

City of Bronson  
Regular Council Meeting  
May 8 ,2023

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

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

Public Comment – None

Presentation – Mayor Watkins and Vice-Mayor Earl presented City Clerk/Treasurer Karen Smith with a plaque recognizing her 40 years of service with the city. City Clerk/Treasurer Smith will be retiring on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Council expressed their gratitude to her for her years of dedicated service and congratulated her on her retirement.

Consent Agenda – Councilman McConn moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$112,170.41. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

New Business – Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Discussion – Manager Mersman highlighted the proposed FY23/24 budget. The general fund included \$100,000 for an additional police officer, the approved additional DPW worker and 4.5% wage increase for the rest of the employees. The bottom line would be over a \$400,000 deficit. Mayor Watkins said he had real concerns about that large of a deficit. Councilman Johannes agreed saying he was not really comfortable with that large of deficit but still felt there was a need for an extra police office and the DPW employee. Vice-Mayor Earl asked if the \$50,000.00 in the line item for building fund was for a proposed new city hall. Manager Mersman said it was. Council said they would look over the details of the proposed budget and reach out to Manager Mersman with any other concerns or questions.

Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Bond Anticipation Note Resolution No. 23-05-04 – Manager Mersman explained it would be necessary to fund upfront engineering for the design of the projects to address inflow and infiltration required under the City's Administrative Consent Order with EGLE. The city will need to take out a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) in the amount of not to exceed \$1.4M. This would then be paid off by loan funds from EGLE or USDA. He said this resolution would authorize the request for the BAN. Vice-Mayor Earl moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-05-04. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

EGLE Emerging Contaminates Assessment Grants – Manager Mersman said he was contacted by EGLE about a grant to cover wastewater collection system sampling for PFAS, seasonal impacts on sanitary sewer PFAS concentrations and identifying and flow of possible sources for PFAS. He said in the near future PFAS limits are going to be lowered dramatically and this grant would help potentially identify issues at the plant and other areas where work can be done to reduce PFAS. The total grant would be up to \$234,000 and the city would have no match. The other things to be considered are additional staff time at the plant for various items that would be required to do the investigation. Manager Mersman said the city's environmental attorney encouraged the city of apply for the grant. Councilman Johannes moved to apply for the grant. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion carried.

Authorize New City Clerk/Treasurer for signatory on City Bank Accounts – Councilman Rinehart moved to authorize Tricia Rzepka to be new signer on all city bank accounts as City Clerk/Treasurer and remove retiring City Clerk/Treasurer Karen Smith from all accounts. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

City Staff Comments – Fire Chief Wilber reported the department had one more firefighter pass the medical first responder course and two more working on their EMT certification. He said he was working on two more grants for equipment and progress was being made on the satellite station for Noble and Gilead townships.

Manager Comments – Manager Mersman congratulated Clerk/Treasure Smith on her retirement and welcomed Tricia Rzepka as the new Clerk/Treasurer.

Council Comments – Council congratulated Clerk/Treasurer Smith on her retirement and welcomed Tricia Rzepka to the position. They thanked and congratulated Chief Wilber and all the fireman for their work and dedication to the fire department. Mayor Watkins asked everyone to be mindful that school would soon be out and to watch out for children out on bikes and playing.

Closed Session for Discussion of Purchase, Sale or Lease of Real Property and City Manager Annual Review – Councilman Johannes moved to recess the meeting to closed session. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Earl. Motion carried.

Council returned to regular session with no further action.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.