

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

May 6th, 2024

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, David Amick, Loren Swanson, Kollin Ehler, Brian Johnson (Jones, Haugh and Smith), James Yerhart, Julie Clayton, Donna Soucek, Matt Long, Don Peterson

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

April regular meeting and Public Hearing minutes approved as written.

All votes are by roll call vote.

Public Comment:

Don Peterson asked the Council to look at the large dip in the road from Sunset and Co. 2. Mayor Foster stated that the road has probably settled, it could be tree roots that have rotted. They had an exchange about how old the road is and asked Brian Johnson from Jones and Haugh and Smith to drive by and look at it before he leaves town this evening. Don also asked the council who is responsible for cleaning and keeping the downtown area clean and free from weeds, trash, and leaves etc. Mayor Foster stated that it's the property owner's responsibility to keep it up just like a residential neighborhood. Don also asked if the fire hydrants and curbs that are faded if they could be painted. Just to make it look like it's not a ghost town. Mayor Foster stated that generally that a job is given to someone that needs to do community service hours, but it should be done sometime this summer.

James Yerhart approached the Council about two trees planted in his south Blvd. He stated that he took self-initiative to pay and remove and grind the stump of a dead and diseased tree that was previously on his Blvd. He also commented that he also replaced his sidewalk, he stated that he also spent roughly \$300.00 per tree and that he has no room to allow for planting trees on his property. He showed pictures of the trees to the Council and location, stated that the trees would grow no higher than 15 to 20Ft., and that his Blvd. is 8ft 2in. across, his house was built in the 1880's and is very inefficient. He needs the shade and also wants to beautify his property. James asked that they give permission to allow the trees to remain planted there. The Council agreed although there is a tree policy that does not allow trees to be replanted on the Blvd but only on personal property.

Matt Long requested permission to remove a diseased Ash tree from this residential Blvd. The council granted permission for removal.

Julie Clayton and her sister-in-law (Donna Soucek) asked about a tree near Donna's house. If it falls on my house whose insurance is responsible? The Council along with the meeting attendees spoke briefly that the responsibility would lie on the homeowner's insurance as an act of nature.

New Business:

Brian Johnson from Jones, Haugh and Smith offered the Council the plans and specs of the Railway Cedar Street improvement project. After the Council's review of the plans, discussions of the pressure valves, green space, inlets that lead into Hwy 56 ROW, and securing necessary State permits, replacement of the fire hydrant south of the entrance of Vista Village, curb and graveling the indrives at Vista Village. Council Member Schuette made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09 accepting the plans and Specs and ordering for advertisement of bids.

The Council discussed the contract with WSE/CMS for building permits and inspection, after a brief discussion Council Schuette made a motion to go into a one-year contract at an hourly rate. Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

The Council discussed the current bank CD that is set to mature on 5/15/24, After review of banking documents provided, Council Member Klingfus made a motion to rollover the initial deposit amount plus all earned interest into a second 9-month term at the same interest rate. Council Member Schuette seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Old Business:

Public Works Report:

Wayne presented the new tree bids, Johnson Tree Service, Morem. Conratt, and Rock Creek. The Council discussed value for money and ultimately accepted the bid from Morem. Council Members Schuette made a motion to hire Morem Tree Service to remove 11 trees for a total amount of \$10,735.00 Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Wayne also talked about the patching of the streets in several areas where work has been completed around town. A sewer basin was also discussed down on the corner of Johnson and Fremont, Wayne will cold patch the area as time allows where the asphalt has separated from the basin in the curb area.

City Police Officer's Report:

Chief Smerud was absent, no report available.

Bills were presented and signed.

Council Member Schuette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, Council Member Klingfus seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

