

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
June 10, 2019

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

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

Absent: Kenny

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

Presentation – Proclamation of The City Council – Manager Mersman read a Proclamation of the City Council honoring and thanking Mayor Cole for her years of dedicated service to the City.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$63,432.68. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

New Business – Water Tower Discussion – The City's engineer from Prien & Newhof was present to talk with Council about water tower options. He laid out cost estimates for tower replacement opposed to rehabbing the current water tower. Updating and repairing the current tower would be in range of \$74,000 and would add 15 to 20 years of life to the tower. Building a new tower would add between \$88,000 and \$150,000 per year to the annual water budget making it necessary to increase water rates approximately 35%. The engineer said the only time a community looks at building a bigger tower is when there is significant need for capacity due to industrial growth or need for more firefighting capacity which Bronson has neither at this time. He suggested doing the rehab to the current tower and getting the extra life out of it. After some discussion agreed with this recommendation and instructed staff to go ahead with the repairs and rehab of the City's current tower.

2019 Fiscal Year Amended Budget – Resolution #19-06-09 – Councilman Earl moved to adopt Resolution #19-06-09 amending the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Public Hearing 2019/2020 Budget and Millage Rates – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to recess the meeting to a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on the proposed budget and millage rates. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried. There were no public comments. Councilman Earl moved to close the public hearing and return to the regular meeting. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2019/2020 Budget and Millage Rates – Resolution #19-06-10 – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to adopt Resolution #19-06-10. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Approval Demolition Proposed of 7 Foy Court – Manager Mersman said he sought bids for the demolition of 7 Foy Court and was recommending the low bid from Shimp Excavating of \$15,000.00. Councilman Earl moved to accept the low bid. Seconded by Vice-Mayor McConn. Motion carried.

Approve Branch County Road Commission Proposal for HMA Patch & Chip Sealing – Manager Mersman said he obtained a bid from the Branch County Road Commission for chip sealing several streets in the amount of \$68,643.00. He was recommending HMA patch work done as needed on streets on a per truck

load basis. He said the estimate is \$1,344 per truck and was asking for approval of all street work done up to a not to exceed amount of \$160,000.00 (which would include the chip and seal amount). Vice-Mayor McConn moved to approve the road work done as recommended. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Approve Purchase of WWTP/Water Truck – Manager Mersman said staff sought bids and two were received. He recommending accepting the low bid from Hemel Chevrolet in the amount of \$33,600.00 for a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 crew cab. Councilman Earl moved to approve the purchase as recommended. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Accept Resignation of Mayor Cole from City Council – Mayor Cole submitted her resignation to Council noting she would be moving from the City. She said it has been an honor serving on City council and said she will miss being on Council. Vice-Mayor McConn moved to accept her resignation with regret. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

Appoint Rick Johannes to Council – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to appoint Rick Johannes to Council to fill out the remainder of Alice Cole’s term. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Nominations for Position of Mayor – Councilman Johannes moved to appoint Vice-Mayor Larry McConn as Mayor. Seconded by Councilman Earl. There were no other nominations and a unanimous ballot was cast for Larry McConn as Mayor.

Nomination for Position of Vice-Mayor – Mayor McConn moved to appoint Councilman Kenny as Vice-Mayor. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. There were no other nominations and a unanimous ballot was cast for Jim Kenny as Vice-Mayor. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – WWTP/Water Supervisor Buckley thanked Council for the purchase of the new truck for his department.

Manager Comments – Manager Mersman thanked the DPW for their long hours of work on the sewer break this past week. He also thanked the City of Sturgis, the City of Coldwater, Shimp Excavating and Parrish Construction for all their help and the long hours they put in on getting the line repaired. He also told Council smoke testing on the City’s sewer lines would start on June 17th and run through July 14th.

Council Comments – Council expressed their gratitude to Alicia Cole for her years of dedicated service to the City and said she will be greatly missed. Councilman Watkins thanked the community for their support of the Bronson High School Baseball Team who won the school’s first Regional Championship since 1998. Council thanked the DPW and all those who assisted them in repairing the sewer break last week. Mayor McConn thanked the City staff for putting together this year’s budget and said he looked forward to getting many improvements to the City’s roads and facilities done in the upcoming year.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.