

City of Bronson  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 9, 2015

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Cole, McConn, Cox, Kenny, Earl  
Absent: None

Public Comment – Branch County Sheriff Pollack gave his monthly report to Council. Bronson School’s Superintendent Teresa Belote updated Council on the progress of the Technology group for the school district. She said with the help of some grant money and a generous donation by a local resident the high school will have all new equipment in its computer lab for the next school year.

Presentation – Consumers Energy Forestry Presentation – Representatives from Consumers Energy gave a brief update and explanation on the forestry operations/tree trimming which will begin in the Bronson area in April.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$47,754.17. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

New Business – Approval of Asset Management Plan for Streets & Pavements – Resolution #15-3-3 – Councilwoman Cox moved to adopt Resolution #15-3-3. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Support the Safe Roads Yes Campaign Resolution #15-03-04 – Councilman Earl moved to adopt Resolution #15-03-04. Seconded by Vice-Mayor McConn. Motion carried.

Approve Replacement BOD Incubator – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to accept the low bid from NCL of \$2,480.00 for a new BOD incubator for the wastewater treatment plant. Seconded by Councilwoman Cox. Motion carried.

Pension Plan Adjustments – Manager Heydlauff explained to Council the City currently caps its contributions to the employee’s retirement fund at 6.5%. He said the employee rate fluctuates significantly to make up the rest of the necessary annual contribution to continue making progress toward fully funding the retirement fund. He said the employees are divided into two divisions, the police division and the non-union division which would be all non-union full time employees. The employer portion contribution rate of the police division is an amount dictated by the collective bargaining agreement with police union. He said he felt no change should be made in the employer contribution amount until contract negotiations were held next year. He suggested raising the City contribution on the non-union division to 7% or 7.5%. He also suggested making a half to one percent additional contribution to both divisions which would

help accelerate the funding for the City's plan. Vice-Mayor McConn moved to raise the City's contribution to the non-union division to 7.5% and to put an additional 1% into both divisions. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried unanimously.

Bronson Sesquicentennial – Manager Heydlauff explained that 2016 was going to be Bronson's Sesquicentennial. He said he would like to budget for a couple of items to commemorate the event. He said he would like to investigate getting new banners for downtown and to explore getting a historical marker. He said given the history of Bronson he felt there might be a case for a Michigan Register of Historic Places "green plaque". He said he would do further research on the possibility of the plaque but he was estimating the cost between \$2500 and \$3000. He said he thought other groups and organizations in Bronson would do other things to celebrate the sesquicentennial. Councilman Kenny said he thought the banners and plaque were a good idea and moved to have Manager Heydlauff budget monies for the items. Seconded by Vice-Mayor McConn. Motion carried.

Public Comments – None

City Staff Comments & Other Reports – None

Manager Comments – Manager Heydlauff told Council the Michigan Commission for Agricultural and Rural Development would be holding their monthly meeting in July at City Hall. He would have more detail as the date got closer.

Council Comments – Council expressed their condolences to the family of Dawn Gallup. Council thanked Superintendent Belote for her report. Vice-Mayor McConn thanked Manager Heydlauff for the work he did on the street assessment and for his work on the grants the city recently received. Mayor Cole thanked all City employees for their continued good work for the City.

Adjourn – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Smith, City Clerk