

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

January 2nd, 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, Darr Ehmke, Brian Johnson, Deb Smith

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

December 4th, 2023, minutes stood approved as written.

All votes are by roll call vote.

Public Comment:

Mayor Foster, hearing none moved on to new business.

New Business:

The Council and City Engineer discussed the potential road project at Vista Village Mobile Home Park. The water and sewer infrastructure under the roadway were discussed in lengthy detail, along with abandoning the hydrant that is on Akkerman lot. There was a question of whether the infrastructure was clay or PVC. Wayne looked online and read an excerpt that noted that clay was last used in the early 80's. Brian Johnson stated that the map was platted in 1987 and could very well be PVC. The property owner will be contacted as he has had work done on his Property by Gopher Septic to request thumb drives of the televising of the systems to know for certain the materials that were used in the previous construction of the sewer lines, and also invite him to the Feb. 5th meeting. There was mention of the contract between the City, Ronald Akkerman to develop the additional 50ft to speck with drive over curb, as a condition of the Cellphone tower being built on his property (16.037.0070).

Brian Johnson discussed a feasibility study and potentially a topographical assessment be completed. He asked if the work would be completed and assessed to the property owner as a 80/20 split in cost.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to complete a feasibility study with Jones, Haugh and Smith for the Vista Village MHP Railway/ Cedar St. project. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Officer Smerud informed the Council that the Police Department had a great 2023 year. He thanked the Council and the City for the opportunity to serve them now his 6th year, “it’s a great place to work”. Officer Smerud also mentioned that he recently had a certification training for administering Narcan overdose drug. He stated that it was a very necessary training for the times we are going through right now. He stated that he also carries that with him now while on duty.

Librarian Deb Smith approached the Council with two applications for the open positions on the Library Board. Mayor Foster, after a very brief commentary appointed Wendy Andersen and Jan Hamer to the Library Board.

The Council discussed 2024- 01 Commissioners appointments, Library Board Members and other services contracted by the City; Mayor Foster called for a motion for acting Mayor. **Council Member Klingfus made a motion to appoint Council Member Schuette as acting Mayor. Council Member Oakland seconded the motion. 4 Yeas, 1 Abstain (Schuette). Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01 Annual Appointments Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The Council discussed the 2024 fee schedule upon making some updates. **Council Member Klingfus made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-2 Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The Council discussed the Fire Departments request for a gambling permit to allow Bingo at the Firehall. **Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 granting the Fire Departments request for a gambling license/ Bingo at the Firehall. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

Council Member Schuette on behalf of Gene Crabtree asked the Council about the Christmas Lights remembering that at some point the decorations were further down Hwy 56 almost to Legacy. Mayor Foster stated that was true and asked Wayne about it. Wayne stated that many were damaged over the years, he stated that he reused many lights, ribbons etc. off of them and the rest was not usable. Wayne stated that some got new lights and new ribbons over the last few years to keep this in shape to use for upcoming years. Wayne was then asked about the decorations that were offered to the City from the City of Austin. Wayne stated that we were third in line, he went to go look at them and was told that City of Brownsdale could have what’s left and there was none.

The Council discussed the new legislation passed regarding the earned sick and safe time. Mayor Foster asked Deb if she had any information on behalf of the library regarding the Policy, she stated that Paula had mentioned front loading the hours upfront instead of accrual. Deb also commented that she had reached SELCO and spoken to the Director Krista. Krista had stated that it is the Library Boards direction to make and approve policies that have to do with the library but that it would be better to use what the City sets forward. Mayor Foster stated that he also had spoken to Paula about the topic. Mayor Foster then asked the Clerk if Paula had been sent the ESST Policy. Clerk Vargas commented that she had been emailed the ESST Policy along with the personnel policy she had requested while on the phone with the Clerk. Mayor Foster stated it would be foolish on the City’s part to front load the hours because then it’s open to everyone hired for the City even if it were very parttime or temporary without any necessity to work the required hours. Mayor Foster stated that it’s the responsibility of the Council to look after the best interests of the City. Mayor Foster stated that the Policy had been discussed at the December meeting and that it was decided that accrual would be worded into the policy amendment and voted on tonight at the meeting.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to add the amendment to the personnel policy to include the ESST as of 01/01/2024. 4Yeas 1 Abstain (Smith)

Old Business: The Council discussed the welcome signs and the doors at the Community building, no one has heard back from contacted companies to date.

Public Works Report: Wayne updated the council about the progress of the City Shop. The shop has been completed waiting for final inspection. He commented that the only place in town with the worst cellphone reception happens to be inside the new shop. He mentioned that there had been some issues with the control panel at the wellhouse and the fluoride meter. He commented it was monitored for a week until the parts could arrive, and the work could be completed. Wayne commented that work is complete, and everything is in working order.

City Police Officer's Report: available at the City Clerk's office upon request. See above under new business.

Bills were presented and signed.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.