

City of Bronson  
Regular Council Meeting  
November 9, 2020

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

Roll Call: Present: McConn, Rinehart, Johannes, Duke

Absent: Watkins

Councilman Johannes moved to excuse Councilman Watkins from the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

City Clerk Smith administered the oath of office to newly elected Council members McConn, Rinehart and Johannes. She then asked for nominations for Mayor. Councilmember Johannes moved to appoint Councilman McConn as Mayor. Seconded by Councilman Duke. With no other nominations Councilman McConn was unanimously appointed Mayor. Mayor McConn then asked for nominations for Vice-Mayor. Councilman Johannes moved to appoint Councilman Watkins as Vice-Mayor. Seconded by Councilman Duke. With no other nominations Councilman Watkins was appointed Vice-Mayor unanimously. Clerk Smith asked Council to authorize the change on the City's bank accounts to remove former Vice-Mayor Earl and add newly appointed Vice-Mayor Watkins. Councilman Johannes moved to approve the change. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Public Comment – Branch County Commissioner Kolcz gave an update on projects the county is involved in. He said he still pushing for funds for more road patrol. He said Branch County residents need to express their concerns about increasing road patrol to the rest of the members on the County Commission. Mayor McConn thanked Commissioner Kolcz for this support of the 911 Board and the projects they are trying to accomplish. Sheriff Pollack gave his monthly report. He said the new jail construction was progressing and that the housing cells should be delivered in the next week. He gave his annual report of the marine patrol. He said the marine patrol was down to three boats and he has continually asked for replacements from the County Commission but so far had not been granted any funds for replacement boats.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Johannes moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$54,421.16. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

New Business – Approve CDBG Grant Agreement – Manager Mersman asked Council to approve the grant agreement for S. Ruggles and Compton Street. The grant is for \$1,322,850. The City's cost will be \$440,950. Councilman Johannes moved to approve the grant agreement. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Approve MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum – Manager Mersman asked Council to approve the MERS agreement to adopt provisions of the City's plan beginning January 1, 2021. Councilman Duke moved to approve the addendum. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Approve Ground Water Ordinance #215 – Councilman Duke moved to adopt Ordinance #215. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Police Vehicle USDA Grant – Manager Mersman asked for authorization from Council to apply for a USDA grant for a new police vehicle. Councilman Johannes moved to authorize the City Manager to apply for the USDA Grant for a new police vehicle. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Approve Resolution of Support to Apply for MTPP Risk Management Grant – Resolution No. 20-11-13 – Manager Mersman asked for authorization to apply for a MTPP Risk Management Grant to purchase new tasers for the police department. Councilman Duke moved to approve the request. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Utilities Supervisor Buckley asked everyone to please not rake their leaves into the street and to please put them between the sidewalk and curb and the City will pick them up. Fire Chief Wilber said the Fire department would be receiving hazard pay of \$1000 per firefighter from the State of Michigan. Clerk/Treasurer Smith thanked the entire DPW crew, Fire Chief Wilber and the fire department for the assistance that was given by them to help make election day run safely and smoothly.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman thanked City Clerk Smith and Administrative Asst. Lambright for all the work they did to make the election run smoothly. He also thanked the DPW for their efforts during leaf pickup.

Council Comments – Councilman Duke congratulated Councilmen Rinehart, Johannes and McConn on being elected to Council. Councilman Rinehart thanked those who voted for him and said he was looking forward to serving. Councilman Johannes thanked everyone who voted for him and encouraged citizens who had questions about how the City and its departments run to educate themselves. He said the public in general did not have an understanding of what it took to run a City and its departments. Mayor McConn thanked all the City's departments for the work they did for the City and its residents. He thanked Clerk Smith and her staff for running a smooth election and all those who voted. He thanked all those who voted for the 911 surcharge and commented on how important passage of it was for the County's 911 service. He encouraged residents who do not have Life Care Ambulance Service to look into their services. He said an annual subscription to their services were of a great benefit for the costs. He encouraged everyone to follow recommended Covid 19 safety guidelines and stay healthy.

Adjourn – Councilman Johannes moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.