

Bronson City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 8, 2024

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 Charles Lillis, Clerk/Treasurer Tricia Rzepka, Supervisor Joe Swain, Water/Wastewater Jerry Rinehart, Chief of Police Steve Johnson, and Fellowship Patrick Bird

Public Present: Lynnell Eash – Bronson Public Library/Community Foundation

3. Public Comments

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

Lynnell Eash with the Bronson Library, announce that the Community Foundation and Bronson Historical Society would be celebrating their 75th anniversary on February 17 and 18th and having a first movie tour.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes- November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; November 13, 2023 Closed Session Minutes; December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; December 11, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes

B. Acceptance of Monthly Reports- Police, DPW, Utilities Report, Fire Department Report (November & December)

C. Approval of monthly bills in the amount of \$104,116.15

D. Affirm the prepayment of bills in the amount of \$22,553.42 for November and for December \$112,126.10

E. Approval of City's Investments

Motion to approve consent agenda made by councilmember Bill Rinehart with support from council member Rick Johannes

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

5. New Business

A. Board & Commission Appointments (Resolution #24-1-1)

Motion to approve board reappointments of Jim Birchfield for the planning commission made by Councilmember Larry McConn with support from Councilmember Bill Rinehart

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

B. Police Department Building Financing

City Manager Brandon Mersman discussed financing options with the council Century Bank and trust offered a 10 year \$10,000 annual payment with an interest rate of 6.125% over 10 years paying an additional \$10,800 in interest.

Steve and Frank have been doing a lot of work with internet, cubicles, service windows, and have been painting, running wires, and phone service. Steve stated that he re-keyed the push bar and is meeting with a contractor to remove the safe and put in an exterior door.

Mayor Matt Watkins, discussed phase one and two roofing the new building stating that the roof would be approximately \$22,000.00

Council member, Larry McConn stated that you could patch the roof and give some time to save additional funds for approximately 3,000 to \$5000 and have them additional monies available for other projects.

Vice mayor Bill Earl stated that the cap was at \$80,000 might be a good idea to patch the roof now and borrow later if needed.

Chief Steve Johnson said the roof is the main issue with leaks. They can microwave lines, and those funds can come from salvage.

Mayor Matt Watkins questioned if using the funds from salvage, would make the department short?

Chief Steve Johnson stated that the next big thing would be the computers for the cars. Mayor Matt Watkins did not want to put the police in a bind.

Discussion took place giving the authority to spend up to \$5000 for the roof repair or have to come back to council.

Motion to approve the authority of up to \$5000 made by council member, Bill Rinehart with support from Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

C. 2024 Poverty Exemption Guidelines (Resolution #24-1-2)

City Manager Brandon Mersman discussed the request for the 2024 poverty exemption from Assessor Anne Richmond, stating that this would follow state and federal guidelines.

Motion to approve the 2024 prop property exemption guidelines Resolution 24 –1–2 made by Vice Mayor Bill Earl with support from Councilmember Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

6. City Staff Comments

Chief Steve Johnson stated that he has been working on the new building and hoping to be in by mid February.

Jerry Rinehart stated things are going good clarifier is in but not installed.

Joe Swain stated that they are plugging along and are looking toward the end of January to start looking at bucket trucks. He will start getting years and prices and pressing on with water meters to get changed.

7. City Manager Comments

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated that 192 Roosevelt St. might be coming up for tax sale. It has been posted for hazard and nuisance. There is a fence down in the backyard and the door is wide open.

Councilmember Larry McConn asked if we would look at buying it and making it safe and sell?

Attorney Chuck Lillis stated that the 2021 taxes are delinquent the 2023 taxes will be delinquent in 60 days and you would have to look at the property maintenance code.

Councilmember Bill Rinehart stated that he has received neighbor complaints on that property.

City Manager Brandon Mersman announced to the council that Jerry Rinehart received his level three wastewater license. Next will be his C license. Brandon also stated that Adam received his water license.

8. Council Comments

Council member Bill Rinehart congratulated Jerry and stated to Steve to let him know if he needed any help at the new building.

Vice Mayor Bill Earl congratulated Jerry Rinehart on his new licensing

Councilmember Rick Johannes told Steve that he appreciated all of the extra work that he has done for the new building. Rick also congratulated Jerry and Adam on their licensing.

Councilmember Larry McConn stated that the satellite fire station and Scot Wilber will be having electricity hooked up soon. He also stated that the new firetruck will be coming within the next week. Larry congratulated Jerry on his licensing, assured Joe that he knows that he is scrambling with all the work to be done, and stated to Steve that the council owes him a lot for all of his additional hard work.

Councilmember Rick Johannes thanked Lynnell for her hard work with the library, community foundation, and historical society.

Mayor. Matt Watkins congratulated Jerry on his new licensing.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Vice Mayor Bill Earl with support from Councilmember Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

Adjourned at 5:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Rzepka
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Bronson