

City of Bronson  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 14, 2022

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

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

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

Public Comment – Sheriff Pollack told Council the training room at the new jail was being utilized. He said his department is now on mandatory overtime. They are averaging 50 hours per officer per month overtime. He said they are using a marketing firm to try and help the department recruit new officers.

Presentation – Child Advocacy Center for the Branch County Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault – Kim Hemker, Director of the Branch County Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault gave a presentation regarding the proposed Child Advocacy Center. She outlined the need for the center in the county. She said the Coldwater Sunrise Rotary Club has committed to raise \$300,000 of the \$694,000 needed for the center. She is asking City Council to donate \$4,875 of the City's American Rescue Funds toward the project. She said she is asking each entity in the county to donate a portion of their Rescue Funds to get the center built. Council thanked her for her presentation and the work she does and said they would consider her request.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Duke moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$63,080.65. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

New Business – Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Requests – 293 W. Railroad – Councilman Johannes moved to recess the meeting to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried. After acting on the variance requests Council return to regular session.

Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Request – Wayne Street – Vacant Lot – Councilman Johannes moved to recess the meeting to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried. After acting on the variance request Council return to regular session.

Approve Engineering for Water Tower Updates – After reviewing bids submitted Councilman Rinehart moved to accept the low bid from Nelson Tank for engineering for water tower updates. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Approve Nelson Tank Inspection Proposal – Manager Mersman explained that while work is being done on the water tower it will be offline for 30-40 days. He said there were two options for keeping the system pressurized during this time. One would be using portable water tanks at an approximate cost of \$24,000 to \$30,000 depending on the amount of time the tower was offline. The other is to put the east tower back in service temporarily. In order to do this the tower would have to be inspected. Nelson Tank has proposed doing the inspection for \$2,800.00. Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the inspection for \$2,800.00 to see if the east tower could be used. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Approve Purchase of Police Laptop – Councilman Duke moved to approve the purchase a laptop for the police department at a cost of \$1,445.30. \$500 to be from the general fund and the balance to come from the Police Salvage Fund. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Metro Act Permit Requests – Everstream – Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the request from Everstream for a Metro Act Permit. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – None

Manager Comments – Manager Mersman congratulated Bronson High School sports teams on their success this winter.

Council Comments – Councilman Johannes said he looked forward to having the downtown planters planted this spring and thanked Clerk/Treas. Smith, Admin. Asst. Lambright and the DPW for keeping them looking nice all summer. Council congratulated the Bronson High School teams on an outstanding winter season. Councilman Duke said he would like to see the city donate to the Child Advocacy Center. Attorney Lillis said he would have to look to see if there would be any legal issues with the City donating to a private charity.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.