

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
April 9, 2018

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Cole, McConn, Cox, Kenny, Earl
Absent: None

Public Comment – Branch County Sheriff Pollack gave an update concerning sheriff's department activities including the overcrowding at the jail and the necessary transfer of female inmates to other facilities. Branch County Commissioner Kolcz reported on commissioner activities. He said a millage proposal would be on the ballot in August for a new jail. He said opioids are still a problem in the county and this was also contributing to jail overcrowding and increasing costs to the county for victims of overdoses. Kathy Eichler was present to talk with Council about smoke coming into the post office, where she works, from a wood burner at a residence next door to the post office. Council explained there was not an ordinance that prohibited residents from having indoor wood burners. Council said all they could do was investigate to make sure the wood burner was properly installed.

Presentations – Proclamation of the Mayor to the Bronson Bowling Team- Manager Mersman read a proclamation outlining the outstanding accomplishments of the Bronson High School girls and boys bowling teams. Each team member was presented with a copy of the proclamation and congratulated on their successful season.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$29,966.49. Seconded by Councilwoman Cox. Motion carried.

New Business – US-12 Road Diet – Discussion – Manager Mersman explained he had been approached by MDOT about doing a "road diet" through the City in 2019 when they plan to mill and resurface US 12 from Wayne Street to the St. Joe county line. He outlined the positive and negative impacts of doing the project as suggested by MDOT. After some discussion Council agreed they were not in favor of the change. They instructed Manager Mersman to tell MDOT they wanted US 12 left as it is.

Rental Ordinance – Discussion - Manager Mersman explained that in an effort to improve health, safety and welfare of residents and preserve property values he had done research into the possibility of a rental ordinance. He said over the past few months there had been a couple of fires in the City where the fire department had discovered issues with electrical problems which raised safety concerns and Consumers Energy had to be called in to disconnect services. He said these properties were rentals and having a rental ordinance and rental inspections could help avoid these type of issues. He asked Council if they would like him to investigate a possible rental ordinance and look into companies to help with rental inspections and enforcement of an ordinance. Council agreed it was time to move forward with a rental ordinance and instructed Manager Mersman to so.

Award Lawn Maintenance Bid – After reviewing bids received Manager Mersman recommended awarding the lawn maintenance contract to M & M Lawn Service for three years. Vice-Mayor McConn moved to

approve the maintenance contract with M & M Lawn Service for three years. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

Fair Housing Month Proclamation – Resolution No. 18-4-3 – Councilman Kenny moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-4-3. Seconded by Vice-Mayor McConn. Motion carried.

Approve Purchase of Tables and Chairs – Manager Mersman asked for approval to purchase tables and chairs to replace broken and missing ones at the park buildings at a cost of \$3,176.93. He said he had checked prices with several vendors and this was the low price for 15 tables and 96 chairs. Councilwoman Cox moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – None

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman told Council he would be interviewing applicants for a new DPW employee over the next couple weeks. He said construction on US 12 between Bronson and Coldwater would be beginning at the end of the April. He said had a time line for the work available if anyone was interested in a copy of it.

Council Comments – Council again congratulated the Bronson High School Bowling teams on their outstanding success. Vice-Mayor McConn said he felt moving forward with a rental ordinance and inspections was a good thing for preserving housing stock and ensuring the safety of residents.

Adjourn – Vice- Mayor McConn moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.