

**Bronson City Council**  
**Minutes**

Regular Meeting

March 11, 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 5:30 PM

**2. Roll Call**

**Council Members Present:** Vice Mayor Bill Earl, Councilmember Bill Rinehart, Councilmember Larry McConn, and Councilmember Rick Johannes

**Council Members Absent:** Mayor Matt Watkins

**Staff Present:** City Manager Brandon Mersman, City Attorney Charles Lillis, Clerk/Treasurer Tricia Rzepka, Supervisor Joe Swain, Water/Wastewater Supervisor Jerry Rinehart, Chief of Police Steve Johnson, Deputy Chief Frank Barker, Fire Chief Scott Wilber and Fellowship Patrick Bird

**Public Present:** John and Billie Pollack, Chad Butters, Pat Pixley, Lee Swift, Karen Smith, Candy Cox, Kayla Shook

**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- February 5, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

C. Approval of monthly bills in the amount of \$163,453.81

D. Affirm the prepayment of bills in the amount of \$358,234.15

E. Approval of City's Investments

F. Approve Polish Festival Requests

G. Approve 2023 City Council Annual Report

Motion to approve consent agenda made by Council member Rick Johannes with support from Council member Bill Rinehart.

4 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

**5. New Business**

A. Approve Well #4 Cleaning Proposal

It was reported that well #4 was inspected and tested annually. It is currently 13.6% below the original capacity. A quote was received by Peerless to do the cleaning for \$21,950.

Discussion of it taking 5 days to complete.

Motion to approve the proposal made by Council member Larry McConn with support from Council member Bill Rinehart.

4 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

B. Approve Truck Pull Location

150 Wayne St. is gearing up to move to the east, property owned by the City Of Bronson. The insurance company is requiring the city be named as additionally insured for this. It is requested to have a five-year lease that the city can opt out with at least a 30 day advanced notification.

Kayla Shook mentioned that the truck poles have been here for over 30 years and has provided over \$100,000 to the school.

President Candy Cox stated that the truck pulls is great for the community and the loss of it would be bad for the festival.

Council member Larry McConn question parking?

Kayla Shook stated that options have been discussed and the new owner said they can park there.

Lee Swift stated that poles are known from all over.

Councilmember Larry McConn question the insurance?

Kayla Shook, stated that the city can review the policy before purchasing the policy.

Kayla Shook also stated that they are looking for other property and this is strictly a band aid solution.

Motion to approve by Councilmember Bill Rinehart with support Councilmember Rick Johannes.

4 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

C. Trail Project Discussion

Abonmarche quoted \$720,154 for a paved trail and \$592,624.50 for unpaved. This would be in two phases first phase would be the city applying for \$261,390 in Michigan National Resource Trust. This would require a match of \$87,133.50. This program would be offered through the Department of Natural Resources. The second phase would be the city applying for \$287,720 with the MNRTF, requiring a match of \$92,911 from the city.

The City of Bronson would then apply for a MDOT Transportation Alternative Program grant. Using TAP would reduce the city's cost from \$180,000 to a cost of only \$60,000.

Major and local street funds could be utilized for portions of this. Abonmarche stated the application would be done for free.

Consensus was to move forward with us.

D. Approve Abonmarche Proposal for Engineering & Project Scope

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated that EGLE denied any additional timeframe, but will assist with the revenue loan.

EGLE will assist with borrowing up to \$10 million.

\$5.5 million for would be for collection only or \$8 million for collection and lift station.

Council member Larry McConn questioned the lift stations were in good shape?

Water and wastewater supervisor Jerry Rinehart stated they will need to be done in the future.

City Manager Brandon Mersman state stat EGLE has been very inflexible.

Councilmember Bill Earl asked if the design could be done by April 15?

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated this would be contingent upon getting additional time.

Vice Mayor Bill Earl stated in respect of time frames we may have to do the collection only.

Motion to approve collection system repairs made by Councilmember Bill Rinehart with support from Councilmember Rick Johannes.

4 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

E. Approve New Property Boundaries for Cronkhite Vault

City Manager Brandon Mersman informed council that this would provide for additional width and depth, allowing enough space to amend the development.

Motion to approve the new property boundaries for Cronkhite Vault made by Councilmember Larry McConn with support from Councilmember Bill Rinehart.

4 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

F. Resolution of Support for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) - Resolution #24-3-3

City Manager Brandon Mersman presented the resolution to continue to provide infrastructure to the Bronson Department of Public Works to provide for the protection, conservation, and the control of pollution of the water resources of the state.

Motion to approve Resolution of Support for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) - Resolution #24-3-3 made by Councilmember Bill Rinehart with support from Councilmember Larry McConn.

4 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

**6. City Staff Comments**

Fire chief Scot Wilber stated that the new tanker is in service. Two firetrucks are located at the satellite station. ISO classification states that it will lower its cost for residence home insurance as long as they are located within 5 miles of the station.

Police Chief Steve Johnson stated that they are in the new building and it is 90% complete. Chief thanked everyone for their assistance with the move and painting and stated that it would be beneficial to the city to be located on US 12.

DPW Supervisor Joe Swain stated they are on their last round of meters. Residents will be shut off if they do not schedule a meter change. Joe also stated that he found a boom truck. It was listed at \$80,000 and was able to bring them down \$12,000, it has approximately 3182 hours. Joe will be inspecting it and if it looks good, will hopefully be purchasing the boom truck. Joe also stated that the purchase should be finalized for a fork truck soon.

Water and Wastewater Supervisor Jerry Rinehart stated that he has training coming up and then after that will be exams.

**7. City Manager Comments**

City Manager Brandon Mersman thanked Chief Johnson for painting, cleaning, organizing and moving everything to the new police department. Brandon thanked everyone for their help and also stated that the annual fire banquet would be this Saturday at 6:30 PM

**8. Council Comments**

Council member Rick Johannes hopes that the boom truck works out. He then thanked Fire Chief Scot Wilber for all of his hard work. Councilmember Johannes also stated to Chief Steve Johnson that he has done a very good job for the police department. A thank you was extended to the Polish festival committee for being present.

Council member Larry McConn thanked Chief Steve Johnson for all of his hard work and also recognized Fire Chief Scot Wilber on the ISO rating, stating that that is a lot of hard work and that he is proud to be from Bronson. Larry told Joe a great job on the bucket truck and express to Jerry that he was very impressed with his ability. Councilmember McConn also stated the Bronson Polish Festival committee that it is a good project and he hopes that they will find a permanent spot

Councilmember Bill Rinehart expressed his thanks to include Steve, Scott, Joe, and Jerry for all of their hard work

Vice mayor Bill Earl told Brandon to keep up the good work and thank Patrick for all of his behind-the-scenes work.

**9. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 5:53 PM made by Councilmember Rick Johannes with support from Councilmember Bill Rinehart.

4 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Rzepka  
City of Bronson  
Clerk/Treasurer