

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

APRIL 23, 2018

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: Gerald Kosal, Patricia Jacobson, Ross McIvor; City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Juanita Smith, and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Christine Lee, Alecia Parks, and William Walters.

GUESTS: Steven Kovac representing the Brown City Banner; Sanilac County Commissioner Paul Muxlow; Mike Visloski, DPW employee; Jim Blake, Whitley Blake, Jacob Martus, Mr. and Mrs. David Lynn, and Trish Celani.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS FOR WRESTLERS MARTUS AND BLAKE.

Proclamations: Mayor Julie Miller opened the Council Meeting with a presentation of Proclamations to Wrestlers Martus and Blake.

A signed and framed Proclamation was presented to Brown City High School Green Devils Senior Jacob Martus for his outstanding athletic performance. His talent and skill allowed him to be assigned to the Greater Thumb Conference First Team while maintaining a 4.2 GPA. Jacob Martus was well coached by Jim Blake.

A signed and framed Proclamation was presented to Brown City High School Green Devils Junior Whitley Blake for her outstanding athletic performance. Whitley was also assigned to the Greater Thumb Conference First Team all the while maintaining a 4.1 GPA. Whitley was well coached by Jim Blake.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM McIvor, second by CM Kosal, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2018 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM McIvor, to pay the bills in the following funds.

General - \$8,070.51 (8534-8547), **Payroll** - \$13,154.79 (8400-8416 plus EFT), **Major Street** - \$101.30 ((3949), **Local Street** - \$516.43 (4287-4288), **Sanitary Sewer** - \$331.73 (3714-3715), **Water** - \$201.00 (2901-2903), and **Arsenic Abatement** - \$24.70 (1397). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: Sanilac County Commissioner Paul Muxlow.

Sanilac County Commissioner Paul Muxlow appeared before the Council to state some of the issues the Sanilac County Commissioners are working on. He mentioned the amount of money (\$300,000) earned by the County to house the prisoners in our jail of which a large number are Federal prisoners. He said that aligning health care benefits with the various jobs is another large undertaking. Another huge problem is when the county pays to get police officers trained and then they head south to better paying jobs. Commissioner Paul Muxlow thanked the Council for having him at the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Mr. and Mrs. David Lynn, Cade Road and Trish Celani, Main Street appeared before the Council to state concerns with the blight notices that they had each received in the mail. David Lynn's main question to the Council was, "Where is the line drawn where what is actually blight?" City Manager Clint Holmes stated that it is actually subjective. However, when City Manager Holmes receives a complaint, he or a police officer goes out and looks at whatever has been the source of the complaint. Mr. Lynn asked the council to look at the ordinance and be more specific as to what is considered blight.

Trish Celani had similar complaints but questioned as to why notices would be sent out before spring cleanup. She feels with our odd weather this spring that people have not had a chance to do proper yard cleanup.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. Regional Task Force:** The Regional Task Force (Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac Counties) met in Bad Axe on April 12th to finalize funding for road projects planned for 2018-2022. Funding for the Maple Valley Road Project was retained, and the Task Force was given an update on the status of the project.
- 2. 2018 Street Project:** The engineering, plans, detour and associated forms and reports have been submitted to Lansing for the Maple Valley Road renovation project. Estimated costs are in line with the original budgeted cost of \$200,000. Additional requirement is that guardrails be installed adjacent to the culvert on Maple Valley Road. Cost of this is included. The planned detour, while the work is being completed, will be via Wilcox Road, Lincoln Street and M90.

A Grade Inspection (GI) meeting to include MDOT, Spicer Engineering, City staff, and representatives from area utilities is scheduled for Friday, April 27th at City Hall. Once plan review and site inspections by MDOT are completed, the state will bid the project and provide a work schedule.

3. **School Request:** The Brown City Schools Superintendent asked to meet with School Board Members and the City to discuss school closures resulting from the potential for sewer backups. The Mayor, Councilmembers Lee and Kosal, DPW Foreman and City Manager will meet with them at the school on Thursday, April 26th at 9:00 AM to discuss the issue. The Spicer Group lagoon engineer will be in the City on May 3rd to help determine what alternatives, if any, are available and the potential costs.
4. **Comcast and PBS:** Comcast notified the City by letter that the Public Broadcasting channel currently on Comcast cable in Brown City (Channel 11) will cease broadcasting on April 23rd. A follow up email to Comcast revealed that WCMZ will be replaced by WDCQ so PBS will continue to be available on Brown City Comcast. They were also asked when Comcast digital/Xfinity will become available and the answer was “not aware (sic) any immediate plans”.
5. **Fire Hydrant Flushing:** The Brown City DPW plans to flush fire hydrants April 23rd through April 27th as part of this semi-annual program. Hydrant flushing will usually take place during the day. Residents may notice some discoloration in the water during this process. Residents are advised not to wash white or light colored cloths during this period.
6. **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The Sanilac County Advisory Committee met on April 19th in Sandusky to review the next steps in the County-wide Plan Update. This group identified about a dozen high priority and additional moderate priority “Final Mitigation Strategies”. The next meeting will be May 17th.
7. **Brush Pick-up:** The DPW began picking up leaves and brush on April 16th. Pick-up will continue on the middle and last Monday of each month until Fall. Residents are reminded that leaves must be in clear plastic bags and tree limbs must be cut to lengths of no more than six feet (6’).
8. **Elk Creek Intercounty Drain Drainage Board:** There was a special meeting of the Drainage Board on Friday, April 20th in Sandusky. Following comments and concerns from adjacent property owners the Board voted to accept Lapeer County as a member of the Board. This change may help offset some maintenance costs currently being paid by other counties to include Sanilac and the City. The Elk Creek Intercounty Drain includes both the Sutter and Lapeer/Sanilac Drains which run through Brown City which is why the City was invited to attend.
9. **City Hall Renovation:** The furniture in the Treasurer’s Office needs to be replaced. Additionally, the carpet and tiles are also due for replacement. These items will be brought before the Buildings & Grounds Committee which meets immediately prior to

the regular meeting. Cost for the furniture has been acquired; costs for updating the floor are still being collected.

- 10. SBA Communications Cell Tower:** SBA Communications Corporation, that owns the cell tower west of Maple Valley Road, notified the City that Sprint plans to upgrade their existing tower mounted wireless equipment. No permits are required since there will be no changes to the tower or ground site, only to already mounted equipment. The City requested SBA provide the dates and times of this maintenance.
- 11. First and James Street:** The owners of the property sent a request to the City asking why the sidewalk in front of their house only went to their driveway and front porch rather than continuing down the street. A review of records at City Hall failed to provide additional information. Do any of the City Councilmembers have any history on the sidewalk? No additional information was available.
- 12. Festival Meeting:** The Festival Meeting is rescheduled for 7:00 PM this Thursday, April 26, 2018, in the Library.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

City Attorney Grey Stremers said that he has not heard from the bank yet concerning the transferring of the vacated property. We are waiting on the bank.

TREASURER’S REPORT: None.

CLERK’S REPORT:

1. Nominating Petition Handouts: Nominating Petitions are ready to be picked up to be a candidate for the City of Brown City offices. Offices of: Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, six Council Members, and three Library Board Members are open. Petitions may be picked up at the City Hall Monday through Friday. The last day to file a Nominating Petition is Tuesday, August 7, 2018 by 5 p.m.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Miller showed a post card that had been sent to the city by someone who stayed at the park on a bike trip. They are now in Maine and had traveled 2,750 miles by bike.

Mayor Miller also read portions of a letter sent from the Michigan Municipal League requesting our community’s support in the efforts of the City of Escanaba regarding the fight to preserve the correct assessment of large big box stores.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – None.
2. Streets and Sidewalks (Kosal) – None.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – None. (CM Lee absent)
4. Building and Grounds (McIvor) – Committee meeting 6:00 PM April 23rd.
5. Personnel (Parks) – None. (CM Parks absent)
6. Water and Sewer (Walters) – None. (CM Walters absent)

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Kosal asked about the new bank building and the power lines. He was under the impression that they were to be buried underground. However, line poles are on the property to be installed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM McIvor, second by CM Kosal, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk