

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

November 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 (Absent), City Maintenance: Wayne Baldner

Public in attendance: Jan Ball, Mary Mortiz, Don Peterson (Mower County Independent), Rep. Patty Mueller, Darren Frohwein

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

October 2nd, 2023, minutes stood approved as written.

All votes are by roll call vote.

Public Comment:

Don Peterson commented to the Council that there is pooling and dipping in the center of Sunset Street SW, Mayor Foster stated that he and Wayne are aware and will drive down and take another look.

Don also commented that the road signs need to be looked at and either adjusted or replaced, they are bent and turned again. Mayor Foster told Wayne to go down and look at it, when he is able. Don went on and asked the Council who oversees weeds and leaves along Hwy 56/ Mill Street. He stated that if it weren't for a few cars parked along the road it would look like a ghost town. Mayor Foster stated that it's the same for businesses as it is for residents. Property owners are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their properties.

Don also asked who is responsible for painting the fire hydrants in town. Mayor Foster stated that he believes that the city is responsible for that. Maybe someone who has time to serve for vandalism could paint them sometime next Spring.

Jan Ball asked about cleaning out the storm drain that runs east west under Hwy 56 and Latham Street She wonders if the City or MN DOT are responsible for that? Mayor Foster stated that Storm Sewers were added to the schedule to be cleaned and televised by Roto rooter.

New Business:

Representative Mueller wanted to update the Council and public on some current and upcoming items of business. She stated that she just finished a tour of 8 prisons in our area. She commented that the DOC

has 650 million dollars in deferred maintenance. She stated that there are so many items that need to be fixed. There are literally holes in the walls among many other items that are concerning to her. During the next session she will be working on a bill to bond for infrastructure repairs at the prisons.

Representative Mueller also stated that there are few updates on Paid Family Leave, After the third-party audit they found that it's expected to cost roughly \$600 million more dollars than originally studied. The state is working on getting an agency department together to run the program when it's implemented in 2025. Right now, there are many concerns as it's coming together, she stated that she is working with Independent and Small Business owners to take something back to session to put a cap on limits.

Representative Mueller also stated that she couldn't attend the last fish fry due to a family get together. She stated that she never misses it.

She stated that the next session starts Feb. 12th and will be hard at work getting bonding bills passed as there is one billion dollars in reform money squirreled away. She stated that she has had many communities reach out for help getting money for projects through bonding including Mower County/Austin for the Wastewater Treatment project and projects in Steele County.

She stated that she attended informational local business communities meeting, hosted by Akkerman Manufacturing, she stated that she would be very happy to sit down with community members or small business owners to discuss concerns for the upcoming 2024-2025 Legislative Session.

Mayor Foster suspended the regular meeting at 7:14pm and opened the Public Hearing on Assessing 2023 Past due water, sewer, and lawn care to 2024 property taxes.

Darren Frohwein asked the Council for leniency on his past due water and sewer bill. He stated overspent on renovations and is good on his word that he will have the balance taken care of by the end of this year. He then thanked the Council for working with him.

After a brief discussion, **Council Member Schuette moved to not assess water and sewer at 304 E. Main St. and grant an extension of payment through the end of 2023. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

After hearing no others present to discuss their past due bills **Council Member Schuette moved to adopt resolution 2023-09 assessing past due 2023 water, sewer, and lawn care bills for collection on the 2024 property tax roll. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:19pm. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Mayor Foster opened the suspended regular meeting at 7:20pm.

After a brief discussion **Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-08 granting the Gambling license to the Brownsdale Volunteer Fire Department. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

After a brief discussion **Council Member Schuette made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-10 voting operations, Technology, and election resources. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The Council spoke briefly on putting eyes on the city shop and moved to table this for future discussion.

They spoke briefly on the car wash membership and asked that the Clerk check into prices for other options and report back during the December meeting.

Old Business:

Public Works Report:

Wayne updated the Council on the lift station, stated that it's up and running, and moves lots of water. He believes that this will solve the flooding problems we have every Spring of needing to be at the lift station babysitting pumps to make sure we aren't flooding at all hours of the day and night. He opened a tour to the council to see how it works.

Wayne stated that Husemoller was finished with Loren Swansons sewer project. Although there were a few hiccups it is now up and running.

Wayne stated that the shop is all insulated and hoping that the electrical can be finished soon, and that Walters Builders is working on getting the Contractor there to install the overhead doors. Gas service to be installed is in the works.

Mayor Foster stated that there is some added curb and some approach concrete around the shop. The clerk's office should be getting a bill in the mail shortly.

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

No report was presented to the Council as Officer Smerud was absent.

Bills were presented and signed.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm, Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.