

City of Bronson  
Regular Council Meeting  
February 10, 2020

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

Roll Call: Present: McConn, Watkins, Earl, Johannes, Duke  
Absent: None

Public Comments – Branch County Commissioner Kolcz told everyone that RFP’s were finally out for the proposed new jail. He also said the county is undergoing their annual audit. He said although the sheriff’s department has been authorized to hire two new deputies the starting wage is low enough that they are not getting applicants. Branch County Prosecutor Valerie White was present to introduce herself and tell a little about herself.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor Earl moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$162,398.47. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

New Business – Public Hearing – CDBG Infrastructure & Resiliency Grant Application for S. Ruggles & Compton Street (from Mowry to S. Ruggles) – A public hearing is necessary to afford the public to submit comments on the City’s grant application. Councilman Watkins moved to open the public hearing. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried. There were no public comments. Vice-Mayor Earl moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Adopt CDBG Grant Authorizing Resolution #20-2-4 – Councilman Watkins moved to adopt Resolution #20-2-4. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Earl. Motion carried.

Adopt CDBG Grant Anti Displacement Resolution #20-2-5 – Vice-Mayor Earl moved to adopt Resolution # 20-2-5. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Approve Bank Account Changes – With Councilman Kenny resigning it is necessary to remove his name from the City bank accounts and add Vice-Mayor Earl. Councilman Johannes moved to remove James Kenny from the City’s bank accounts and add Vice-Mayor Earl to the accounts. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Approve City Attorney Contract – Manager Mersman said he solicited proposals from law firms and received two proposals. After interviewing and reviewing the two firm’s proposals he was recommending staying with the firm currently used by the City, Lillis & Jansen P.C. He said the City has been happy with them. Councilman Johannes moved to approve a two-year contract with Lillis & Jansen. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

Approve Everstream/AT&T METRO ACT Permit Changes – Manager Mersman told Council the original permit approved back in November had the fiber line proposed being attached to Consumer Energy poles but Consumer’s has denied AT&T access to those poles. They will now have to do underground lines from Buchanan St to the East Railroad water tower. He said he has been assured any damage to the City infrastructure from the underground boring will be restored. Vice-Mayor Earl moved to approve the permit changes as requested. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Fire Chief Scott Wilber said he had received a grant to attend a one-week National Fire Chief’s class.

City Manager Comments - Manager Mersman told Council the City has received a grant from ParPlan in the amount of \$2,000 to install security cameras at City Hall.

Council Comments – Councilman Johannes welcomed new business Prestigious Glass to the City. He said he attended the ribbon cutting of the business and encourage everyone to stop and see what they had to offer. Councilman Duke said it was the time of year to send out sponsor requests for Little League. He said if anyone knew of anyone who would like to sponsor a team to please let him know. Councilman Watkins thanked staff for all the work that goes into a grant application. Mayor McConn expressed condolences to former Councilmember Janet Cox who recently lost her husband. He also welcomed Prestigious Glass to the community. He thanked everyone on staff for their help with the City’s grant applications.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Smith, Clerk/Treasurer