

Bronson City Council
Agenda

Regular Meeting

September 11, 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

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: City Manager Brandon Mersman, City Attorney Charles Lillis, Clerk/Treasurer Tricia Rzepka, Chief Steve Johnson, Jerry Rinehart, Patrick Bird, and Fire Chief Scott Wilber.

Public Present: Joe Cousins

3. Public Comments - None

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

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes- August 14, 2023

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

C. Approval of monthly bills in the amount of \$131,648.70

D. Affirm the prepayment of bills in the amount of \$240,776.10

E. Approval of City's Investments

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Councilmember Bill Earl with support from Councilmember Rick Johannes

4 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

5. New Business

A. Discussion- Golf Carts

City Manager Brandon Mersman brought before the council, the item of allowing golf carts in the City of Bronson.

Mayor Matt Watkins stated that he has been approached by a few residents wanting this to go before the council. Stating that he can see both sides of the issue of wanting to be able to utilize a golf cart in the city and the issues of safety if they are used.

Council member Bill Rinehart also stated that he can see both sides, but tends to side more on the side of caution and safety.

Council member Rick Johannes questioned if they would have to have lights and signals? Chief Steve Johnson that it can be required within the local ordinance. Chief discussed concerns if there is an accident, as there is no safety in a golf cart.

Council member Rick Johannes also questioned if the golf cart would have to be inspected by the police before it is allowed on the road?

It was discussed that rules could be given and would need to be signed stating that they were aware of the requirements to the golf cart per the ordinance.

Council member Larry McConn does not want to see the fire department have to go to a call involving a golf cart.

Council member Bill Earl was approached by two people regarding golf carts, one gentleman who is disabled and would like to take his grandchildren to the park.

Attorney Lillis stated that the city would not be held responsible if there were an accident, just like they are not responsible for vehicle accidents.

Council member Bill Rinehart questioned if we could require that they are over the age of 16 to drive a golf cart in town?

Attorney Lillis stated that you cannot require them to be older than what the state requires.

Mayor Watkins suggested that this be tabled until the next council meeting to allow for public opinion.

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated that he would add this to the agenda for the next council meeting.

B. Adopt Ordinance #218- Adoption of 2021 International Property Maintenance Code 2021

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated to the council that this is the most updated property maintenance code and would like to have this adopted as there have been updates that would benefit the city such as the height limit for weeds and missing/broken screens, and even heat being required.

Council member Bill Earl questioned how often the code is updated?

Attorney Lillis stated that it is updated every three years.

Motion to approve the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code made by Council member Rick Johannes with support from Council member Bill Earl.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

C. Purchase Street Signs

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated that there are approximately 70 signs in need of being replaced and a quote has been received for \$4,037.60.

Council member Larry McConn questioned if there is a clear coat that can be added so that they don't fade so fast?

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated that he can look into that.

Mayor Watkins questioned if they can be refurbished and repainted?

General discussion took place to have Mersman look into repurposing versus replacing.

Motion to approve having City Manager Brandon Mersman look into repurposing at a lower price versus replacing made by Council member Larry McConn with support from Council member Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

D. Approve Traffic Control Order #41

City Manager Brandon Mersman presented the council with a request from Madsen Wire along with a suggestion from Chief Johnson to designate a specified area for no parking directly across from the loading dock, as parking there makes it very difficult for semis to load and unload without risk of striking a parked vehicle.

Motion to approve Traffic Control Order #41 made by Council member Bill Rinehart with support from Council member Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

E. Approval of Resolution of Support to Apply for MTTP Risk Management Grant (Resolution 23-9-12)

City Manager Brandon Mersman informed the council of needs of the DPW department such as A-frame barricades, cameras, as well as other safety equipment. This grant would be a possible 50% match with a maximum amount of \$5,000. The city would match up to \$3,800.

Motion to approve the application for MTTP Risk Management Grant (Resolution 23-9-12) made by Council member Bill Rinehart with support from Council member Larry McConn.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

F. Approve Payment- Plummer's Environmental

City Manager Brandon Mersman explained that this is part of DWAM and covers the hydro excavating. Most of the work was done last year and EGLE is allowing a reimbursement of up to \$35,500

Motion to approve payment of Plummers Environmental made by Council member Rick Johannes and support from Council member Bill Earl.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

G. Approve Credit Card Payments for Taxes

City Manager Brandon Mersman informed the council that credit card payments for taxes have been requested and that Clerk/Treasurer Rzepka is willing to accommodate this for the residents, as there is not a lot of additional work processing these payments. Discussion was had about the delay in funds in the account and payments needing to be made to the county. Clerk/Treasurer Rzepka and City Manager Brandon Mersman have verified that the date received can be the date in which the funds are received in the account to then forward to the county.

Motion to approve allowing credit card payments for taxes made by Council member Larry McConn with support from Council member Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

6. **City Staff Comments**

Chief Steve Johnson stated that it is getting darker earlier and the kids are back in school so to be on the lookout for kids darting out, as they don't pay attention to traffic. Officer Pestun is back on duty so the department is at full staff for full time officers, although there has still been talk of adding a fifth officer. City Manager Brandon Mersman is looking into adding an additional officer and working with the union, as part time may have to be laid off prior to an additional officer being added.

Fire Chief Scott Wilber informed council that the grant that was sought through the city was awarded in the amount of \$70,000 which will allow new turn out gear, wildland extraction gear (will help with heat stress and over exertion), and thermal imaging cameras. Wilber also stated that the satellite office has broken ground and with contractors' donations, they are coming in under budget.

7. **City Manager Comments**

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated that he would like to have the council tour the wastewater treatment plant with Michigan Rural Water. Dates of 9-18-2023 or 10-5-2023 are available.

Council decided to tour the plant on 10-5-2023 at 3:30 PM.

Brandon also informed of the Planning Commission meeting this Thursday at 6:00 PM.

Brandon stated that the Planning Commission and Cemetery Board has a member resigning and questioned if the council new of anyone available?

8. **Council Comments**

Council member Bill Rinehart thanked Clerk/Treasurer Rzepka for taking credit card payments for taxes, thanked Chief Johnson for his advice regarding golf carts, congratulated Fire Chief Wilber on the grant, and thanked City Manager Brandon Mersman for his behind-the-scenes work.

Council member Larry McConn questioned the assessor RFP and if Karen was done as the assessor? If so, have we received her keys to the office back?

Mayor Matt Watkins stated that was another discussion to be had.

Larry congratulated Fire Chief Wilber on the construction of the satellite office.

Council member Rick Johannes informed Chief Johnson that he is glad he has his staff back, congratulated Jerry on getting up and running although it has been a rough road, congratulated Chief Wilber for the satellite office and grant, and told City Manager Brandon Mersman to keep up the good work.

Mayor Matt Watkins thanked everyone for their hard work and thanked the council for being open to the public. Matt also thanked Patrick for a lot of the behind the scenes work with grants.

Motion to enter closed session made by Council member Bill Rinehart with support from Council member Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

Closed session begins at 5:50 PM

9. Closed Session: Discussion of Purchase, Sale, or Lease of Real Property (PA 267 of 1976 15.268 Sec. 8 (d))

Motion to come out of closed session made by Council Member Bill Rinehart with support from Council Member Bill Earl at 6:42 PM

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

10. Adjourn

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

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

Adjourned at 6:43 PM

Tricia Rzepka
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Bronson