

Brownton City Council – December Meeting Minutes

Mayor Schwarze called the meeting to order.

- Council approved the request from residents Jonathan & Sarah Potts to combine their two parcels.
- Truth In Taxation Meeting was opened to public comment. Janet Kreie commented regarding the high property tax on their house. The market value is assessed by County Assessor; Council recommended she contest her taxes at the Court House Thursday. Without abundant businesses, Brownton tax load is solely paid by residents. Councilman Carrigan also stated his tax went up 40% for his non homestead properties without reason. Public Comment Meeting Closed.
- Clerk stated the 2019 Levy remained flat with the exception of the \$40K RS Fiber bond payment, paid using contingency money and accounting for the 2% increase to the levy. A 3% salary Increase was approved for most employees.

- o 2019 Final Levy Certification:

▪ General Account	\$232,315
▪ Civic Center Bond	\$63,150
▪ 2012 Street Utility Bond	\$78,115
▪ RS Fiber Bond	\$40,634
▪ Fire Truck Bond	\$17,208
▪ 2018 Street/Utility Bond	\$4,253
▪ Total Levy	\$435,675

Due to new utility improvement bonds, on January 1, the Fixed Sewer utility will increase from \$18.50/month to \$20/month; the Sewer utility will increase from \$9.00 to \$9.50/1000 gallons usage. Upon motion, 2019 Levy was adopted.

- John Turner, owner of the structure at 112 4th Avenue North, was present to discuss the fate of the building. Turner was advised to hire a Structural Engineer to evaluate the building; he has 30 days to report back to Council with this report and plans. If no response, Council will proceed to request a Court Order to raze the building.
- SEH reported the R&R Payment Application #7 was received late and is being reviewed. They requested a special meeting in 2 weeks to review the pay plan and discuss liquidated damages - Tuesday, December 18 @ 7:p.m. Currently, we are holding a 5% retainage (\$145K). The bus stop has been filled in, however, there may be issues with curb damage as there isn't enough gravel. SEH will talk to R&R to bring in topsoil, but there are concerns they would do more damage to curbs in doing so. This isn't solely an R&R issue this year; approximately 15 other cities have many of the same issues. Michels lining work is done; lateral lining will commence in May, 2019.
- Public Works plowed snow, Hjerpe is hauling in 2 loads of sand for winter, Quade is coming the week of 12/11 to work on the transformer behind the bank. Hjerpe will be working on the sump drains on the west side of the Civic Center to fix the leakage into the basement.
- Police Chief report included moving the exercise training equipment from the PD car port. Mcleod County Emergency Operations Plan was approved by Council. One of the juvenile school vandals pled guilty and is doing community service, court case is coming up for the others. No snowbird tickets have been given out yet; reminder to the public, no parking on the streets from 2:00a.m. to 6:00a.m regardless of snow conditions.
- Quote of \$107.99/month was received from RS Fiber for Wi-Fi service in the Community Center; decision to install Wi-Fi was tabled.
- The Wind Mill is coming down. They are truly a symbol of energy savings, but unfortunately, have not paid for themselves. MMPA will give the city \$50K if we want to keep it and maintain it. Decision was made by Council to remove it.
- All water and electric meters will be replaced with remote meters in 2019. Whereas the water meters are part of the project cost, electric meters are not. Carrigan asked if we should buy them from MMPA; he will follow up with John Webster (Hutchinson Utilities) to get information about compatibility.
- With regrets, Council accepted the resignation of Council Member Tim Olson as of Dec 1, 2018. Thank you Tim for 4 years of dedicated service on the Brownton City Council. Upon acceptance, Council hereby declares a vacancy on the City Council.
- As the January Meeting date falls on Tuesday, Jan 1, 2019, the meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

Upon motion, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Ella Kruse, City Clerk.