

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 Brad Bartz, Bernice Piechowski, Tanya Brick, Tony Serocki, Deputy Darrell Thompson, Chief Deputy Greg Forcier, Representative Jeff Backer, Attorney Franzese, Building Inspector Mike Jacobson, and Tom Schmitz. The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm by Vice Mayor Heck.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion from Warren seconded by Miller, the council unanimously approved the minutes of the February 8, 2016, Regular Council meeting.

Financial Report

Motion by Dusing 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: \$200.31 Claims for approval: \$23,285.91 Wages: \$8,163.93

Motion passed 4-0.

Memorials/Donations

Donations to the ambulance service include: from Harlyn and Carol Bartz, \$10.00 in memory of Clarence Pistorius; \$5.00 in memory of Joseph Serocki; and \$5.00 in memory of Alvina Grosenick, and from Jerry and \$20.00 from Jerry and Dianne Johnson in memory of Buzz Ebben. Miller moved to approve and accept the generous donations given to the City and/or its departments seconded by Warren and passed 4-0.

Building Permit

Motion by Miller with a second by Dusing, council unanimously approved the building permit from Dianne Johnson to replace existing windows on the porch of their home located at 215 Washington Street South.

Visitors

Deputy Darrell Thompson introduced himself. Prior to being hired at a Traverse County Sheriff's Deputy, Darrell worked four years for the Sisseton Police Department. Chief Deputy Forcier reported that Deputy Thompson has completed his training obligation and will be starting on his own on February 29. Forcier reported that Jeff Conrad has been hired as a deputy. Conrad is currently working dispatch and jail as they are working with short numbers. Once more people have been hired then Conrad will be able to start patrolling the county.

Representative Backer reported that this session is only nine weeks long. House members have been meeting prior to the start of the session to discuss various topics. He reported on the state of LGA and the process of what measures it is required to pass before coming law. He also reported on what rural

legislators would like to see done with the transportation bill. The House of Representatives are working on eliminating State property taxes on businesses, taxing social security and veteran's benefits. Backer also discussed a bonding bill that would include the flood mitigation of the Toelle Coulee.

Mike Jacobson reviewed the State's requirements of habitable housing and the process for an owner to make the home habitable. If the home is not made habitable, and the owner does not remove it, the City can ask the courts to have the house torn down. Attorney Franzese will make ready an amendment to the City's abatement ordinance by the next meeting so progress can move forward.

Correspondence

Council reviewed the Library Board minutes from January 19, 2016.

Council reviewed the annual financial statements from West Central Initiative of the Browns Valley Fund.

Council reviewed a notice from the County Assessor that a Board of Equalization meeting has been scheduled at the Browns Valley library at 1pm on Wednesday, April 6.

Council reviewed a meeting notice regarding the State of Minnesota leasing prison space from the prison facility in Appleton, MN.

New Business

Motion by Dusing with a second by Warren, council unanimously approved contracting services with the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission to assist in closing out the grant for the diversion project.

Council reviewed the newsletter of February 2016.

Department Reports

Ambulance

Tanya Brick reported that the ambulance service conducted STEMI training on the Zoll 12-lead in February. She will be applying for a training grant that will provide outside training to come to Browns Valley with mannequins and simulate trauma, cardiac and medical injuries. Council member Dusing inquired about providing public training on choking and CPR.

Library

Bernice Piechowski reported that she has been writing grants and working with the public. The library has several programs coming in the near future.

Fire Department

Chief Bartz reported that the fire department is preparing for the annual fish fry on April 23. Several pieces of government surplus equipment were picked up from the DNR site in Duluth. Bartz discussed where the tanker truck can be stored. The chief and council has discussed changing out the overhead doors with one large door and removing the wall to their training room to accommodate the length of the tanker truck.

Public Works

Tony Serocki reported that he has been trying to identify sign reflectivity standards. The rules and timelines have changed over the last several years. Serocki has contacted Larry Haukos several times regarding sign reflectivity. Haukos couldn't give a definite answer to Tony's questions.

Serocki reported that damaged cord for the pump on the lift station #3 will be shortened and repaired as the cut is close to the pump.

Serocki reported that the pumps on #1 lift station do not work as well as other pumps that the City has. The new pumps are the same size but trip off during startup.

Administration

Schmitz reported that the Wastewater and Reserve bonds are renewing and .40%.

Rental license application, licenses and permits are ready to be dispersed. He will be sending out letters and applications to landlords.

Council

Warren presented an advertisement that he had created for the Browns Valley Business Loan Incentive Program.

Moved by Dusing with a second by Warren and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 06:48pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Approved by:

Thomas A Schmitz, Clerk

Mike Heck, Acting Mayor