

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
January 11,2021

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

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

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

Public Comment – Branch County Commissioner Kolcz told everyone the County is looking at providing a county wide internet system. He said he would pass along information as he received it. He said the hiring of a designated assessor was on hold because the agreement required 10 units in the county to agree to it and only nine had agreed so far. He said the County is working with the State to try and work this out. Mayor McConn thanked Commissioner Kolcz for this work with and support of the various jurisdictions on the 911 Board.

Presentations – FY2020 Audit – Jeff Berry, CPA of Gabridge & Company – Mr. Berry told Council the City was given a clean opinion, the best possible for the year audited. He explained the status of the various funds at June 30, 2020. He also explained the current pension liability for the City. He said the City was in a sound financial position as of the end of the audit period. He thanked City staff, especially Clerk/Treasurer Smith, for the assistance he received during the audit.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Watkins moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$72,697.75. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

New Business- Appoint Council Liaison to Bronson Area Fire Association Board – Manager Mersman explained former Vice-Mayor Earl is currently one of the City's representatives on the Fire Association Board and he would like to have Council replace him with Vice-Mayor Watkins. Councilman Rinehart moved to appoint Vice-Mayor Watkins to the Bronson Area Fire Association Board. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Police Chief Johnson reminded everyone school was back in session and to please watch out for children going to and from school. Fire Chief Scott Wilber announced the Bronson Fire Department was award a \$1,200.00 grant from Michigan Gas Utilities for rescue equipment.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman told Council the preapproval process they talked about last month for the invoices on the CDBG Grant would not be possible. He said the grant administrator had thought City Council met twice a month. He said preapproval would delay payment and would not meet time requirements laid out in the grant. He said he would be reviewing the invoices for payment and then would include them in the Council packet each month for Council to review after payment. This would ensure they were paid in a timely matter.

Council Comments – Councilman Rinehart said he concluded the training for newly elected officials and said he was thankful for the opportunity to take the class. Council thanked the City staff for the clean audit. Council also thanked the DPW, Karen Smith and Lori Lambright for putting up Christmas decorations saying the downtown looked especially nice this year.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.