

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, and Ken Warren. Also in attendance were Trevor Wright, Tanya Brick, Tony Serocki, Bernice Piechowski, Matt Franzese, and Tom Schmitz. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Vice Mayor Heck.

Additions to the agenda

Additional bills were added to the claims list.
Experienced Officials: 2016 Leadership Conference
Motion to pay end of 2015 bills

Consent Agenda

Upon motion from Warren seconded by Heck, the council unanimously approved the minutes of the December 14, 2015, Regular Council meeting with corrections mentioned.

Financial Report

Schmitz reviewed the financial report. He discussed moving funds from one of the enterprise funds to eliminate the negative balance in the General Fund. He recommended that the funds remain the same and work on eliminating the issue in the General Fund in 2016.

Motion by Dusing with a second 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 Warren, 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: \$16,998.38 Wages: \$8,415.66

Motion passed 3-0.

Visitors

Sheriff Wright reported that the law enforcement agreement will go before the county board on the 5th of January. Wording in the agreement summarizes what was discussed during the last negotiating meeting. He stated that he needed to sell this offer to the county board by breaking it down, so that they would understand the price agreed upon during, as the cost of the car was a sticky point for both entities. Wright stated that the agreement, as agreed upon, is all inclusive for one price. The amount also ensures that he is allowed to hire the deputy that the department has been short for several years, which will help both Browns Valley and the County. Wright stated that his budget had passed unanimously during the last board meeting and that included the deputy.

Motion by Dusing with a second by Warren, council approved unanimously the terms of the law enforcement agreement between Traverse County and the City of Browns Valley.

Sheriff Wright provided a departmental update.

Communication

A copy of the minutes from November 10, 2015 was reviewed.

Experienced Officials; 2016 Leadership Conference, on January 22-23 in Brooklyn Center, MN.

New Business

During the last meeting the council made a motion to approve the levy at an increase of 1 ½%.

Motion by Dusing with second by Warren and passed unanimously, council approved Resolution 15-13 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2015 TAX LEVY, COLLECTABLE IN 2016

Schmitz reported that many Minnesota cities are passing ordinance restricting where Level III sex offenders may live within their city limits. He provided a copy of Wheaton’s ordinance. There is no regulation restricting Level I or Level II offenders as Level III have the highest rate of offending again. The required length of distance from any school, playground, licensed day care providers, or city park was discussed.

Franzese will make changes of Wheaton’s ordinance and have it ready for the next meeting.

Motion by Warren with second by Heck, council unanimously approved paying the remainder of the bills until the end of the year.

Department Reports

Library

Library staff will be working alone more often. Piechowski reported the response she will give when being asked about budget cuts at the library

Ambulance

Brick reported that she is gathering training material to be used during January’s ambulance meeting.

Attorney

Franzese provided a departmental report.

Fire Department

On January 5th several member of the fire department will go to Duluth to pick up a truck that they had inspected earlier. The cost of the truck is \$9,000.00. They will also be looking at storage sheds and a utility trailer.

Administration

Teri Osterman, Minnesota Rural Water, was in the office on December 22nd, to discuss rate structures for sewer and water. She will be attending the council meeting on January 11 with a recommendation on sewer and water rates.

Tanya will start the position of ambulance manager on January 1.

Moved by Dusing with a second by Warren and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Approved by:

Thomas A Schmitz, Clerk

Mike Heck, Acting Mayor