

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
February 13, 2023

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

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

Public Comments – Police Chief Johnson introduced Frank Barker as the new Deputy Chief. He said he was officially full time as of February 1st.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$328,954.45. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

New Business – Traffic Control Order No. 40 – Fire Lane Designation on North Street. Manager Mersman said the office had received complaints regarding vehicle parking on North Street between Barone Hardware Barn and the buildings on N. Matteson Street so the staff researched the issue. It was determined the land owned by the City should be no parking and marked as a fire lane. Without a fire land on this parcel, there is very little space for fighting downtown fires with the narrow alley (North Street) Staff is recommending approval of the traffic control order. Councilman Johannes moved to approve Traffic Control Order No. 40. Seconded by Councilman McConn. Motion Carried.

Council Goal Setting for 2023-24 Budget – Manager Mersman explained that he added some goals around the additional help we will have with the fellow coming on board. Vice-Mayor Earl moved to approve the Council Goal Setting for 2023-24 Budget. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion Carried.

City Hall Generator – Manager Mersman reported that the City did not receive the Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Reduction Grant from the Fall 2022 cycle. He asked Council to decide if they wanted to wait for the next round of grants or move forward on the project now. Vice-Mayor Earl moved to go ahead and purchase the generator from Alliance Electric. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Parks and Recreation Spark Grant Discussion – After much discussion, Council agreed that a walking path should be the priority for the next funding rounds.

Industrial Avenue Farm Lease Amendment – Vice-Mayor Earl moved to approve the Industrial Avenue Farm Lease Amendment and to authorize Manager Mersman to sign the agreement. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion Carried.

City Hall Vehicle Fleet – Manager Mersman provided a copy of the City’s vehicle fleet list as per Council’s request at their December meeting. Council thanked Manager Mersman.

Approve CEDAM Fellowship Memorandum of Understanding – Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the CEDAM Fellowship Memorandum of Understanding. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Earl. Motion Carried.

Staff Comments – Fire Chief Wilber gave an update on the activities going on at the fire department. DPW Supervisor Swain let Council know he passed his CDL test this week.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman said there will be a Special Planning Commission Meeting on February 23 to discuss Urban Chickens. He also reported that the salt barn is in need of repair and staff would like to add a lean to on the north side of the building. There will be proposals at a future meeting.

Council Comments – Council welcomed Deputy Chief Barker. Vice-Mayor Earl thought Brandon and Joe were making good headway with all the things going on. Mayor Watkins appreciates all Manager Mersman, Clerk/Treasurer Smith, Deputy Clerk Lambright are doing. Councilman McConn would like the speed signs brought back to Council.

Moved by Councilman McConn to go into a closed session. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion Carried.

Council returned from closed session.

Adjourn – Councilman Rinehart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilman McConn. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Lambright, Deputy Clerk