

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
October 8, 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 Commissioner Kolcz gave an update on projects the county is involved in. He said the new jail planning is moving forward with ground breaking set for spring 2019. He said the Sheriff still has concerns about the water line running under the old jail. He said the Sheriff is wanting to do some repairs on the water line but the County Commissioners are not willing to spend the money on the lines and are hoping they hold until the new jail is built. He said staffing is a problem in the Sheriff department right now. He said they are down three officers and have not been able to hire anyone. He said the wage tier for the County is much lower than other agencies in the area so officers are going elsewhere for work.

Presentation – Manager Mersman presented Councilwoman Cox with a proclamation thanking her for years of service to the City. Councilwoman Cox will not be seeking reelection in November.

Consent Agenda – Vice-Mayor McConn said he would like to amend the wage increase for Manager Mersman to 2.5% instead of the 2% that was stated in last month's minutes. He said this would bring his increase in line with the other nonunion employees. Councilman Earl moved to approve the consent agenda with the amendment as requested by Vice-Mayor McConn. Seconded by Councilwoman Cox. Motion carried.

New Business – Approve Trail Master Plan Proposal – Manager Mersman said he sought bids for the development of a trail master plan. He said in order to apply for state grants a master plan must be in place. He said the low bid was from Williams & Works of \$4,950. Councilwoman Cox moved to approve the proposal from Williams & Works. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Adopt Ordinance #209 – Rental Housing Ordinance Amendments – Manager Mersman said two amendments were needed to the rental housing ordinance. One to exempt out housing which is already being inspected and regulated by another state or federal agency and a second to define immediate family as members of the first degree. Vice-Mayor McConn moved to approve Ordinance #209. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Police Chief Johnson said the City may be losing Police Officer Fuller who is interviewing for a public safety position with a different department. He said he agrees with Commissioner Kolcz saying it is hard to keep good officers in small communities.

City Manager Comments – Manager Mersman said repairs were made to Bronson's Backyard sign this week after some vandalism was done to the brick base. He also said the installation of the new fiber line should begin within the next weeks. He said installation of the line will bring us back in compliance with the Law Enforcement Information Network and that 100% of the cost will be paid from the State of Michigan Department of Treasury Competitive Grant Assistance Program.

Council Comments – Council again reminded everyone to watch out for children going back and forth to school now that it was getting darker earlier. Council thanked Councilwoman Cox for her service as a member of City Council. Council reminded everyone to vote on November 6th and encouraged everyone to support the local school district by voting yes on the sinking fund request. Councilwoman Cox thanked everyone for the proclamation and the residents of Bronson for the time she served on Council.

Adjourn – Councilman Earl moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Cox. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.