

Bronson City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

July 10, 2023

City Hall- 141 S. Matteson Street, Bronson MI 49028

5:00 pm

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Matt Watkins, Vice Mayor Bill Earl, Councilmember Bill Rinehart, Councilmember Larry McConn, and Councilmember Rick Johannes

Staff Present: City Manager Brandon Mersman, City Attorney Erin Jansen, Clerk/Treasurer Tricia Rzepka, DPW Supervisor Joe Swain, Water/Wastewater Jerry Rinehart, Chief of Police Steve Johnson, Fellowship Patrick Bird, and Fire Chief Scot Wilbur

Public Present: Gary Crandall, Kathy Crandall, Casey Swinson, Sheila Geiger, and Julie Geiger

3. Public Comments

Public comments shall be limited to 3 minutes for items not listed on the agenda.

Casey Swinson introduced himself as the Field Representative/Constituent Relations to Congressman Tim Walberg. Casey stated that he would be stopping in to the meetings periodically and provide legislative updates as they occur. Casey also stated that if there were issues to be handled, he could act as a liaison between the community and the congressman.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes- June 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; June 12, 2023 Closed Session Minutes

B. Acceptance of Monthly Reports- Police, DPW, Utilities Report, Fire Department Report

C. Approval of monthly bills in the amount of \$81,107.27

D. Affirm the prepayment of bills in the amount of \$178,871.89

E. Approval of City's Investments

F. Approve Bronson Polish Festival Requests

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Council Member Rick Johannes with support from Council Member Larry McConn.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

5. New Business

A. Urban Chickens- Public Comment- Discussion/Action

City Manager Brandon Mersman explained that the Planning Commission met on the 21st and discussed options for enforcement to adherence of rules that would be put in place.

Unfortunately, they were not able to find a cost effective way to administer this.

Gary Crandall stated that he was in favor of not having chickens, as there has to be a way to enforce the rules and without this, it would fall to existing staff.

Julie Gieger feels that chickens would be good and they are a good source of responsibility and education for children.

Discussion took place with a general consensus to follow the guidance of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Matt Watkins agreed that the city is not in a position to pass an ordinance for chickens unless enforcement could be handled.

Motion to take no action regarding urban chickens made by Council Member Larry McConn with support from Council Member Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

B. Approve Summer Help

City manager Brandon Mersman presented to the council that we have received an application from Brandy Rinehart, spouse to current employee Jerry Rinehart and sister-in-law to Council Member Bill Rinehart. Per the employee handbook, permission is needed from the council to hire a family member of an existing employee or council member. As this is a summer only position, City Manager Brandon Mersman is requesting permission from the council.

Motion to approve Brandy Rinehart for the summer help position made by Council Member Rick Johannes with support from Council Member Bill Earl.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

6. City Staff Comments

Fire Chief Scot Wilbur reported that the Fire Department had 15 medical calls last month and are working with the city for a Michigan Treasury Grant with a possible amount of \$70,000 that could be used for turn out gear and other safety equipment.

7. City Manager Comments

City Manager Brandon Mersman reported that the pension plan funding has increased from 80% to 83% funded. Mersman also reported that the City of Bronson is in the top 50 of the state scored municipalities for the CWLRF and are hoping to hear more by the end of the month. Mersman informed the council that Clerk/Treasurer Tricia Rzepka received a \$1,000 sponsorship from Sturgis Bank and Trust for music in the park.

8. Council Comments

Council Member Bill Earl expressed good job to Brandon, Scott, and Tricia.

Council Member Larry McConn wanted to express how good the city looks, good job to Joe, and good job to Brandon and Scott working together for the fire department.

Council Member Rick Johannes brought up to Brandon and Joe that the American Legion may need parking spaces closer to the building for some of the workers for Polish Festival. Joe did state that the availability will be determined if they are there prior to the crowd getting there.

Mayor Matt Watkins reminded everyone to come out and enjoy the Polish Festival coming up in the next few weeks.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Bill Rinehart with support from Council Member Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

Adjourned at 5:15 PM

Tricia Rzepka
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Bronson