

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 Harold Hansen, Mike Heck, Jeanne Dusing, Tony Miller, and Ken Warren. Also in attendance were: Bob and Mike Toelle; Sheriff Trevor Wright, Deputies Chad Fisher and Gordon LeClair; Bryon Bye, WSN Engineering; Brad Bartz, Tony Serocki, Bernice Piechowski, and Tom Schmitz. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor Hansen.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion from Warren seconded by Heck, the council unanimously approved the minutes of the October 12, 2015, Regular Council meeting.

The minutes of the September 22nd Library Board meeting were reviewed.

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: \$12,314.89, Wages: \$7,381.64

Visitors

Bryon Bye presented items on Change Order Number 7 resulting in a \$51,660.44 decrease in the contract price for supplies or work that was needed or conducted. Motion from Warren with a second by Miller and passed unanimously, the council approved Change Order Number 7.

Bye also presented Pay Estimate Number 9 from Reiner Contracting, Inc. for work performed between the dates of August 31 and September 29 in the amount of \$478,978.34. Motion from Dusing with a second by Heck and passed unanimously, the council approved Pay Estimate Number 9 to Reiner Contracting, Inc.

Bids were opened to lease 300 acres of land at the sewer pond site. As required by the MN Pollution Control Agency the land is to be planted in alfalfa. The term of the lease is for five crop years starting in 2016. A bid of \$100.00 per acre was submitted by Robert and Aaron Toelle. A second bid of \$160.00 per acre was submitted by Michael Toelle. No action was taken at this time.

Sheriff Wright presented an update of activities of law enforcement activities in Browns Valley. Deputies Gordon LeClair and Chad Fischer introduced themselves providing their training and law enforcement history. Wright shared a future goal working with the elderly and community members. The program is called the MN TRIAD.

Communication

Schmitz provided data from the County Auditor showing the amount of support used for county law enforcement from a resident's property tax. The data states that in 2015, the sheriff's budget was 8.5% of the total county budget. The County Auditor provided two tax statements as an example. One property tax statement shows that the County tax is \$38.06. 8.5% would contribute \$3.24 to the sheriff's budget. A

second property tax statement shows that the County tax is \$81.77. 8.5% would contribute \$4.14 to the sheriff's budget.

Unfinished Business

Schmitz reported that he had checked with two other insurance agencies to get pricing for the current coverage which is now provided to the employees. Lakes Country Service Cooperative, which the City is a member, provides composite rates (One single rate and one family rate). When looking at outside options small group rates are based on age. The City provides single coverage for its employees in the amount of \$568.50 per month. If the City were to leave the cooperative the single rate could be from \$395.51 to \$911.31. A motion from Dusing with a second by Warren and passed unanimously, the council approved staying with health insurance coverage from Lakes Country Service Cooperative.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, October 27, to try to renegotiate the contract with Traverse County for law enforcement coverage in Browns Valley.

New Business

An overpayment of benefits was given to a City employee. Motion from Hansen with a second by Heck and passed unanimously, council approved the decision to have the overpayment be reimbursed to the City.

A snow removal contractor has asked the question regarding snow removal on Broadway. He stated that after he removes the snow from the sidewalks snow gets placed back on the walkway from MNDOT. After speaking with the Public Works Director and MNDOT that the method of snow removal has not changed over the years and that it won't change.

Motion from Dusing with a second by Warren and passed unanimously, council approved Resolution 15-08, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE OFFER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PURCHASE A \$2,140,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SEWER REVENUE BOND OF 2015 AND PROVIDING FOR ITS ISSUANCE.

Motion from Hansen with a second by Heck and passed unanimously, council approved Resolution 15-09, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE OFFER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PURCHASE A \$402,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SEWER REVENUE BOND OF 2015B AND PROVIDING FOR ITS ISSUANCE.

Department Reports

Library

The library has been very busy. Bernice had surgery on her hand but will be back to work on the 28th. She will be working on the budget.

Fire Department

Bartz reported that during the last firemen's meeting the Milbank Fire Department brought their ladder truck to show the Browns Valley crew how to rig and use should mutual aid be needed in either service area.

The fire department's Christmas party is scheduled for December 12. Bartz asked if it can be held in the fire hall as it has been in past years. It was the general consensus of the council that permission be granted.

Jackets have been ordered for firemen that do not have them.

The MN Department of Safety has identified a study showing that not washing turnout gear could contribute to cancer in firefighters. The Department of Safety has a grant for the purchase of a washing machine extractor to be used for washing turnout gear. It is a ten percent matching grant. The cost for the machine is \$5,900.00.

Public Works

Serocki reported that the work on the water tower is complete.

The paving that was done along the church is temporary. It will be reclaimed and overlaid next year.

A fire hydrant on West Blaine cannot be rebuilt. He has three bids to replace it. He will order the hydrant from the lowest bid.

The power cord on number three lift station has a cut in the power cord. The total cost from Dakota Pump and Control for replacing the cord is \$5,670.00. There would be no warrantee if the cord is repaired.

Attorney

EDA

EDA Manager Johnson reported that on October 15th he and Council Member Warren travelled to Fergus Falls to speak with the economic development and grants personnel at West Central Initiative (WCI). They identified different types of help that is available through WCI to assist the City with its economic development.

Johnson discussed properties that may be able to be given or purchased. The City would be able to access State or Federal funds to either renovate or demolished these buildings to assist in enhancing blighted areas in the community.

Motion from Hansen to allow Johnson to bid on a property for economic development not to exceed \$3,500.00. Motion failed due to the lack of a second. Motion from Heck with a second by Hansen to allow Johnson to bid on a property for economic development not to exceed \$2,000.00. Motion passed 3-2 with Warren and Miller voting no.

Administration

Schmitz provided the second and third quarter report of

The water at Marcel Armell's residence has been turned off, as his utility bill is past due. Someone has opened the valve at the curb stop twice. He no longer has a post office box so any notice isn't deliverable. Schmitz delivered the bill and spoke with him but he has not made the effort to make a payment. Schmitz will be contacting the Sheriff to proceed with a citation.

Schmitz reported on the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) annual meeting that he attended. Several years ago LMC used to pay out LGA on a quarterly basis but over the past years has paid it three times per year. LMC has been discussing going back to the quarterly payments to assist cities a steadier stream of support.

Schmitz reported that MN OSHA has a grant that can be used to tighten security in city halls and council chambers.

The BV Celebrates committee has asked again if there may be more lighting installed in the parking area as several events will be during the evening. Schmitz will check out the lighting situation after this meeting. They have signed an agreement for garbage handling.

Flu shots are available at Lewis drug. Shots will be given every other Friday starting October 30.

Schmitz reported that the ambulance service received the LUCAS device. It is a device used to provide CPR chest compressions on a patient freeing up the EMT that would normally be doing the compressions to provide other medical assessments or interventions. There was no charge for the \$15,000 device as we received it from a grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust.

Council

Council member Warren reported that the window and frame at the Cabin has been repaired.

Moved by Warren to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Approved by:

Thomas A Schmitz, Clerk

Harold Hansen, Mayor