City of Brownsdale

Garden Spot of Minnesota

Mayor and Council: Jeff Foster, Jessica Klingfus, (Raughn Oakland Absent,) Jan Ball, Rick Smith

Employees: Adria Vargas, Officer Smerud

Public Present: Loren Swanson, (Juan Hernandez, Omayra Cervantes: Salvation Army), Bill Adams, (Chris Weis Mower County SHIP), Morgen Moreno, Dennis Pooler, (Deb Smith, Amanda Rhodes, Chris Linarducci: Library Board), TJ Lynch

Council Meeting

August 3rd, 2026

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

Meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Bill Adams addressed the council about the speeding traffic through town coming in on County Rd. 2. He stated that he's seen them coming into town up to the old church, going at least 50 miles per hour speeding like rockets through town. He asked if Jon could do some more enforcement before someone gets hurt. Morgen Moreno and Dennis Pooler stated that they are newer to town and wanted to see what happens at City council meetings. They were also in agreement with the traffic speed coming into town. The Mayor stated that more enforcement will be set up to stop the speeding.

Juan Hernandez and Omayra Cervantes updated the council on the previous 10 months of food distributions; they stated that the mobile pantry is a drive through pantry on the 2nd Tuesday of the month meeting place is Gerbig Park. In the 10 months they have served 204 households, passed out 8,400 pounds of food. They stated that they are looking for ideas on how to expand the pantry in town and are open to suggestions. They stated that currently they are also offering delivery for those that can't make it to the mobile pantry. They asked the council if there was a way to send flyers out to all the residents, the Mayor commented that a flyer could go out in with the water bills. The council thanks the mobile food pantry for all the hard work they've done for the folks in the community.

TJ Lynch candidate for Mower County Sheriff, stated that he has been traveling to all the small city meeting to allow for questions and foster transparency in law enforcement. He stated that he has been a captain for 12 years and has worked with Officer Smerud on

several occasions over the years. He stated that he would be happy to visit and answer any questions that anyone may have.

Officer Smerud reported to the Council that the new squad has been picked up and that he is waiting for CAS to finish up a current job to take the pickup in to have it outfitted. He stated that after the outfitting it's set to go in for the graphics. When the new squad is completed, the old squad will be taken in to retrofit the truck and remove the police graphics in order to turn it over to public works. The Council discussed the reported condition of 103 Grove St. NE. and the issue with a tree falling into the roof. Council unsure if the City can deem it a hazard by the city, due to the process of tax forfeiture to the county.

The council discussed removing the trees on Fremont St. SE the council is waiting for a second estimate.

The council reviewed policies and determined that there were some changes for the clerk to make, noted changes will be reviewed again in 2027

The regular meeting was suspended at 7:30pm to hold the Preliminary Hearing for the 2027 tax levy.

Mayor Foster opened the hearing stating to remember that it can be lowered in December at the continuation hearing but not raised. He mentioned the rising costs and the need to think ahead of the Highway 56 project, we will need to bond, and we can't raise and raise and tax people out of town. After much discussion **Council Member Klingfus made a motion to approve a 3 percent increase setting the General fund at $155,942.00, Debt Service fund at $93,123.00 for a total $249,065.00, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 4 Yeas,0Nays. Carried.**

City of Brownsdale, Minnesota

RESOLUTION 2026-08

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY 2027 TAX LEVY

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Brownsdale, Minnesota, Mower County, that the following sums are proposed amounts to be levied for the year 2027, upon the taxable property in said City of Brownsdale.

GENERAL FUND – $155,942.00

DEBT SERVICE – $93,123.00

(Bond 2016A- $30,047.00)

(Bond 2024A- $63,076.00)

Other Indebtedness- not included in the total assessment

*FFM Loan Lift station (226) - $27,484.91

*FFM Loan Shop (227) $ 41,227.36

TOTAL – $249,065

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the continuation hearing will be held on December 7th ,2026 at 7:30pm at the monthly City Council meeting.

The Brownsdale City Clerk/Treasurer is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of the Resolution to the County Auditor of the County of Mower, State of Minnesota.

*(FFM Lift Station annual loan payments will be paid by the enterprise fund)

*(FFM City Shop annual loan payments will be paid through the general fund)

Passed by the City of Brownsdale this 3rd day of August ,2026

By: _____ Attest: _____

Mayor (City Seal) **City Clerk/Treasurer**

Mayor Foster reopened the regular meeting at 7:43pm.

Amanda Rhodes spoke on behalf of the library and library board on the importance of the library she stated the 50 percent of 3rd and 4th graders can't reach a grade level. We realize it's a lot of money not just kids' books, its large print books people looking for something positive to do and be involved in. After Hayfield removed SELCO from the school system there has been an increase in library cards being requested. Ater continued discussion **Council Member Klingfus made a motion to budget $47,500 for the library in 2027. Council Member Ball seconded the motion. 3 Yeas, 1Abstain (Smith). Carried.**

Clerk Vargas asked the council for approval to renew her notary stamp at a cost of $120.00. **Council Member Klingfus made a motion to approve the request for renewal at a cost of $120.00 Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.**

The council also discussed purchasing a new tractor, bid will be available at the September meeting.

Bills were paid

Council Member Klingfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm Council Member Smith seconded the motion. 4Yeas, 0Nays. Carried.