

**BROWN CITY WORK SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Laura Carpenter.

PRESENT: Mayor Laura Carpenter, Council members: Ron Wood, Julie Miller, Ross McIvor, Mike Lents, Christine Lee, Ken Brown, City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

ABSENT: Julie Miller (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

GUESTS: David VanCura and Gary Abel.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: None.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None scheduled.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None scheduled.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. City Manager met with the Sanilac County Treasurer, Financial Advisor and the group had a conference call with the Bond Attorney in Sandusky today. City Manager presented information regarding the timeline for the bond process associated with the water treatment facility and associated payback. A resolution for the County needs to be developed and City needs to decide if principal payments should be delayed for three years before the development of a resolution and approval by the Sanilac County Public Works Board and Board of Commissioners.

Discussion regarding water tower loans to be paid off and their duration. 2012 is the payoff schedule completion date. Past paint job has an approximate 10-year life span, estimated time for repainting is approximately 2010.

Discussion regarding possibly delaying principal payment for the arsenic bonds to allow monies to be available to finish paying off the water tower work.

CM Lee suggests that after reviewing the budget the bond payoff schedule be discussed again. Council consensus.

2. 2007/2011 Capital Improvement Plan (CPI)

Discussion regarding total monies available for street improvements, including County monies.

Council member Miller arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Gary Abel suggested considering eliminating bull nose curb and gutters on north and south streets and replacing with asphalt ramp curbs instead to assist in saving money. CM Lents states that this may be an option but suggests that normal curb and gutters remain at intersections.

Discussion regarding various cost estimates that need to be changed under Major Streets, Local Streets, Arsenic Abatement, and Sewer Fund within the CPI Plan, based on recent cost estimates received.

CM Lents suggests that the Master CPI Plan be projected further out to at least a 5 year point.

3. 2007/2008 Municipal Budget

City Manager explained normal process in developing the budget.

Line item review of General Fund Revenues by City Manager.

CM Wood questioned the accuracy of projected revenues. City Manager explained the derivation of these figures.

Line item review of General Fund Expenses by City Manager.

Individual fund review by City Manager.

Change under Local Street Fund, under Route Maintenance, Repairs and Maintenance/Contract to read \$165,640 from \$93,000.

Total Expenses under Local Street does not reflect Maple and Wells Streets work expenses.

Water Fund Revenues would increase \$2,400 if council chooses to include connection fees.

CM Lents discussed the option of transferring \$45,000 from water fund and contributing to the Arsenic Abatement Fund. Capital Outlay under water fund could move to arsenic abatement. Also, proposed that the \$45,000 capital outlay from the general fund be split between arsenic abatement and sewer.

4. Other Topics:

CM Wood questioned the possibility of offering health insurance to employees only and requiring employee contribution to cover children and spouses. CM Lents suggests that co-pay and deductible changes be investigated for savings before dropping dependents from policies.

CM Miller suggests that wage increases be tabled until insurance options are investigated for all non-union employees. Insurance option figures are intended to be available by the end of the month. Council consensus to table wage increases as mentioned.

Discussion regarding DPW work hours required.

Discussion regarding the costs of proposed street improvements figures versus monies that council is willing to spend. CM Lents mentions that a contingency amount needs to be considered as well for any unforeseen costs.

Motion by CM Lents, support by CM Lee, to extend the meeting beyond the 9:00 p.m. hour. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding transferring monies to the sewer and/or local street fund from the \$90,000 collected from taxes allocated for the street reserve fund. CM Brown discussed various sewer lines that need to be located through camera work that have been a long time problem.

CM Lents suggest that Wells Street be considered for an asphalt gutter system to save money, he is hesitant to use asphalt curbs on Lincoln Street due to Methodist Church traffic.

Council consensus to move funds from the County Road Millage Account to local and major street funds for repairs to Lincoln, Maple and Welles Streets.

Consensus to leave Walter Street repairs on the CIP.

Motion by CM Lents, second by CM McIvor, to not delay the principal payment for proposed general obligation bonds for the water treatment facility. ROLL CALL VOTE: Wood-yes, Miller-yes. McIvor-yes, Lents-yes, Lee-yes, Brown-yes. Motion carried.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: None.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Lee to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk