

# 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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, Mike Bieniek (LCC Telecom Services), Ronald Akkerman, Don Peterson (Mower County Independent)

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

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, regular and August 15<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes stood approved as written.

All votes are by roll call vote.

### **Public Comment: none**

Mayor Foster questioned all public in attendance if there were any comments, after hearing none, Mayor Foster continued to new business.

### **New Business:**

After a very brief discussion **Council Member Schuette made a motion to accept going into an access agreement contract between the City and Ronald Akkerman and LCC Telecom. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-07 accepting a \$25.00 donation to the park fund in Memory of Judy Schaefer from Gene and Sally Gerhart. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The Council discussed the water and sewer account at 206 Pleasant Street SE., the council moved to reevaluate fee schedule next year. The billing should continue until such a time.

Mayor Foster suspended the regular meeting at 7:29pm to open the public hearing on the 2024 Preliminary Tax Levy.

Mayor Foster stated that the Levy can be raised now and lowered in December at the hearing but that it cannot be raised.

The Council discussed the water being ported to Akkerman Manufacturing, the council wants the gallons to be tracked to decide future rates or reduced cost, associated with filling up to water sod.

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-06 setting the preliminary Tax levy at a total of \$172,520.00 with a general fund of \$139,990.00 and debt service on the 2016A bond as \$32,530.00.**

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the public hearing for the levy at 7:40pm. Council Member Smith seconded the motion 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Council Member Schuette commented that there are several active cases of Parvo virus in town that is highly contagious to pets, she asked if something could be posted on the City website or if property owners could possibly put signs out in their yards alerting those who are walking their dogs in town.

The Clerk mentioned that the city doesn't have a current active website in which it could be posted to, it was suggested to ask Deb Smith to add it to the community Facebook page. Officer Smerud stated that he would speak to the animal owners and ask that they post something.

Mayor Foster opened the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm for assigning addresses to the bare lots in the Akkerman Addition.

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01 Assigning Street addresses to the bare lots in Akkerman Addition. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried**

Clerk Vargas made the first reading of ordinance 2023-01 assigning addresses to the Akkerman Addition.

**Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing for assigning addresses at 7:49pm. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Mayor Foster opened the regular council meeting at 7:50pm.

The Council discussed the current approved policies in place and moved to amend the personnel policy to include Juneteenth Freedom Day, as an approved paid holiday. The Council also moved to update the Hay policy to remove Paape and include Chelsea and Joshua Faulhaber as the persons approved to Hay the pond land.

#### **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 tree removal. Wayne stated that he had spoken to Conradt Tree service, they will be in town in November to complete the approved work.

Wayne updated the Council on the progress of the City Shop. Summarizing that the next step is leveling and packing of the dirt, foam insulation, then the in-floor heat will be installed, followed by the concrete, all of this should tentatively be done by next week. The electrical has been trenched underground and he is waiting for the old shop building to be reconnected to the panel in the new shop.

Chief Smerud asked about cooling the office space in the summer, He stated that due to a summer like we've just had, the office space is going to be a hot box. Mayor Foster asked that Wayne get some quotes for a mini split.

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

Officer Smerud stated that the kids are now back at school and to please keep a close eye on the roads while they are getting on a off the buses.

**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.**