City of Brownsdale

Garden Spot of Mower County

City Clerk/Treasurer – Adria Vargas, Police Chief- Jon Smerud, Public Works- Raughn Oakland/ Wayne Baldner

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Council Meeting

April 7th, 2025

Mayor and Council present: Jeff Foster, Jessica Klingfus, Raughn Oakland, Rick Smith, Jan Ball

Public Present: Loren Swanson, Mary Moritz, Don Peterson, Don Konken, Jennifer Simon, Aaron DeVries, Bryce Johnson, Courtney Johnson

Mayor Foster started the meeting at 7:00pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were approved with corrections

Mayor Foster started the meeting with Public Comment:

Don Peterson mentioned that his water continues to be cloudy. He asked is being done to investigate the issue. Mayor Foster stated that McCarthy Well had been to town in the last few weeks and suggested turning off one well for 2 weeks and flush hydrants and repeating the process in two weeks with the alternate well and flush hydrants and see if there are any changes before the next route of inspection. Don also commented on property taxes asking why there was such a change in the last few years. Mayor Foster commented that a year or two previous a bond had been paid lowering the taxes. He stated that due to the addition of a new bond that was taken out for the Cedar Street project plus the addition of 3% to the general fund along with higher property values is why this year is high. The Clerk suggested that he call Fran from Mower County Assessor's Office.

Don Konken asked the council about getting the town and the trailer court cleaned up. Its quite an eyesore. We definitely are not the garden spot of Mower County anymore. Mayor Foster stated that people just don't take care of their things anymore. The times are changing now. Don made a comment that the city needs to be harsher with the demands. Mayor Foster stated that the City's hands are tied in some respects with people's personal property. Don mentioned that the wood on the corner of the shop property will be removed by Wednesday, the original person was a no show.

The Mayor moved on to the Public Works report. Raughn reported that work was done at the wellhouse. The Flow Service and control had been to the lift station for the yearly calibrations. He stated that Morem's is still working on the tree removal. He stated that he also called Damel for street sweeping and we are on the schedule.

The Council discussed the tree at 302 Main Street E. Mayor Foster stated that the City generally doesn't not remove a living undiseased tree. In that case permission can be granted for removal of the tree at the homeowner's expense. Council Member Klingfus made a motion to remove the tree at City's cost if Husemoller deems the tree in the way of necessary sewer work. Council Member Ball seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.

Mayor Foster phoned Husemoller Excavating, Mark stated that the tree doesn't impede the work being done. Mayor Foster informed the council and the public about the Husemollers' answer. He stated that the tree will not be removed at this time but that doesn't mean it will never be removed.

Mayor Foster also discussed the sewer issues at Petersburg household.

Chief Smerud said that he ordered the new vest due to the 5-year expiration date. He also stated that he is also investigating some changes to the City's junk ordinance.

The Clerk reported on the Lead Service grant; she had spoken to Natalie Carroll wastewater operator. She suggested that the city holds off, due to various unknowns that the State wants answers to, the limited time and staff ability and the need for plans and specs to be drawn up by an approved engineer on the states list.

The Council discussed Bryce Johnson's request to have a sign or two up on Peace Street for Autism. He also requested on County 2 but Officer Smerud stated that is county jurisdiction and the City cannot put signs a the county road. He stated it would be best to request the county for signage.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to approve the tobacco license for Snak Atak in Brownsdale. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas,0Nays. Carried.

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06 Adopting the Brownsdales Emergency Operation Plan. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas,0Nays. Carried.

Bills were presented and signed

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 5Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.