

The monthly Browerville City Council Meeting for January met at City Hall on January 13, 2016 and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members Heid, Iten, Wieshalla, Fenner and Santer were present. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

- A) Approval of Minutes of the 12/8/2015 & 12/9/2015 meetings
- B) Payment of Claims in the amount of: \$32,609.01
- C) Building Permits:

Motion by Wieshalla second by Fenner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. CU

Department Reports:

Liquor Store: Angie Bennie was present to update the Council. December closed out the year with a profit. The Liquor Store purchased two new display coolers for the Off Sale display area. Benning is getting bids for additional shelving in the Off Sale. Events are already in the works for both January and February. Council approved Benning pricing out new coolers for behind the bar.

Fire: Fire Chief Bill Buhl retired as Chief but will still be an active Department member. P.J. Sutlief was present to update the Council on the selection of officers for 2016.

Fire Chief:	P.J. Sutlief	Assistant Chief:	Terry Host
Lieutenant:	Wayne Petermeier	Training Officer:	Dan Custer

Motion by Iten, second by Fenner to approve the Officer Roster as presented. CU

Bob Toews was present to update the Council on the possible conversion of the Fire Relief Association's retirement funds to PERA (Public Employees Retirement Assoc.). Toews told the Council that the current retirement for Firefighters is \$950 per year of service. PERA only deals with retirement funds in the 100's this means that if the Fire Relief rolled into PERA their retirement would have to either go up to \$1,000 or down to \$900. The Relief Assoc. has sufficient assets to fully fund the entire existing department at the higher rate with funds to spare. Motion by Fenner, second by Santer to approve the increase in the Fire Relief retirement from \$950.00 to \$1,000.00 per year of service. Voting for the motion: Fenner, Heid and Santer. Abstaining due to a financial conflict of interest: Iten and Wieshalla.

Motion by Wieshalla second by Iten to approve Department Reports. CU

Other Business:

Petition to vacate alley located on the south side of 6th Street E., that portion of the alley bordered on the north and south by property owned by Three Star Construction and Ken Heid. Motion by Iten, second by Wieshalla to set February 10th at 6:45 for the Public Hearing. CU

Designations and Appointments – Council reviewed the listing of appointments and designations provided. Motion by Wieshalla, second by Santer to approve the Designations and Appointments for 2016 as presented. CU

Fee Schedule for 2016 – Council reviewed the Fee Schedule provided. The schedule included an increase in water, sewer, storm water and garbage service fees. Motion by Iten, second by Santer to approve the Fee Schedule for 2016 as presented. CU

Capital Improvement Plan – Kent Louwagie of Bolton and Menk and Chuck Buhl provided information and maps to the Council regarding the future needed utility and street improvements. The Plan breaks down the remaining improvements into 4 projects and prioritized the projects. Gillis Ave. and adjoining Streets being Priority #1, remaining portions of 6th St. W., 7th St. W., Park Ave. and Perry Ave. being Priority #2, Creamery Avenue, 11th Street and the wastewater mains on the west side of Hwy 71 being Priority #3, and Railroad Avenue being Priority #4. Council thanked Louwagie and Buhl for their work.

2018/2020 Improvement Project – Council heard that the cost of the Gillis Avenue and adjoining Streets Improvements are Priority #1 for future work. The estimated cost of the project is over \$3,000,000 using today’s costs. The Capital Improvement Plan gave estimates for all projects at current costs and also estimates for the projects in future years. Each year it is anticipated that the cost of a project will go up by 3 percent or more. After a brief review, motion by Wieshalla, second by Santer to table action until the February meeting. CU

Sidewalk Policy – Council heard that during the discussions pertaining to the Gillis Avenue project it was noted that Gillis is used by walkers and school children more that was originally believed when the Sidewalk Policy was created. Council was asked to consider upgrading Gillis from a non-essential sidewalk to a Primary sidewalk. No action was taken.

Dialogue Items:

Santer brought up that the Public Works uniforms could be purchased at either Knotty Pine or the Hardware Store.

Santer felt that the City’s ban of open burning was useless since the Transfer Station burns brush at their facility.

Bob Heid took the opportunity to thank staff and the Council for working together so well in 2015 and accomplishing a great deal.

Local Purchase: 76%

Adjournment: Motion by Wieshalla second by Iten to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Lynn Fabro
City Administrator

Bob Heid
Mayor