

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS FEBRUARY 11, 2019

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER AT 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.

PRESENT: Mayor Julie Miller, Councilmembers: Stacy Biel, Patricia Jacobson, Christine Lee, Ross McIvor, Eugene Navock, Alecia Parks, City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Juanita Smith and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Library Board Members: Charles Mitchell, Debbie Rickman, Bill Walters and Head Librarian Shirley Woods, Bob and Marilyn Armstrong from WMIC radio station, DPW employee Mike Vislosky, County Commissioner Joe Wyatt and son Jackson Wyatt, and Police Chief Ron Smith.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

City Manager Clint Holmes stated that there would be three additions under the Manager's Report.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Navock, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Lee, to pay the bills in the following funds: **General - \$22,805.97** (9050-9083), **Payroll - \$17,666.62** (8783-8799 plus EFT), **Major Street - \$1,347.71** (3983), **Local Street - \$1,348.71** (4309), **Sanitary Sewer - \$548.00** (3792), **Water - \$398.27** (3029-3031), and **Equipment - \$839.33** (1653-1654). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

1. **Brown City Library Board** – Discuss new library lease.

Charles Mitchell representing the Brown City Library Board read a lengthy, well researched statement from the Library Board concerning the rent agreement between the City and the Library Board. A few questions were asked before a Motion was made by CM Parks, second by CM Jacobson, to have a LEASE that will run from April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2024. The LIBRARY BOARD shall pay to the CITY the sum of Five Hundred and Fifteen Dollars (\$515.00) per month during such period of time, payable monthly in advance, for what is deemed to be the LIBRARY'S rent for the duration of the lease. Four Hundred Twenty-five dollars (\$425.00) will be for the base rent and Ninety Dollars (\$90.00) will be for a share of the electricity and gas.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Mclvor – yes, CM Lee – yes, CM Navock – yes, CM Jacobson – yes, CM Parks – yes, CM Biel – yes.
6 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstaining. Motion carried.**

2. Bob Armstrong – WMIC - 2018 Fairs & Festivals Guide.

Bob Armstrong of WMIC radio station handed out copies of the 2018 Fairs and Festivals Guide to the councilmembers. He stated that WMIC/WTGV-FM is again publishing a special Activity Guide for 2019 covering all the events in the Thumb and Blue Water Area. They have put together a special advertising package for the community plus ads in the Activity Book. The ads in the Activity Book are free with the purchase of the radio advertising. The total investment for the Radio and Activity Guide advertising is \$959.00 which is a \$23.00 increase over the 2018 price. For an additional \$99.00 Brown City can have a business card ad, as well as a direct link to Brown City’s website, and the summer festival via [www.sanilacbroadcasting/com](http://www.sanilacbroadcasting.com).

Motion by CM Mclvor, second by CM Navock, to purchase the radio advertisement plus the ads in the Activity Book for a total cost of \$959.00 plus the website for an additional \$99.00. Total cost to the City is \$1,058.00. Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

POLICE REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns about the report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- 1. Michigan Municipal Executives:** The MME Winter Conference took place in Battle Creek on February 5-8. Training and presentations included: Improving Michigan’s roads; managing small communities; the internet of things; and economic development. There were also both formal and informal discussions on a variety of pending issues.
- 2. Sewer Inspection:** Michigan Pipe Inspection completed the cleaning and TV inspection of the City’s sewer mains north of Main Street and did some free follow-up work last week. The owner of the company will schedule a meeting with staff to provide a detailed report on the status of the system soon.

3. **AT&T Cell Antenna:** AT&T was provided contact information for Thumb Cellular, Air Advantage and the City water tower maintenance company (Utility Services) as well as information concerning the rates currently being paid by Thumb Cellular. Discussion continues between AT&T and Utility Services to determine how extensive the engineering studies need to be prior to them forwarding a proposal to the City Council.
4. **FOIA Request:** On February 4th, the City received a Freedom of Information Act request for “An electronic copy of any and all employees for year of 2018, (fiscal or calendar year). Each employee record should contain the employer name, employer zip code, year of compensation, first name, middle initial, last name, hire date (mm-dd-yyyy), base salary amount, bonus amount, overtime amount, gross annual wages and position title. This data should be broken down by employer, employee and year. The principal purpose of this is to make this information more accessible to the public and to access and disseminate information regarding the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. This request is not principally for personal or commercial benefit. Our agency is just exercising the general rights of the public. For these reasons, we are requesting a waiver of fees. If there is a charge for this service, please obtain my approval in writing prior to proceeding with request. The requested information was collected and forwarded. The City received a response stating the information was received and accepted.
5. **Veterans’ Memorial fence:** The City has contracted with Brothers’ Fence of Deckerville to continue the fence around the perimeter of the Veterans Memorial on Main Street. They expect the work to begin next month depending on weather, but will make sure the job is completed prior to the end of April.
6. **Presidents Day:** The City Hall, Police and DPW will be closed on Monday, February 18th in honor of Presidents’ Day
7. **CommuniTee-Shirts:** CommuniTee is an annual community promotion t-shirt. The CommuniTee is designed to promote business pride and community spirit in Brown City. Local businesses sponsor the back of the CommuniTee. Each participating business gets a custom designed ad, their own allotment of shirts, choice of imprint colors in their ad, and choice of shirt sizes. City Hall was given a quantity of shirts – at no charge – to distribute to community volunteers and elected officials.
8. **MDEQ:** Our new governor, in one of her first Executive Orders, has changed the name of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (MEGLE).
9. **City of Brown City Employee Directory:** City Manager Clint Holmes presented each Councilmember with an updated directory containing officials and staff contact information. If any of the information is incorrect they are asked to let the City Manager know and corrections will be made.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney Gregory Stremers reported that the Michigan Legislature has changed the state Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) law as a result of last year's "Emily" FOIA request. Under the new law, requestors will have to provide additional information, such as who is sponsoring the request, and more complete identifying information.

He also spoke about some of the legal issues and challenges for communities associated with the new recreational marijuana law.

Police Officer training has been an issue for many cities. Many of these cities are paying for future officers to attend the police academy as full time employees. While this is not an issue for Brown City at this time, City Attorney Stremers said that if it comes to that we would have to write new contract language for aspiring police officers who work for the City.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

CLERK'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Miller passed around literature dealing with the public address system that was discussed at the last Council Meeting. She asked each Councilmember to look at them. This purchase decision will be discussed at future meetings.

Mayor Miller congratulated Debbie Ryckman for winning the Chili cook-off that was sponsored by the Festival Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – None.
2. Personnel (Parks) – None.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – None.
5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – None.
6. Water and Sewer (Biel) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Navock asked about the salt situation and if just businesses could get the salt from the City or if the town's people were also allowed to get salt. City Manager Clint Holmes replied that it was open to both the businesses and the people of the town but in small amounts—not several pails at a time.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

County Commissioner Joel Wyatt attended the Council Meeting to share a brief report on issues facing the County Commissioners.

Library Board Member Bill Walters thanked the Councilmembers for the Library Lease Agreement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Navock, to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk