

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
June 14, 2021

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

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

Public Comment – None

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$214,186.64. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

New Business – Approve Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Wage Re-Opener (2021-22 Budget Year) – Manager Mersman said the City is entering into the final year of the current police union contract. He said the contract includes a wagger opener for this year. The union has agreed to a 2.5% wage increase which is in line with the proposed wage increase for non-union employees. Manager Mersman asked for approval of the agreed 2.5% increase for the police union employees. Councilman Johannes moved to approve the wage increase for the police union. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Approve 2021 Fiscal Year Amended Budget – Resolution No. 21-6-7 – Councilman Rinehart moved to approve Resolution No. 21-6-7 amending the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Public Hearing: 2021/2022 Budget & Millage Rates – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to recess the meeting to a public hearing to hear public comments on the 2021/2022 budget and millage rates. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried. Manager Mersman said the proposed budget showed a \$260,000 deficit in the general fund which included transferring funds to the Cemetery and Local Street funds totaling \$120,000. He said it still unsure how much the City might receive in COVID relief funds and what restrictions will be placed on how the funds should be spent. There were no public comments. Councilman Duke moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Watkins. Motion carried

Adoption of FY 2021-22 Budget – Resolution No. 21-6-8 – Councilman Johannes moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-6-8. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Approve S. Ruggles Street Sidewalk Change Order – Manager Mersman said it was discovered that the grant application and plans for the S. Ruggles Street improvements did not include adding sidewalk on the east side of Ruggles Street. Since it was not included in the initial application the grant will not cover the cost of the sidewalk. The additional expense for the sidewalk would be \$16,490.25. He said the amount has been included in the FY 2022 budget and he was asking approval of the expense. He said installation of the sidewalk would be cheaper to do during construction and would improve safety for Ryan School students and would connect with the planned Skaggs Assisted Living Facility. Vice-Mayor Watkins asked how this was overlooked. Engineer Mike Schwartz said it was overlooked because there was not sidewalk on the east side initially so they just looked at putting the area back as it was. Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the change order to construct the sidewalk. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Police Chief Johnson said Officer Fuller had submitted his resignation and would taking a job in the military. He said he would be advertising for hiring his replacement immediately and would hope to fill the position as soon as possible. Fire Chief Wilber said the fire department was also looking for fire fighters and put out a recruitment video. He said it had generated interest from about 20 individuals and 4 or 5 of them had submitted actual applications.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman said the water assessment project was started. Engineer Mike Schwartz said actual on-site work on the water assessment would begin next week. He said he hoped the project would be completed in two years. Manager Mersman said the City’s new website should be done next week and work on Ruggles Street should start next week also.

Council Comments – Council congratulated the Seniors of the Class of 2021 and wished them much success in the future. Councilman Johannes thanked the community members who helped to quickly dismantle the stage and sound system the night of graduation when it looked like a storm was moving in. Councilman Rinehart apologized for missing last months meeting. He said his mother had been very ill but was now doing much better and thanked everyone for wishing her quick healing. Mayor McConn thanked staff for putting the budget together. He also congratulated the Bronson Spring Sports teams on a successful season.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.