

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
January 10, 2022

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

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

Public Comment – Sheriff Pollack updated Council on activities with his department saying that the move has been made to the new jail but he is still very short staffed at the jail and on the road patrol. He also said the new radio system for the county was installed and running with only a few minor things that needed to be addressed. Commissioner Kolcz reported activities from the County Board and told Council that the commissioners had been informed there were 17 job openings in various departments for the county. He said he would continue to fight for more funding for the sheriff department but it was an uphill battle with the other commissioners. Council thanked Commissioner Kolcz saying they appreciated his hard work and dedication as a commissioner.

Presentations – FY 2021 Audit – Jeff Berry, CPA of Gabridge & Company – Mr. Berry presented the FY 2021 audit to Council. He said the city was receiving a clean opinion, the best opinion possible. He said the City was conforming with all accounting principles and there were no issues with the audit. He said the General Fund had an increase of \$155,436 in fund balance, the wastewater had a decrease of \$38,980 in fund balance and was not able to cover depreciation while the water fund did cover depreciation and saw an increase of \$68,517 in fund balance. He thanked everyone for their assistance with the audit, especially Clerk/Treasurer Smith.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$34,528.91. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

New Business – Parks & Recreation Five Year Master Plan Public Hearing – Councilman Johannes moved to recess the regular meeting to public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comments on the proposed Parks & Recreation Five Year Master Plan. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Manager Mersman said the proposed plan had been available for public comment for a 30-day period and was now ready for adoption. There were no public comments.

Councilman Johannes moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Adoption – Resolution #22-1-2 – Councilman Johannes moved to adopt Resolution #22-1-2. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Prien & Newhof Professional Services Agreement for Engineering – Manager Mersman said Prien & Newhof requested a new signed professional services agreement for 2022. He said he had City Attorney Lillis review it and he found it acceptable. Manager Mersman said this would cover smaller projects and larger projects would require a separate agreement. Vice-Mayor Watkins asked what were the guidelines for a smaller vs a larger project. Manager Mersman said he didn't know, he would ask Prien & Newhof. Vice-Mayor Watkins moved to accept the professional services agreements from Prien & Newhof. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Resolution #22-1-3 Fee/Cost Schedule – Manager Mersman said staff reevaluated the rates for renting out the park buildings after some incidents where the buildings were left in terrible condition after rental. He said the park rental fees would be increased to help cover costs and had not been reviewed in several years. All other fees in the schedule would be unchanged. Councilman Johannes moved to adopt Resolution #22-1-3. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Police Chief Johnson asked everyone to keep their sidewalks clean so children going to and from school could use them and not the streets.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman welcomed a new business to town, Bronson Nutrition located at 120 S. Matteson Street, across from City Hall.

Council Comments – Council thanked City Staff for the clean audit. Council thanked staff for their dedication to the city and the work they do. Council thanked Attorney Lillis for his guidance on City matters.

Closed Session – Councilman Johannes moved to recess the meeting to closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Council returned to the open meeting with no further action taken or business discussed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.