

**City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
December 11, 2023**

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

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

Public Present: Karen Bell, Chloe Garr

Public Comments – Karen Bell was present regarding the cemetery clean up. She would like the rules for the cemetery to be revised to allow new flowers on the stones and urns. She feels staff does a good job but there needs to be more clarification as to the cemetery rules. After discussion, Council recommended the Cemetery Board to meet and discuss the rules and better define them and bring it back to Council.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$57,870.95. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

New Business – City Services to Bronson Community Foundation – Council discussed charging the Bronson Community Foundation for putting up the marquees. Council decided to allow the City to continue doing the marquee as a service to the Citizens of Bronson at no charge to the Bronson Community Foundation.

Purchase WWTP Clarifier Parts – The clarifier tanks at the WWTP are in need of new rods. We received quotes from the company that made our current equipment and a local company. Staff feels that stainless steel will give us better value and a longer life. Councilman Rinehart moved to purchase the stainless steel parts from the low bidder, Sutton Tool at the quote for \$4,287 and to keep it local. Seconded by Councilman McConn. Motion Carried.

Social District Discussion – The City was approached by Smitty’s Pizza about establishing a Social District in Downtown. Council discussed this and were all open to the idea. It was decided to notify Miranda Foster at Smitty’s Pizza that Council would be open to the idea and suggest her to come up with a plan or committee and bring it back to Council.

Police Department Building – Council discussed financing options for the new Police Department building. Council directed City Manager Mersman to continue looking into different financial institutions and see what he can find for no more than \$10,000 a year with a ten-year maximum. Council feels this is the direction to go and doesn’t think that we need to keep it local for the loan.

Rental Housing Ordinance Fees – Resolution 23-12-17 – Councilman Johannes moved to approve Resolution 23-12-17 for Rental Housing Ordinance Fees. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion Carried.

POAM Letter of Understanding on 5th Officer – Manager Mersman has been working with the POAM Union on a letter of understanding which states the 5th officer will be the first one laid off. This will

avoid having to lay off all seasonal, part-time or crossing guards before eliminating the new 5th officer position. Councilman Rinehart moved to approve the POAM Letter of Understanding on the 5th Officer. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Staff Comments – Chief Johnson reported that they are busy working on the new building. He had Ludwick Electric in to fix a couple issues. Since the radios work in the building they are able to use an internal antenna which will only cost \$179. This is a big savings.

DPW Supervisor Swain reported that Michael Herman was hired. He feels he will be a great asset. He said leaves will be finished on December 15th. He requested being present for the Cemetery Board meeting.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman congratulated Jerry Rinehart and Adam Hoard for passing their recent water licensing exams. Jerry is now the City's Certified Operator for water. He also explained to Council that the City needs to purchase a new boom truck soon. The current truck can not pass inspection. The amount will need to be an agenda item. Council would like them to keep it between \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Council Comments – Councilman Johannes thanked Manager Mersman and Attorney Lillis for all they have done this year. He congratulated Chief Johnson on the new building. Councilman McConn wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He congratulated the wastewater guys for passing their exams. Mayor Watkins appreciates Vice-Mayor Earl and his financing idea. He likes how Council works together. Vice-Mayor Earl thanked everyone and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He said he appreciates how Council works together and how they are able to talk things out.

It was moved by Councilman Johannes to go into closed session. Seconded by Councilman Rinehart. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilman Rinehart to go back to the regular council meeting at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Adjourn – Councilman Rinehart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Lambright, Deputy Clerk