

City of Bronson
Regular Council Meeting
December 10, 2018

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

Roll Call: Present: Cole, McConn, Kenny, Earl, Watkins

Absent: None

Public Comment – Branch County Sheriff Pollack gave an update on sheriff department activities for the month. He said the RFP's are out for the new jail. He also said the sheriff department has incurred an extreme amount of overtime due to an aggressive inmate that has required being guarded around the clock.

FY 2018 Audit Presentation – Jeff Berry, CPA of Norman & Paulsen, PC - Mr. Berry presented Council the financial statements for the City for FY 2018. He said the City was given a clean opinion, the best opinion given. He said the City 's general fund remained stable but advised council to be diligent in watching the fund balance in the future because of declining property tax revenue, pension liability and the uncertainty of the State of Michigan stabilization funds. He said the City's other funds also remained stable and in good standing.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Earl moved to approve the consent agenda including payment of invoices totaling \$56,050.65. Seconded by Vice-Mayor McConn. Motion carried.

New Business – Recreational Marijuana Moratorium Resolution #18-12-14 – Vice-Mayor McConn moved to adopt Resolution #18-12-14. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Approval of Letter of Limited Engagement with Dickinson Wright PLLC – Manager Mersman told Council several communities in the State have partnered to form a consortium for legal advice on the new recreational marijuana laws. He was requesting utilizing this consortium to assist the City with the marijuana law changes for a fee of \$700.00. Councilman Watkins moved to approve the joining of the consortium for \$700.00. Seconded by Councilman Earl. Motion carried.

Metro Act Permit Request: ACT.net Fiber Line – Manager Mersman told Council ACT.net has submitted a request to run a new fiber line from the corner of US12 and Albers Road to Douglas Autotech. They have submitted maps and needed paperwork along with the filing fee. He said work would begin with Council approval. Councilman Kenny moved to approve the request by ACT.net. Seconded by Vice-Mayor McConn. Motion carried.

Additional MERS Pension Contribution – In a continued effort to reduce the City's pension liability Manager Mersman asked Council to authorize a \$100,000.00 contribution to the City's surplus fund with MERS. He said the account was opened last January when Council authorized a \$100,000.00 payment which lowered the City's pension liability. He said with the additional \$100,000.00 the rough estimate from MERS is that the City would be approximately 70.7% funded. Vice-Mayor McConn moved to approve the contribution. Seconded by Councilman Kenny. Motion carried.

Staff Comments – Police Chief Johnson said Office Pope had taken a position with the Sheriff department but the City was able to hire Ricky Pestun from Union City. He said Officer Pestun has worked part time for the City in the past so he is familiar with Bronson. Fire Chief Scott Wilber said the fire department received a grant from the Branch County Community Foundation for the purchase of three AED units. He said with the grant for the units it would make the total amount of grant money received by the fire department over \$250,000 for the last two years.

Manager Comments – Manager Mersman invited everyone to the City Christmas luncheon on December 20th at noon at Greenwald Park.

Council Comments – Council congratulated the Bronson High School Volleyball team on winning their fourth straight State championship. They thanked the DPW crew for their efforts at trying to keep up with the leaf pick up during the recent cold and wet weather. Council also thanked all staff members for the good audit.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Smith, City Clerk/Treas.