

# BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## OCTOBER 12, 2020

**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, Christine Lee, Ross McIvor and Walter Robison; City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Juanita Smith and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers Patricia Jacobson and Eugene Navock.

**GUESTS:** Donald Spinks from Lion's Club International, Mark Davison, Candidate for Sanilac County Circuit Court, Police Chief Ron Smith.

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** Addition to the Manager's Report.

### **CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by CM McIvor, second by CM Biel, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

### **PAY BILLS:**

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM McIvor, to pay the bills in the following funds:

**General - \$22,138.86 (10033 – 10061), Payroll - \$19,467.71 (9605 – 9629, 9604, plus EFT), Major Street - \$90.00 (4040), Sanitary Sewer - \$1,832.10 (3925 – 3928), Water - \$316.48 (3268 – 3271), Arsenic Abatement - \$47,890.69 (1523 – 1524) and Storm Sewer - \$60.00 (1319). Motion carried.**

**POLICE REPORT:** Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

#### **1. Notice of Retirement letter.**

**Mayor Miller presented a plaque to Police Chief Ron Smith for his many years of service to the City of Brown City. City Manager Clint Holmes took pictures of Chief Smith receiving the plaque from Mayor Miller.**

### **PERSONAL APPEARANCES:**

#### **1. Donald Spinks – Lion's Club International.**

Donald Spinks, representing Lion's Club International, spoke to the Councilmembers about the Lion's organization. He said that they would like to get a Lion's Club started in Brown City. He would like to solicit the businesses in Brown City to get a Lion's Club started in Brown City and wanted the Council's okay to speak with business owners.

#### **2. Mark Davidson – Candidate for Sanilac County Circuit Court.**

Mark Davidson is a candidate for Sanilac County Circuit Court Judge. He appeared before the Council to introduce himself and tell of his background and why he felt he would be a good Circuit Court Judge. He asked for the Councilmember's support.

**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None Scheduled.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None Scheduled.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None Scheduled.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. 7170 Lincoln Street:** Install ≈ 375' of backyard chain link fence < 6' in height. **Motion by CM Biel, second by CM McIvor, to approve the request for a building permit to install approximately 375' of less than 6' tall chain link fence along the backyard of 7170 Lincoln Street. This fence is not to encroach property lines. No County building permit is required for this project.**

**In the same motion the following was approved:**

**2. 7170 Lincoln Street:** Demolish existing rear porch and replace with 8' X 11' wood porch.

**Approved the request for a building permit to demolish an existing rear porch and replace it with an 8' x 11' wood porch at 7170 Lincoln Street. The building permit may be picked up at the City Hall after 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. The owner of 7170 Lincoln Street must then go to the Sanilac County Court House to acquire the required permit. Motion carried.**

**ORDINANCES:**

**1. Section 152.400:** An Ordinance of the City of Brown City amending the City of Brown City Title XV Land Usage Code by adding Section 152.400 by providing for Cultivation or Other Medical Use of Marihuana as a Medical Marihuana Home Occupation in Single-Family Dwellings, their location, definitions, conditions and standards.

The Brown City Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the Ordinance on October 1<sup>st</sup>. They voted to forward the draft ordinance to the City Council recommending approval. Procedure is to introduce the ordinance, then take action on it at the following meeting.

**CM Lee introduced City Ordinance Section 152.400 – Providing for Cultivation or Other Medical Use of Marihuana as a Medical Marihuana Home Occupation in Single Family Dwellings, their location, definitions, conditions and standards. Motion carried. The Brown City Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on Ordinance 152.400 on October 1, 2020. Action by the City Council on City Ordinance Section 152.400 will take place at the next regular Council Meeting on October 26, 2020.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**1. Sewer / Lift Station Project:** Spicer forwarded their proposal letter for generating a SEARCH Grant application through USDA-RD to fund a sanitary sewer modeling study. Recommend a motion to have the Mayor sign the letter on behalf of the City.

**Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Robison, to authorize Mayor Julie P. Miller, on behalf of the City, to sign the proposed letter from Spicer for generating a SEARCH Grant application through USDA-RD to fund a sanitary sewer modeling study. Motion carried.**

A copy of the flow meter study was forwarded to the BCCS at their request.

The City received the replacement mother board for the SCADA system for the Maple Valley Lift Station on October 6<sup>th</sup>, and staff installed it the same day. The system seems to be working perfectly.

2. **CRLGG and CVTRS:** The City received a Coronavirus Relief Local Government Grants (CRLGG) Program payment on August 31, 2020, instead of the expected state revenue sharing payment (CVTRS). The mandatory training for governments receiving this “grant” is scheduled to begin at 10 AM on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Training will focus on the quarterly reports due to Department of Treasury beginning later this month and the restrictions on use of these funds.
3. **Water Tower Assessment Report:** A part of the City’s contract with SUEZ, the water tower was formally inspected on August 18<sup>th</sup> and the City received the report on October 6<sup>th</sup>. They reported that the tower is in good condition. A copy of the report is available for review at City Hall.
4. **Hydrant Flushing:** The City of Brown City Department of Public Works completed flushing fire hydrants on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. No issues with the hydrants and City water supply system were noted.
5. **Michigan Public Policy Survey:** The most recent survey, concerning election administration to include expected challenges and confidence in election security was released. A summary of the survey is enclosed. A copy of the 18-page survey is available for review at City Hall.
6. **Designated Assessor Interviews:** Sanilac County received two proposals for Designated Assessor. The interviews are scheduled to take place at the Sanilac County Emergency Operations/Conference Center on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 and 6:30 PM. Are any members of the City Council interested in attending and representing the City?

**City Manager Clint Holmes said that if any Councilmembers are interested in attending this meeting and represent our City to let him know.**

7. **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS):** The City, along with all other public drinking water providers in Michigan, was tested by EGLE for presence of PFAS. Brown City tested negative with no detectible level of PFAS in the drinking water system. The new rules require that water supply systems, to include Brown City, retest the water and report the results to EGLE prior to February 2021. Based on the results of that test, an annual testing schedule for the City will be decreed by EGLE. Cost will be about \$704.<sup>00</sup> per round of tests.
8. **COVID-19:** The City continues to closely monitor the situation. No employees have exhibited symptoms. We are still emphasizing use of mail, email, the utility payment drop box and telephone for conducting business. City Hall is open to the public, but masks should be worn and no more than one customer at a time should be in City Hall. While the Governor’s Executive Orders were nullified by the Michigan Supreme Court, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has released Emergency Order Under 333.2253 – Gathering Prohibitions and Mask Order.

9. **Emmie Die & Engineering:** Requesting the right of first refusal on any potential sale of Slaughterhouse Road.

**A letter was received from Mike Wagner, President of Emmie Die & Engineering, to request the right of first refusal on any potential sale of Slaughterhouse Road if it was ever to be considered to be sold by the City. However, our City Attorney Gregory Stremers said that the road belongs to the City and the City cannot sell the street.**

10. **Letter of resignation from Adam C. Stracenrider, Police Officer.**

**A meeting has been set up for Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m for the Police Committee to discuss what the next step is concerning our Police Department.**

#### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

City Attorney Gregory Stremers reported that he is not working on anything specific at the present time for the City.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

#### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

1. The Public Accuracy Test is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27 at 5:00 p.m. The Public is invited to attend.
2. 212 AV ballots have been mailed out with 97 being returned.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. Draft City Resident's Update / Newsletter

**Several items were discussed that should be added or changed to the Resident's Newsletter.**

- a. **Take the Police Chief's name off**
- b. **Change the spelling of Jamie Birds name.**
- c. **Add the Fire Authority meeting information.**
- d. **Add the burn permit information.**

2. Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Trunk or Treat will be held Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 4:00 p.m. Downtown Main Street between St. Marys and James Streets will be closed off for the Trunk or Treat. House Trick or Treating will be from the hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

CM Biel congratulated Police Chief Ron Smith on his retirement and thanked him for his years of service.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None Scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM McIvor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith  
City Clerk