

**City of Bronson  
Special Council Meeting  
March 25, 2024**

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

Roll Call: Present: Watkins, McConn, Johannes  
Absent: Earl, Rinehart

Also Present: Mike Stiles, Jim Smoker, Cindy Johannes, Patrick Bird, City Manager Brandon Mersman, Lori Lambright

Moved by Councilman McConn to excuse Vice-Mayor Earl and Councilman Rinehart from the Special Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Public Comments – Jim Smoker was present to state his concerns with how trashy the City of Bronson is looking. He feels it is the worst he has ever seen it. He gave several addresses and areas of concern where there is accumulations of junk and trash as well as front yard parking.

New Business – Manager Mersman stated that a Public Hearing regarding the submittal of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Application to fund the non-motorized trail development project in the City of Bronson was required.

Moved by Councilman Johannes to go into a Public Hearing regarding the submittal of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Application to fund the non-motorized trail development project in the City of Bronson. Seconded by Councilman McConn. Motion Carried.

Councilman McConn said he has heard from people at the factories that they see people going in and out of the trail all day. He knows others that say why do we need a trail when we have sidewalks. He feels the new trail is a good thing. Mayor Watkins feels it would be a good thing too.

Moved by Councilman McConn to go back to regular session in the Special Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Resolution #24-3-4 – The MNRTF Grant Application - City Manager Mersman explained that the City reached out to Abonmarche for estimates for the proposed trail project. To construct a paved trail, the total cost would be \$775,154.50. He said while an unpaved trail is eligible, a paved trail will score higher for funding. To fund this project the City would apply for \$400,000 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (with a match of \$375,154.50). He said the City would also apply for a \$300,000 grant from the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (requiring a match of \$75,000). Using TAP funds to cover match for the MNRTF application will reduce the City's out of pocket cost from approximately

\$375,000 to \$75,000 for the total project. That estimate would include sidewalks at either end of the trail to connect to existing parks. He stated that adding sidewalks to these areas is something we should be looking at and the funds for the sidewalks would come from major and local streets if needed. He added that if the Council would like to move forward with the Non-Motorized Trail Development Project the MNRTF requires a resolution.

Following discussion, Councilman McConn moved to approve Resolution 24-3-4 to approve the MNRTF Grant Application to fund the non-motorized Trail Development Project contingent upon getting both grants as the City does not want to pay more than \$75,000. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Adjourn – Councilman McConn moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Lambright, Deputy Clerk