates.

Old Business:

The council discussed the city welcome signs after a very brief mention the Mayor tabled the discussion for the upcoming meeting due to needing further bids for installation and concrete work.

Public Works Report: Wayne and the Council discussed the exterior of City Hall. Wayne to present a bid, the topic was tabled waiting for a second bid.

Wayne presented the contract from Maguire Iron for the cleaning as instructed by the council. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to accept the 10-year contract as written with a three-year rotation in cleaning and submarine inspection in the amount of \$2,175.00 with next year starting of the cleaning. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Wayne and the council discussed tree removal. Wayne stated that he decided to allow Freeborn Mower electric cooperative to finish their tree trimming first to get a better idea of what else needed to be trimmed. Wayne stated that there are roughly between 15 and 20 trees that need work done now. After much discussion.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to allow Conradt tree service to remove and trim trees on city Blvd. And park not to exceed \$10,000. Council member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays Carried.

Clerk Vargas mentioned that there are several grant opportunities for 2024 through the DNR to assist with the cost of tree removal.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to allow City Clerk Vargas to write grant/ or grants to the DNR whether matching or non-matching grants to assist with the cost in the tree removal that will need to be done in town due to EAB disease and other dead, dying, or unsafe trees on City Brownsdale Blvd, ROW and City Park. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried

Wayne updated the Council that the work for the Lift station project will tentatively start September 1st pending having all the necessary items in place.

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

Officer Smerud discussed the graphics on the police squad, he stated they are less than a year old. He stated that the decals are peeling. He will be reaching out to Featherlight to make the repairs.

Officer Smerud thanked Deb for bringing the RAD zoo to NNO. It was a big hit with the kids. He also thanked the Fire Department for their help at NNO, stating that they were a big help.

Officer Smerud stated that there was a better good turnout at the street dance. There were a few small incidents but other than that it went well.

Bills were presented and signed.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm, Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.