

CITY OF BRITT – BRITT IOWA – APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

The City Council of the City of Britt, Iowa met in pursuant to law and the rules of said Council in special session in the Council Chambers in City Hall at 7:00 o'clock P.M. the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arndorfer, and the following Council members were:

PRESENT: Stacy Swenson, Curt Gast, Paul Verbrugge and Chad Luecht

ABSENT: Dwight Leerar

The Mayor presented the agenda. It was moved Verbrugge and seconded by Luecht to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

It was moved by Luecht and seconded by Swenson that the following items contained in the Consent Agenda be approved and adopted:

All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be enacted by one motion with a roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a request is made prior to the time Council votes on the motion. Consent Agenda items may include any non-controversial subjects.

- a. Approve Minutes of the 04/01/2019 Council Meeting
- b. Claim list in the amount of \$67,748.76

A roll call vote was had which was as follows:

Ayes: Swenson, Gast, Verbrugge and Luecht

Nays: None

The motion carried, and the Consent Agenda items were approved and adopted.

The department heads presented their reports. Library Director Linda Friedow reported they had a successful month of March with programs such as March BLAST in which the Britt Police Department did a hands-on of police accessories with the children, Dusty Hudson performed "Houdini" and they had a dance party - hosted by MOJO Productions. Our Public Works department was still busy in March moving snow and repairing damage to our streets from the winter weather. We had the furnaces installed in the street shed. Vance Hagen, Public Works Director, has met with several dealerships as we look for a possible purchase/lease of a street loader. Police Chief Mark Anderson stated Officer Holbrook graduates on April 19<sup>th</sup> from the Police Academy. He has done really well. Officer Williams continues to do well at the academy. Our body cams have been delivered and are in use. The dash cams are scheduled to be traded out and the wraps for our patrol cars will be installed at the end of the month. Sergeant Harmon recently took part in the Iowa Narcotic Conference in Des Moines. He found the conference to be very informative. Fire Chief Jon Swenson stated March was a quiet month, but April has started off busy. We now have 5 new fire fighters that have completed the Fire Fighter 1 Training and are nationally certified. Swenson is putting together a bid for a new pump truck. The cost of the truck will be split between the City and Rural Fire. We are looking at a price range of \$350,000-\$500,000. The Britt Fire Association has a 2019 red Ford F550 chassis on order to replace the DNR loaner truck we currently have in use. Zoning Administrator Mike Boomgarden reported things are picking up. He issued 2 permits in March and talked to 8 individuals looking to do some work.

City Administrator Sawyer presented her report. Pete Bixel came in to discuss the option of operating a peddle transport company. It would be used in town. This could include use on Main Avenue. There would be no alcohol on the peddle transport. He was looking for feedback from the City and would like to know if he could operate this within the city limits. If so, what would his next steps be. It was determined the City Council wants to know more before a final decision is made. They don't see an issue with it but would like Bixel to talk with Chief Anderson about his plan first.

Next, Sawyer presented Resolution No. 08-2019 Opposing Proposed Legislative Changes in City Finance. Right now there is house bill (HSB 165) which is looking at reforming property tax and how a city/county uses those funds. Some items the bill includes are:

- HSB 165 imposes a 2% tax levy revenue cap and other financial accounting restrictions. This means that cities and counties won't be able to fund emergency responses, economic development, infrastructure repair, and still provide police and fire protection, IPERS, and daily administrative and maintenance needs. The removal of the levy that funds IPERS and other benefits could mean the city would have to come up with an additional \$125,000 out of a very tight general fund levy. If we can't come up with the enough money the city would be forced to cut programs.
- Restrictions on how much a city can save in certain funds to pay for capital purchases and reduction of balances that can be carried forward each year. Which means the city would have to bond for more projects instead of saving up to do those things; especially if the city is hit with a disaster like flooding or weather-related damages that no one can predict.
- The bill still contains the 2% revenue growth limitation before a city must use the process to exceed, which could lead to a reverse referendum. 2% is not related to any index that reflects the increasing costs of goods and services. For example, increases in infrastructure expenses as well as health care may create a situation where the process to exceed needs to be used on a regular basis in communities that do not have significant "net new" property. If the legislature wishes to use a "soft-cap" percentage, then the percentage should be raised to a number that reflects the annual increases in expenses that cities face.
- Reverse Referendum needs to be replaced by a supermajority vote of the council: The process to exceed provided by the legislation still contains the possibility of a reverse referendum occurring, which is an expensive proposition for communities that will need to exceed simply to pay for ongoing expenses. An election will cost our smallest members \$3,000, which does not include the additional outreach that will be required to explain to residents why they must vote again, even though they already voted to elect their city officials. In addition, our members have strong concerns that interest groups will hire out-of-city groups to collect signatures triggering the referendum, a situation which is occurring across the country. Residents of the community will then be left to pay for the election. For many cities the cost of these special elections is higher than the threshold of increased revenues it takes to trigger one. This provision should be changed to a supermajority vote of the council to exceed.

It was moved by Gast and seconded by Luecht to approved and adopt Resolution No. 08-2019 Opposing Proposed Legislative Changes in City Finance.

A roll call vote was had which was as follows:

Ayes: Swenson, Gast, Verbrugge and Luecht

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Finally, we have been having a lot of interest in a spring cleanup again this year. Sawyer contacted Waste Management and they had saved Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> for the city's cleanup day if we want it. Last year the total bill was \$2,520.64. We collected \$890.00 which leaves us with a net bill of \$1,630.64. Council felt that this would work. Sawyer will make sure it is published in the newspaper and put on our Facebook. The prices will remain the same as last year. Car load \$10, Truck load \$20 and a Trailer load \$30. This is only for Britt residents and they will be required to show their water bill as proof of residency.

Sawyer also reminded the City Council that our joint training with the City of Garner will be on Thursday at 6 pm at the Library in Garner.

Mayor Arndorfer presented his report. First, the development of the property east of Pritchard's was discussed. The city needs to decide whether we are going to offer water or water and sewer services. Arndorfer suggestion is to go with the option costing \$320,000 for the water. This will increase the city's usability and overall pressure. He also suggests we speak to the organization and tell them we would like them to put in a grinder pump, just like Pritchard's did

when they hooked into our sewer. The organization will need to obtain an easement across Pritchard’s property to hook into our sewer line. Arndorfer will relay this information to the organization.

Next, Arndorfer presented a request from Wayne Kronemann regarding the school. He would like our street department to sweep through the school along the sidewalks when it’s icy out to spread sand and salt. This was discussed and the City Council decided the liability could become an issue. The screen on our spreader has got larger holes than those used by other vendors. There is a chance that a rock or rock salt could be kicked out as they spread and hit a window or car and cause damage. Another issue is where do we stop? The hospital and other entities might request the same courtesies and how would we justify one and not the other. What type of service could we supply? We never know how long it will take to clean the roads.

With no further business it was moved by Gast and seconded by Verbrugge to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Debra R. Sawyer, City Administrator/Clerk

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Ryan L. Arndorfer, Mayor

“These minutes are as recorded by the Clerk and are subject to Council approval at the next regular meeting.”

<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
ACCO	POOL	\$608.75
AGSOURCE LABORATORIES	TESTING SERVICES	\$3,660.00
AL OLSON	WAX MUNICIPAL	\$525.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ALLIANT	\$8,996.52
ALLIED ENS LLC	SERVER MONITORING	\$325.89
BASE	CAFETERIA PLAN/EMPLOYEE PAID	\$30.00
BOLTON & MENK	REVIEW AND AMMEND WWTF PLAN	\$2,315.00
BRITT LUMBER LLC	SCREWS AND TORX BITS	\$8.94
BROWN SUPPLY INC	PLOW BLADE	\$2,550.29
CARD SERVICES	LIBRARY SUPPLIES	\$271.49
CASADY BROS. IMPL. INC	TRACTOR REPAIRS	\$8,813.03
COMM 1	TELEPHONE	\$571.55
DEBRA SAWYER	MILEAGE/HR CONF/FIN CONF	\$301.60
DON'S WELDING & REPAIR	SNOWPLOW REPAIRS	\$97.50
ED DEWALL	WAX MUNICIPAL BUILDING	\$525.00
ELECTRIC ENGINEERING	BATTERIES	\$340.95
FENCHEL, DOSTER, BUCK	TRIAL PREP	\$176.00
GIFTS SEW SWEET	POLICE UNIFORMS	\$176.00
HANCOCK CO CLERK OF COURT	GARNISHMENT	\$219.50
HANCOCK CO TREASURER	SUNSET RIDGE	\$4,381.00
HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF	GARNISHMENT	\$269.46
HUNTS ELECTRIC	WIRED NEW FURNACES	\$202.30
IOWA DEPT OF INSPECTIONS	FOOD SVC LICENSE	\$150.00
IOWA FIRE CONTROL	ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTION	\$424.00
JOHNSON SNOW REMOVAL	WATERLINE BREAK SNOW REMOVEAL	\$335.00
KIOW	ADVERTISING	\$111.59

MAXYIELD COOPERATIVE	GAS	\$2,677.14
MEIER PLUMBING AND HEAT	CITY HALL REPAIRS	\$38.42
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	DEFERRED COMP	\$20.00
NORTH IOWA MEDIA GROUP	PUBLISHING FEES	\$163.03
PAYROLL CHECKS	PAYROLL CHECKS ON 04/10/2019	\$14,322.79
PETTY CASH	LIBRARY PETTY CASH	\$98.18
PSI	PAPER FOR CITY HALL	\$91.80
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	TESTING FEE	\$26.00
SWENSON'S HARDWARE	SUPPLIES	\$1,516.56
TRULSON AUTO	REPAIRS	\$52.88
TYLER HARMON	HARMON CONFERENCE	\$58.92
U S POSTMASTER	UTILITY BILLING	\$265.91
UNPLUGGED WIRELESS	MINITOR CLIPS	\$86.00
VERIZON	POLICE PHONES	\$329.47
WASTE MANAGEMENT	CITY GARBAGE	\$11,534.05
WEBWISE SOLUTIONS	WEBSITE UPDATES	\$81.25
	<b>CLAIMS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,748.76</b>