

City of Brownsville
Minutes of April 7, 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Brownsville City Council was called to order by Mayor Allen Whitesitt at 7:00 pm. Councilmembers Jeff LeJeune, Tim Klug, Jacob Danielson and John Jangula were present. Also present were Jenna Knight, City Treasurer, Steve Schuldt, City Clerk, Casey Holzwarth, Maintenance Supervisor, and Ben Novak, Fire Chief. Guests in attendance were Frank Dvorak, Dan Stemper, Fr. Joe Schnider, Kimberly Kew and Danielle DeVito (Dept. of Ag Rep).

Minutes of the March 3, 2021 council meeting were reviewed. Tim Klug moved, second by Jacob Danielson and the motion passed to approve the minutes as presented.

Danielle DeVito from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture informed council of an upcoming Gypsy Moth treatment which will be applied by aircraft. She explained that the treatment is made of food grade materials and will not impact other insects, mammals or surrounding environment. It is a pheromone that is species-specific which confuses the insects and removes their ability to mate thereby controlling the population without a chemical that kills them. The treatment is non-toxic, biodegradable and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The aircraft will be flying approximately 100 to 200 feet above the treatment area and only in wooded or brush areas.

Kimberly Kew, owner of a home at 276 Marina Drive questioned her charges for solid waste collection because she does not use the service. She explained that any garbage generated is taken with her when she returns to her apartment in Mason City, Iowa. It was explained to her that by ordinance all residences are required to pay a minimum garbage collection fee of \$10.50 monthly, whether the service is used or not. The fee is then paid out to Houston County Environmental Services and Richard's Sanitation. Ms. Kew felt she understood the city's position for the charges and appreciated the explanation.

Mayor Whitesitt informed council that 3 applicants had applied for the summer recreation program and requested that interviews be conducted. Tim Klug agreed to assist with interviews.

Casey Holzwarth presented a proposal from B&D Sealcoating to seal the Bluff View Manor parking lot at a cost of \$1,400.00. The lot hasn't been sealed since July 2018 and recommended that it be done every two years. Jacob Danielson moved, second by John Jangula and the motion passed to approve seal coating the Manor parking lot.

Casey Holzwarth requested approval to have the Marina Drive sewer line camera inspected and jetted. The line is approximately 2000 feet and the cost will be \$1.82 per foot. He also recommended that \$4,000.00 be budgeted annually for sewer inspection and jetting. Jacob Danielson moved, second by Jeff LeJeune and the motion passed to approve the Marina Drive project and to budget \$4,000.00 annually for sewer inspection and jetting.

Mayor Whitesitt presented a proposal from River City Landscape to extend the Veteran's Memorial Wall. The cost would be \$7,577.73. John Jangula moved, second by Jeff LeJeune and the motion passed to approve the extension.

Frank Dvorak requested that Casey assist with drainage issues at his property. Casey agreed to help.

Ben Novak, Fire Chief, informed council that a 2018 Freightliner had been purchased for \$29,000.00. Fire department staff are currently searching for a water tank to mount on the truck. The old tank has rust and can only be filled by an overhead water source rather than a fire hydrant. The cost to dismount and remount the old tank would be avoided.

Council reviewed the following building permit applications:

Fred Lupien: Pour concrete wall from garage elevation to ground height of main floor. Steps to be constructed for access to main floor. Tim Klug moved, second by Jacob Danielson and the motion passed to approve.

Ben Virock: Install 6' high X 40' long picket fence. Jeff LeJeune moved, second by John Jangula and the motion passed to approve.

Larry Johnson: Install 61' X 3' X 10" concrete retaining wall with wall to be level with existing sidewalk. 6' vinyl fence to be installed on the wall. John Jangula moved, second by Tim Klug and the motion passed to approve.

Michael D. Moriarty: Rear patio brought to elevation by short retaining wall with metal fence surrounding and 10 X 10 fiberglass pergola. Tim Klug moved, second by Jacob Danielson and the motion passed to approve.

Justin Rohrer: Build 12' X 24' pole building for boat storage. Jacob Danielson moved, second by Jeff LeJeune and the motion passed to approve.

Jacob Theobald: Construct 30' X 30' detached garage. Tim Klug moved, second by Jeff LeJeune and the motion passed to approve.

Christopher Dick: Construct a post frame 40' X 32' detached storage building. Jacob Danielson moved, second by John Jangula and the motion passed to approve.

Council considered fees for liquor license renewals. Council was informed that the City of Caledonia reduced the cost of renewals for their liquor establishments and the City of Eitzen had waived the liquor license last year for its establishment. Jacob Danielson moved, second by John Jangula and the motion passed with one dissenting vote to waive liquor license renewal fees.

Mayor Whitesitt informed council that he had spoken with a representative of the railroad regarding a culvert under the tracks for storm water drainage on Marina Drive. The representative requested that a plan be submitted for review and possible approval.

Council was informed that Jeff LeJeune and Tim Klug had acquired 200 guard rail posts for \$1,600.00. The post will be used to repair the existing guard rail on North Second Street.

Jenna Knight, City Treasurer, requested pricing guidance regarding rental of the community center and ballpark to the La Crescent Cub Scouts on June 6. Council agreed by consensus to not charge for the event with an exception that if the community center was able to be rented, there would have to be a rental charge paid. Also requested was pricing guidance for an event by St. Peter's Church in Hokah for an event on July 31. The request came from a city resident on behalf of the church which would allow for a reduced rental. Council agreed by consensus to charge the lower resident fee.

Council was informed of a nuisance issue on Benton Street. City staff is to send a letter to the property owner.

Council reviewed claims payable. Jeff LeJeune moved, second by Tim Klug and the motion passed to approve all claims.

There being no further business, Jacob Danielson moved, second by Jeff LeJeune and the motion passed to adjourn at 8:43 pm.



Steve Schuldt, City Clerk



Allen Whitesitt, Mayor