

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
June 8, 2020
Virtual Meeting

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

Roll Call: Present: McConn, Watkins, Duke, Johannes
Absent: Earl

Public Comments – None

Consent Agenda – Councilman Duke moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$32,657.63. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried.

New Business – Approve Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Wage Re-Opener (2020-2021 Budget Year) – Manager Mersman said he has talked with the POAM and they have tentatively agreed to a 2.5% increase for union officers which is what non-union employees would be getting in the new budget year. Councilman Watkins moved to approve the wage opener negotiated for union officers. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

2020 Fiscal Year Amended Budget – Resolution No. 20-6-10 – Councilman Watkins moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-6-10. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Public Hearing 2020/2021 Budget and Millage Rates – Councilman Duke moved to recess the meeting to public hearing to hear comments on the proposed budget and millage rates. Seconded by Councilman Watkins. Motion carried. There were no public comments. Councilman Watkins moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2020/2021 Budget and Millage Rates – Resolution No. 20-6-11 – Councilman Watkins moved to approve Resolution No. 20-6-11. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Adopt Amended Purchasing Policy – Manager Mersman told Council that in order for the City to be eligible for some State and Federal grants the City must amend their purchasing policy to meet federal regulation 2 CFR 200. He presented an updated policy for purchasing and asked for Council approval. Councilman Duke moved to approve the updated Purchasing Policy. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Approve Prein & Newhof Professional Services Agreement – Manager Mersman explained that Prein & Newhof is requesting a new signed Professional Services Agreement for as needed services for the City. He said it is a standard agreement for smaller projects. Larger projects would require separate agreements on an individual basis. Councilman Watkins moved to approve agreement for Professional Services with Prein & Newhof. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Approve Work Share Program & MERS Form – Manager Mersman told Council the City would like to use the Work Share program through the State of Michigan unemployment division to help cut payroll cost for part of June and the month of July. He said it would save the City approximately \$13,000.00 over the eight-week period. He said in order to do this and not effect the final annual compensation for employees within 5 years of retirement the City would also have to approve a MERS COVID-19 Modification form. He asked Council to approve the use of Work Share and the MERS modification form. Councilman Duke moved to approve the requests. Seconded by Councilman Johannes. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – None

City Manager Comments - Manager Mersman asked for Council direction on the opening of the Summer Youth Program at Douglas Park. He said he would like their input as to the opening of the program with the current situation. Mayor McConn said he felt with the current restrictions the park program could be opened. He said he felt the children needed some normal activities. Council agreed. They all felt the director was capable of using common sense and using social distancing guidelines. Manager Mersman said a waiver for COVID 19 guidelines would be required for all participants in addition to the routine waiver required for the program. Councilman Watkins said the Sandy Koufax baseball program would be using the ballfields at the high school not the ones at Greenwald park this summer. He said their would-be limited play and would be following all guidelines for COVID

19. Manager Mersman said City Hall would be reopening June 15th and would be requiring anyone entering to wear a face mask and hand sanitizing stations would be installed.

Council Comments – Councilman Johannes said he was thankful for operations that would be returning to the “new normal”. He said was important to stay safe but felt the children especially needed to have some return to activities. Council said it was nice to see the new Farmer’s Market Pavilion completed and welcomed the new Bronson Pharmacy to town. Councilman Watkins thanked all City staff for the extra efforts they have put forth during these difficult times.

Adjourn – Councilman Watkins moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Duke. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Smith, Clerk/Treasurer