

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
March 11, 2019

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

Roll Call: Present: Cole, McConn, Kenny, Earl
Absent: Watkins

Vice-Mayor McConn moved to excuse Councilmember Watkins from the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$242,101.77. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

New Business – MDOT Grant Resolution of Support #19-03-05 – Councilman Kenny moved to adopt Resolution #19-03-05. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

MDOT Contract Acceptance Resolution #19-03-06 – Councilman Earl moved adopt Resolution #19-03-06. Seconded by Vice-Mayor McConn. Motion carried.

Charter Communications Franchise Agreement Renewal – Councilman Kenny moved to approve the franchise agreement renewal with Charter Communications which includes the 3% franchise fee for the City. This fee is the same amount charged as in the previous agreement. Seconded by Vice-Mayor McConn. Motion carried.

Review of City Council Goals for FY2019-2020 Budget – Council reviewed the goals submitted to them by Manager Mersman. They agreed with the goals, making only one addition with Vice-Mayor McConn asking to see more road work done as funds allowed. Manager Mersman said he would add that item into the goals.

Water Tower Discussion – Manager Mersman told Council that Nelson Tank Engineering completed the cleaning and inspection of the water tower. They were recommending repairs totaling \$74,100 which needed to be done this year. They were recommending future maintenance of blasting and repainting the exterior at a cost of \$260,000. They said this would be needed to be done in approximately 2023. Manager Mersman told Council he felt it was time to have preliminary discussion about how to proceed in the future with the tank. The current tank is 59 years old and the average life of a tank is 50 years. He said an estimate for a new tank was approximately \$1.3 million. He said it may be time to consider a new tank opposed to putting \$260,000 in the existing tank. He said he would continue to do research on the pros and cons of different options and report back to them in the next few months.

Staff Comments – Fire Chief Scott Wilber read a letter to the Bronson Fire Department from Mrs. Lee. Mrs. Lee donated the cost of a Lucas chest compression machine to the department in honor of the years of dedicated service of Ken Stutzman. She said her and her late husband were good friends of the Stutzman's and wanted to show their appreciation and honor Ken's dedication to the fire department by purchasing the \$15,000.00 machine. Chief Wilber said another \$1,000.00 was needed for battery pack and another family in the Bronson community has generously paid for that item. He thanked both parties for their generosity.

Manager Comments – Manager Mersman reminded everyone there would a ribbon cutting of the new Bronson office of Branch County Domestic Coalition against Domestic & Sexual Violence at 4:30 tomorrow and there also would be a Branch County Young Professional's meeting at the Bronson Strike Zone at 5:00 tomorrow. He invited anyone interesting in those events to please attend. He said he has included in the Council packet an annual report for the City and asked for Council feedback.

Council Comments – Council thanked the families for the generous donations to the Fire Department. Council all said they appreciated the annual report of the City. Council congratulated the Bronson High School winter sports teams on their tremendous success this year.

Closed Session – Councilman Kenny moved to recess the meeting to closed session. Seconded by Councilman Earl.

Council returned to open session.

Lease of Real Property – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to enter into a lease with Torch Clean Energy for property owned by the City on Industrial Ave. Torch Clean will be studying the feasibility of putting in solar panels on the property with the option to do so if their findings are favorable. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

Adjourn – Councilman Earl moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.