

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

The regular council meeting of the City of Browns Valley, MN was held at City Hall. Council members present were Mike Heck, Jeanne Dusing, Tony Miller, and Ken Warren. Also in attendance were Tony Serocki, Bernice Piechowski, Autumn Roark, and Tom Schmitz. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Vice Mayor Heck.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion from Dusing seconded by Miller, the council unanimously approved the minutes of the January 25, 2016, Regular Council meeting.

### **Financial Report**

Upon motion from Heck seconded by Warren, the council unanimously approved the financial report.

### **Bills**

Following presentation and discussion of prepaid claim, claims to be paid, and employee wages, upon motion by Dusing and a second by Miller, that the council unanimously passed the following resolution:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Browns Valley that the payment of the following city bills and payroll be and is approved as presented.

Prepaid claims: \$6,043.81    Claims for approval: \$15,429.15    Wages: \$10,814.59

Motion passed 4-0.

### **Visitors**

Terri Osterman had planned on attending this meeting, but cancelled due to poor weather conditions. Autumn Roark, Browns Valley Health Center, was present to discuss utility fee changes at the facility. She stated that the drastic change in the sewer charge would cause issues with their budget. As was estimated in 2009, sewer fees were to increase from \$5.00 to \$8.00. Fees were incrementally increased in 2015 by \$4.00 to prepare for the overall estimated total of \$8.00. The cost of construction came in over one million dollars higher of what was estimated in 2009. The City ended up receiving an additional grant and taking out a short-term loan to start the project. It was explained that State regulations and loan (bond) requirements are driving how the manner of this change was made. The City had taken a loan in December to pay off the replacement costs for the wastewater project. Annual bond payments of near \$100,000 are required to be raised through user fees.

Autumn shared that the BVHC is opening their door for the community to listen to Tilford Kroshus. He will be entertaining the public on February 27, at 2:00pm.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Council discussed the disparities in the way some utilities are being billed out. They reviewed a document showing the differences and the reasons for such differences.

Upon motion from Dusing with a second by Warren, council unanimously approved the grandfathering of the existing utility billing method. Also stated in the motion that all new connections and / or properties that change ownership will be billed all-or-nothing for utilities from this point going forward.

**Department Reports****Attorney**

Franzese provided a timesheet for the council.

**Public Works**

Serocki reported that four cameras are installed on Broadway and one on the alley side of the shop.

Several dumpsters were purchased at a greatly reduced price. They are not for sale but rather purchased if there is a need during the sesquicentennial.

**Library**

Piechowski reported that on March 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a program called Madams, Matrons, and Mad-women: Unusual American Women in Story and Song. It is a program of history done through songs and stories by songwriter and storyteller Elisa Korenne.

Bernice will be out of the library from February 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Administration**

Schmitz reported that he is getting ready for the upcoming audit.

Moved by Miller with a second by Heck and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 05:55pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Approved by:

Thomas A Schmitz, Clerk

Mike Heck, Acting Mayor