

Bronson City Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting

June 10, 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: Councilmember Bill Rinehart, Vice Mayor Bill Earl, Mayor Matt Watkins, Councilmember Larry McConn, and Councilmember Rick Johannes

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Brandon Mersman, Attorney Charles Lillis, Chief of Police Steve Johnson, Deputy Chief Frank Barker, DPW Michael Herman, DPW Supervisor Joe Swain, Fellowship Patrick Bird, and Fire Chief Scott Wilber

3. Public Present: Richard Swanson

4. Public Comments - None

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

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes- May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes; May 30, 2024 Council Work Shop Meeting Minutes

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

C. Approval of monthly bills in the amount of \$91,708.86

D. Affirm the prepayment of bills in the amount of \$22,252.12

E. Approval of City's Investments

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

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

6. New Business

A. Approve 2024 Fiscal Year Amended Budget- (Resolution #24-6-5)

City Manager Brandon Mersman presented the 2024 fiscal year end amended budget resolution 24-6-5 to amend the budget set last June for the 2024 fiscal year and better reflect operations over the past year. The fiscal year 2024 budget had a projected budget deficit of \$417,000. We expect to finish with a surplus of \$14,924 Well below what was budgeted and add a small amount to fund balance.

Motion to approve amended 2024 Fiscal Year Amended Budget- (Resolution #24-6-5) made by Council Member Larry McConn with support from Vice Mayor Bill Earl. 5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

B. Public Hearing: 2025 Fiscal Year Budget & Millage Rates

Public hearing opened at a 5:04 PM with a motion from Council Member Rick Johannes and support from Council Member Bill Rinehart. 5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

No comments were made.

Motion to come out of public hearing made by Council Member Rick Johannes with support from Council Member Bill Rinehart at 5:04 PM 5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

City Manager Brandon Mersman presented the 2025 fiscal year end budget to the council stating that it has a projected deficit of \$311,669. The budget would include adding a fifth officer, an assistant to the city manager and also include \$85,000 in lead and galvanized replacement.

The 2025 fiscal year budget is also based off of the 2024 tax rate L4029 with a millage rate requested a 14.8018 and the 1993 G.O. Bond millage of .7738 for a total millage rate of 15.5756

Council member Larry McConn stated that Brandon Mersman has been an excellent leader good at budgeting and he was comfortable with the projections.

C. Adoption of 2025 Fiscal Year Budget & Millage Rates (Resolution #24-6-6)

Motion to adopt 2025 Fiscal Year Budget & Millage (Resolution #24-6-6) made by Vice Mayor Bill Earl with support from Council Member Larry McConn. 5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

D. MDOT Category B Grant Application (Resolution #24-6-7)

City manager Brandon Mersman presented to the council the MDOT Category B Grant Resolution #24-6-7, that with the assistance of Abonmarshe the city was able to put together information to apply grant to mill and fill Compton Street from Ruggles Street to Matteson Street. The project will also include new sidewalk and ADA compliant ramps along with new curb, gutter and water service line replacements that are required. The total project is estimated at \$483,575. The maximum grant award is 50% of eligible cost up to \$250,000 and the water service expenses are not an eligible expense but would help us score higher since we are combining the roadwork with utility work. The total eligible expenses are \$403,165 and the city is requesting 50% of that cost or \$201,582. The total that the City Of Bronson would need to match would be \$281,993 with \$80,410 coming from the water improvement fund the remainder of the match would come from local streets and non-motorized funds. Mayor Matt Watkins question when we would find out if this was passed? Fellowship Patrick Bird stated he was not sure, but it would fall under next year's construction.

Motion to approve the MDOT Category B Grant Application (Resolution #24-6-7) application made by Council Member Larry McConn with support from Council Member Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

- E. Approve Amendment to Purchase Agreement- Skaggs Assisted Living
City manager Brandon Mersman presented to the council that the current agreement expired in May 2024. They are requesting amend the agreement with an extension of two years.

Councilmember Rick Johannes does not believe they are closer to developing this property.

City manager, Brandon Mersman stated that you could extend for only one year if that would be agreeable.

Mayor Matt Watkins felt that two years should be more than enough and that Covid did delay their progress by a little bit.

General consensus was that COVID did delay them by a little bit and this would be their last extension.

Motion to approve the two year amendment to the purchase agreement made by Council Member Bill Rinehart was support from Vice Mayor Bill Earl.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

- F. Approve Proposal for Police Department Door Project
City Manager Brandon Mersman presented to the council for approval for a police department door. Project proposals were sought for the installation of a steel door where the old ATM was at the new police building. The door would provide for back entrance and exit and allow patrol vehicles to be parked under the drive-through canopy with staff entering and exiting that door. This would also provide an additional exit for safety since all doors are currently located on the east side of the building.

Two bids were received, one from Holbrook Remodeling in the amount of \$10,476.63 and one from Brusse/Brady Inc. for \$15,400.

A header would need to be taken out and a new one installed above the door and would require brick work around the door.

Motion to approve the new steel door where the old ATM was appointed to Holbrook Remodeling in the amount of \$10,476.63 made by Vice Mayor Bill Earl with support from Council member Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

- G. Purchase Police Ammunition
City Manager Brandon Mersman informed the council that the police department is looking to make their annual purchase of ammunition. A quote was received from Kiesler Police Supply for \$3,579.57. Under the cities purchasing policy, this would need to come to council for approval. Kiesler Police Supply does participate with my state purchasing pricing.

Motion to approve police purchase of ammunition from Kiesler Police Supply in the amount of \$3,579.57 made by Council Member Larry McConn was support from Council Member Bill Rinehart.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

- H. MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Resolution of Support (Resolution 24-6-8)

City Manager Brandon Mersman presented the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Resolution of Support (Resolution 24-6-8), stating that previously in

March, the city applied for the Michigan National Resources Trust Fund Grant towards the Rails to Trails project within the city limits. Brandon reminded the council, the cost to construct a paved trail is \$775,154.50. The City of Bronson applied for a \$400,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund with a match of \$375,154.50. The City of Bronson is now ready to submit the second grant application. The grant focuses on enhancing intermodal transportation systems and providing safe alternative transportation options. The resolution request \$581,365 in TAP funds with a city match of \$193,789.50 or 25% of the total project cost. Using the TAP funds to cover the match will reduce the cities out-of-pocket cost to \$75,154.50 and would include sidewalks on the East and West of the trail to connect existing parks.

Motion to approve the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Resolution of Support (Resolution 24-6-8) made by Council Member Bill Rinehart with support from Council Member Rick Johannes.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

I. Approve Lease for Mural Project

City Manager Brandon Mersman reminded the council at the last meeting that the contract to the local artist was approved. What is now being requested is to approve the lease for 10 years at rate \$1 per year to the building owner at 103 E. Chicago St. The lease would be between the City of Bronson and Catina and Kevin Bauman.

Motion to approve the lease agreement made by Council Member Rick Johannes with support from Vice Mayor Bill Earl.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

7. City Staff Comments

Chief of Police Steve Johnson stated that the open house at the new police department would be taking place this Friday between 3 and 6 PM.

DPW Supervisor Joe Swain stated that they are painting and staining at the Greenwald Park, along with other repairs to the structures. Water service lines are being taken care of as well as street repairs.

Fire Chief Scot Wilber stated that they are now up to 27 firefighters and that the satellite station will also be having an open house this Saturday from 1:00 to 2 PM and they will be having their annual budget meeting taking place tomorrow June 11, 2024.

8. City Manager Comments

City Manager Brandon Mersman informed that Madsen Steel and Wire will be having Congressman Tim Walberg next Monday. A tour will be taking place between 9:15 AM and 10:15 AM that morning.

9. Council Comments

Council Member Bill Rinehart stated to Joe that everything is looking nice, to Chief of Police Steve Johnson that he is glad things are going well and anxious for the open house and also stated to fire chief Scot Wilber that he has done a great job with the satellite station.

Vice Mayor Bill Earl thanked everyone for working so closely with the budget stating that the city is looking good and he is anxious to see the new police department building. Bill also expressed for Joe to pass on to staff that he stated a good job on the work throughout the city.

Council Member Larry McConn stated that all staff worked hard at keeping within the budget. The open houses will be nice. Larry also stated to Fire Chief Scot Wilber that the satellite station was a dream and now he has it done. Larry also informed Joe that the painting looks great.

Council Member Rick Johannes stated that Memorial Day service was a success and expressed thanks you to the city, his wife and Lori for doing the flowers at the cemetery. He received several compliments at the service stating everything looked good. Mayor Matt Watkins expressed a great job to all involved.

At the end of the meeting, Richard Swanson stated that he was running for County Commissioner. Stating that he was an Air Force vet of 23 years. Richard stated that he had attended different meetings and didn't like what he was hearing and decided to run for county commissioner and would appreciate any support he could receive.

10. Closed Session: City Manager Annual Review (MCL 15.268(a))

Motion to approve going into closed meeting session at 5:35 PM made by Vice Mayor. Bill Earl with support from Council Member Rick Johannes.
5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

Motion to exit closed meeting at 5:58 PM made by Vice Mayor Bill Earl with support from Council Member Bill Rinehart.
5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the council meeting at 5:58 PM made by Council Member Bill Rinehart with support from Council Member Larry McConn
5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Rzepka
City of Bronson
Clerk/Treasurer