

City of Bronson  
Regular Council Meeting  
July 12, 2021

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

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

Public Comment – Sheriff Pollack told Council the new jail was nearing completion. He said there will be public tours when the building is complete. He said the Marine Patrol is down three boats, making it hard to do any patrolling on the smaller lakes in the County. He also said three of the five new radio system towers were up and work was started on a fourth. He said the last one is delayed due to the land purchase needed to place the tower. Branch County Commission Kolcz told Council the Branch Area Agency on Aging has presented their Annual Implementation Plan to the County Commissioners. He said the County has several positions open due to retirements and department transfers.

Introduction of New Police Officer – Travis Ferry – Police Chief Johnson introduced newly hired Police Officer Travis Ferry. He said Officer Ferry replaces Officer Fuller who left the City to take a military position.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$65,637.78. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

New Business – Approve Concord Excavating Payment Request #1 (Compton/Ruggles St. Project) – Manager Mersman told Council Concord Excavating were requesting their first payment in the amount of \$149,290.42 with a retainage of \$16,587.83. He said all work to date has been done in compliance with specifications and plans. Engineer Mike Schwartz said the project was currently at a standstill waiting for the relocation of some utility poles but he was hoping those would be done and work would resume shortly. Councilman Duke moved to approve the payment request. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Approve Purchase of Water Meters – Badger Meter – Manager Mersman told Council the water meters currently being used by the City are over 10 years. Replacement parts are no longer available for repairing ones that quit working. Total replacement cost for all meters would be approximately \$276,522.46. He said he recommending replacing half the meters at this time at a cost of \$160,862.96 which includes start up costs and large meters and then when the City receives its American Rescue Plan Act stimulus funds finish replacing the balance of the meters. Councilman Johannes move to approve the purchase of the meters as requested from SLC Meters. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Approve Branch County Road Commission Proposal for Road Maintenance – Manager Mersman told Council due to the road construction on Compton and Ruggles Streets he was suggesting only doing maintenance on three streets at a cost of \$43,182.90. Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve the proposal from the Branch County Road Commission for doing the three streets. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Police Chief Johnson asked everyone to vigilant and aware of their surroundings due to the recent increase of thefts of catalytic convertors and nighttime breaking and enterings.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman told Council the new website was up and running. He also noted a recent report of the City’s retirement provider, MERS, showed City’s funded percentage was up 3% from last year.

Council Comments – Council welcomed Police Officer Ferry to the City. They also wished everyone a safe and happy Polish Festival next week.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.