

Bronson City Council
Minutes

Regular Meeting

November 13, 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, Deputy Chief Frank Barker, Patrick Bird, Fire Chief Scott Wilber, and Joe Swain

Public Present: Linda Shaffer, Gerald Yesh, Janete Yesh, Commissioner Tom Matthews, John Holland (MI Rural and Water), and Lynnell Eash (Bronson Library)

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- October 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; October 9, 2023 Closed Session Minutes; October 26, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

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

C. Approval of monthly bills in the amount of \$139,804.15

D. Affirm the prepayment of bills in the amount of \$26,510.63

E. Approval of City's Investments

F. Approve Resolution #23-11-15 Council Schedule for 2024

G. Approve Resolution #23-11-16 PA 152 Opt-Out

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

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

5. New Business

A. Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Request- Walnut Street Vacant Lot (200-004-000-183-18)

City manager, Brandon Mersman, discussed construction of a new home on property in the City of Bronson with a 10-foot variance for the lot depth. Mersman provided a variance procedure checklist and ordinance information to the council members.

1. Public Hearing

Motion for public hearing made by councilmember Larry McConn with support by Rick Johannes

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

Public hearing opened at 5:05 PM

Fire Chief Scott Wilber stated he had been in the house and the stairway set up is not conducive.

Other's present, did not have issue with the variance being allowed.

Public hearing closed at 5:06 PM with motion from councilmember Rick Johannes and support from councilmember Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

It was discussed that the property is shallow and presents practical difficulty. It is not detrimental to the community, and the appearance will not impair other near homes. Discussion also took place that at least two of the three requirements were met to approve the variance.

2. Approve/Disapprove Variance Request

Motion to approve variance made by council member Larry McConn with support from council member Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

B. 150 Wayne Street Rezoning Ordinance #220

Previous resolution had been approved. It was determined that an ordinance would be better than a resolution in this circumstance.

Motion to approve made by Vice Mayor Bill Earl with support from councilmember Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

C. Wastewater Administrative Consent Order Discussion

City manager, Brandon Mersman submitted an extension and also met with USDA and the financial auditors regarding a one percent loan from the USDA and also a one percent loan from EGLE. Mersman would like to wait to pay the BAN until it is determined if extensions are allowed.

John Holland with Michigan rule water suggested to make a priority list. The collection system is not on the list but will cost approximately \$2 million. Headwork should be done at the same time to not have to implement larger than needed. Drain rods are broken and need to be rehab. The clarifier in the north needs to be replaced, and in the south is in bad shape too.

Mayor. Matt Watkins doesn't feel necessary for Mike Schwartz to come to the next meeting.

Councilmember Rick Johannes suggested he attend after the first of the year.

D. Approve Ordinance #221- Decriminalizing Certain Ordinances

City manager, Brandon Mersman presented to the council, staff request to change from a criminal to a civil infraction issuing of ticket for noncompliance, as it may get the attention of residents.

Motion to approve made by council member Rick Johannes with support from council member Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

E. Approve Ordinance #222 to Allow Golf Carts on City Streets

City manager, Brandon Mersman, met with attorney, Chuck, Lillis, and chief Steve Johnson to cross at the light. Chuck suggests an ordinance which would allow fines a resolution would not be as strict.

Council member, Larry McConn, expressed that he is not for this in regards to safety reasons.

Motion to approve made by councilmember Rick Johannes with support from Vice Mayor Bill Earl.

4 ayes/1 nay(McConn) Motion carried

F. Approve Purchase of Scales for Wells

City manager, Brandon Mersman presented to council that Michigan Rural Water suggest the purchase of six scales. There may be funds available from the fluoride portion of a grant application the cost would be \$2960 for all six scales.

Motion to approve made by councilmember Bill Rinehart with support from councilmember Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

6. City Staff Comments

Chief, Steve Johnson stated Halloween went well. Spooks was held in the fire department. The trunk or treat was well received and with the time change everyone should watch traffic. Joe Swain stated that leaves have been their biggest priority. Jake took 30 loads of leaves and they need an additional two weeks more to get the rest of the leaves.

7. City Manager Comments

City manager Brandon Mersman stated that the survey is now live and would like people to take the survey.

8. Council Comments

Council member Rick Johannes questioned the search for a fork truck, felt that food truck and music went well and told Steve and Frank they were doing a good job.

Council member, Larry McConn, allowed Tom Matthew to speak in his place. Tom expressed happy Thanksgiving to everyone. The county is doing well.

Council member, Bill Rinehart expressed happy Thanksgiving, thanked Joe for taking care of the leaves and John for his assistance with the list.

Council member Bill Rinehart expressed thanks to the staff and also Patrick.

Mayor Matt Watkins thanked everyone and appreciated the public input.

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

Motion to enter into close session at 5:38 PM by councilmember Bill Rinehart with support from councilmember Rick Johannes

5 ayes/0 nays Motion carried

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting made by councilmember Bill Rinehart with support from councilmember Larry McConn

5 ayes/ 0 nays Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Rzepka
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Bronson