

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, Neil Madison, Ken Warren, and Tony Miller. Also in attendance were Lloyd Haney, Brad Bartz, Bernice Piechowski, Matt Franzese, and Tom Schmitz. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Vice Mayor Heck.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

A discussion regarding city cleanup was added to New Business.

Motion by Warren with a second by Madison, council unanimously approved adding “City Clean-up” to the agenda.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion from Warren seconded by Miller, the council unanimously approved the minutes of the February 13, 2017, Regular Council meeting.

### **Financial Report**

Motion by 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 Warren and a second by Miller to pay all claims except the claim to the Traverse County Sheriff for “Civil Process”. 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: \$0.00    Claims for approval: \$11,115.19    Wages: \$19,089.51

Motion passed 4-0.

### **Correspondence**

The minutes of the January 17, 2017 Library Board meeting were reviewed.

### **Old Business**

Motion by Miller with a second by Warren, council unanimously approved Per Diem Reimbursement For Elected Officials Policy.

Council reviewed drawings of City owned lots on Block 21, Plateau Addition. Discussion regarding vacating the undeveloped Jackson Street between Blocks 20 and 21. Additional room is needed if Roy Klemm decides to move to Browns Valley.

Schmitz reported that Roy hasn't stopped by City Hall the past two weeks, so has been unable to visit him regarding our findings.

Franzese will identify who owns the undeveloped street, costs for filing and publication fees.

## **New Business**

The Lamers and Goette properties have been burnt and will need to be cleaned up. Excavator costs were obtained to clean up these properties. Goodhart Excavating, Inc. presented a price of \$170.00 per hour and Serocki Excavating, Inc. presented a price of \$146.50 per hour. Schmitz explained that historically Tony Serocki splits work between the two contractors. Serocki performs all of the excavation for water related items and Goodhart for gravel, dirt and earth work.

Motion by Warren with a second by Madison to hire Serocki Excavation, Inc. to remove buildings with the excavator cost of \$146.50 per hour. Motion passed 4-0.

Dan Appel, manager of the Century 21 Grant, stopped by to ask if the City would be interested in planting trees on public property in the city. The Grant involves children of all ages. Dan would like to plant 1,000 trees in Traverse County on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is Earth Day. Trees would include fruit trees, shrubs, deciduous and conifers. The cost of trees would be covered by the Grant. Tony and Darrell will identify areas in town that would benefit where trees can be planted.

Councilmember Warren reported that there are many areas in town, whether private or public, that should be cleaned up. He asked if the City could hire people for the project. Many of the areas will need an abatement sent identifying of the need. If the owner doesn't respond in the specified time, the City can clean it up and assess the charges to the owner's property taxes.

## **Department Reports**

### **Library**

Piechowski reported that she is getting close to finalizing grant applications for summer programming.

### **Fire Department**

Chief Bartz reported that the Big Bucks Bingo was successful.

He reported that the water tanker will be painted in Hankinson, ND. The estimated cost for painting is between \$12,000 and \$15,000. The department received a \$5,000 matching grant for this project. He stated that he will apply next year for additional moneys to assist with the remaining costs.

The fire department is considering the purchase of a tandem axel trailer to transport the Polaris six-wheeler. They will then use the enclosed trailer to store and transport the sled used for winter rescue, cold rescue suits and grain bin rescue equipment.

The annual fish fry is on April 25.

The installation of a large overhead door is still planned for this summer. This will allow for parking the water tanker and ease of getting trucks in and out of the garage.

### **Administration**

Schmitz reported that he has called the city of Cyrus to identify what program they used to build their fire hall.

Steven Hannasch stopped by to ask if the City would consider vacating the alley along his property at 114 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SE. Piechowski stated that she thought that the alley was vacated. Schmitz will check the County's website to identify if the alley is vacated.

## **Council**

Warren reported that he contacted the hospital administrator at Coteau des Prairies Hospital and was forwarded to the ER manager. He will be setting up a meeting with the ER manager to ask if Browns Valley's ambulance service could again respond to transfers of community residents to transferring hospitals. Schmitz will accompany Warren to the meeting.

## **Open Forum**

Lloyd Haney addressed the council as a member of the Carnegie Library Board. He reported that the Sam Brown Cabin is becoming inundated with artifacts. The Board would like to keep Sam Brown associated artifacts at the cabin and transfer the remaining historical items to the library. He stated that they would like to set up the Library as it was when it was in operation, so that the school children would be able to take field trips there to learn about Browns Valley's history. The Board also has plans to have historical artifacts and documents accessible for anyone conducting historical research of the city and area.

Moved by Warren with a second by Madison and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 06:52pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Approved by:

Thomas A Schmitz, Clerk

Mike Heck, Acting Mayor