

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
June 13, 2022

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

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

Public Comment – County Commissioner Kolcz told Council State Senators and Representatives are talking about increasing funding for schools. He said he has reservations about whether that will happen because some of the State officials are term limited or may not get reelected. State Senator Kim LaSata was present to ask for voter support in her bid to get reelected this year.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$34,726.13. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

New Business – Approve 2022 Fiscal Year Amended Budget Resolution #22-6-6 – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve Resolution #22-6-6. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Public Hearing: 2023 Fiscal Year Budget & Millage Rates – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to recess the meeting to Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried. There were no public comments. Councilman Johannes moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2023 Fiscal Year Budget – Resolution # 22-6-7 – Councilman Duke moved to adopt Resolution # 22-6-7. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Approve IT Right Contract – Manager Mersman said the current contract with IT Right has expired. He sought bids from various companies for technical support and IT Right still had the best bid for technical support and cybersecurity. Councilman Johannes moved to accept the low bid from IT Right for technical services for the next four years. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Approve Demolition Proposal – Manager Mersman said he solicited bids for the demolition of 214 E. Chicago Street and 422 Mill Street. 214 E. Chicago Street being the house that burned and has been condemned and 422 Mill Street being the house sitting on land the city purchased for the potential expansion of the wastewater treatment plant. He said both houses are uninhabitable. He said low bid was from Handy Excavating for a cost of \$29,000.00. Councilman Johannes moved to approve the low bid. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Watkins. Motion carried.

Approve Water Tower Improvement Proposal – Manager Mersman said bids were solicited for making improvements to the water tower. Five bids were received and the low bidder was L&T Painting at \$113,000.00. Councilman Johannes moved to approve the low bid. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Approve Department of Public Works Buildings Siding Project – Manager Mersman said two bids were received for siding the two department of public works buildings. The low bid was from Hershberger Construction at \$56,300.00 and he recommended accepting the low bid. Councilman Rinehart moved to accept the low bid. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Additional MERS Pension Contribution – In an effort to increase pension funding level, Manager Mersman proposed adding \$50,000.00 to the City's surplus fund. He said this payment to the surplus fund would raise the City's funding level from approximately 73.5% to 75%. Councilman Johannes moved to approve the \$50,000.00 payment to the City's MERS pension fund. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Approve Hold Harmless Agreement – Bronson Fire Association – Manager Mersman told Council police officer Travis Ferry has completed his Medical First Responder training. Fire Chief Wilber has asked if Officer Ferry could respond to medical calls for the fire department while on duty for the city. Police calls would take top priority but if time allowed Officer Ferry would be available to respond to medical calls. In order for this to happen a hold harmless agreement needs to be in place. The agreement drafted by City Attorney has been approved by the City’s insurance carrier. Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve the agreement. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried with Mayor McConn abstaining.

Approve Branch County Road Commission Proposals – The Branch County Road Commission submitted a proposal for chip & seal and paver patching on several City streets for an estimated cost of \$121,394.50. Councilman Rinehart moved to accept the proposal. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Fire Chief Wilber told Council the fire department did receive grant funds to cover the cost of Medical First Responder classes for Travis Ferry and Don Rinehart.

Manager Comments – Manager Mersman told Council the electrical work had been done to hook up the police department to the fire department’s generator. He also told Council the City has hired two seasonal workers.

Council Comments – Councilman Johannes asked Fire Chief Wilber if ambulance response times had improved in the County. He said they had to some degree and there was a meeting scheduled for next week with 911 and various other entities looking for solutions to ambulance response times. Councilman Duke thanked City staff for putting the budget together. Council thanked Travis Ferry and Don Rinehart for completing the medical first responder training. Mayor McConn said he was happy to see more funding in the budget to maintain the city streets. Council thanked Senator LaSata for stopping in at the meeting.

Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to recess the meeting to executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Council returned from executive session with no further action on any items of business.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.