

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

JUNE 22, 2009

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Carpenter.

PRESENT: Mayor Laura Carpenter, Council members: Pat Jacobson, Julie Miller, Ross McIvor, Christine Lee, Ken Brown, City Manager Clint Holmes, City Attorney Gregory Stremers and City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM Jacobson, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2009 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$14,578.86 (3655-3671), Payroll - \$15,589.22 (4156-4173), Major Streets - \$958.00 (3650-3651), Local Streets - \$292.20 (4114-4115), Sanitary Sewer - \$2,412.89 (2931-2935), Water - \$3,449.97 (1649-1651), Storm Sewer - \$50.00 (1050), Equipment \$1,655.33 (1189-1191). Motion carried.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to Action Municipal Supply \$113.60 for hand towels and toilet paper. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to Action Municipal Supply \$507.24 for six (6) Speed Limit 25 signs. Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

Executive Director/CEO of the Sanilac Economic Alliance Jim Rutkowski presented copies of the proposed Brown City Strategic plan outline and SWOT to the City Council. He recommended that the City Council set up a Task Force of 4-10 individuals to work toward completion of the plan. He also answered questions concerning the process.

CM Miller arrived at 7:09 p.m.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Bill Walters asked if the council has considered revisiting the City Charter for any possible changes now that the 10 year time period is up. Mayor Carpenter stated that there has been some conversation regarding this.

DPW REPORT: Written report reviewed. No questions or comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None scheduled.

ORDINANCES:

City Ordinance 153.00: The City Manager provided an overview of the DRAFT “Wind Energy Systems (WES) Ordinance.” City Attorney has recommended that the Planning Commission review this Ordinance and offer a recommendation to the City Council. Consensus of the City Council to forward the Ordinance to the Planning Commission for review and recommendations.

RESOLUTIONS: None scheduled.

MANAGER’S REPORT :

- 1. Brown City Street Project:** Coordination with the City’s (acting) engineer revealed that Lapeer County will probably not have a road project this year. Recommend the City plan to do Cade Road next year as a part of the (expected) Lapeer County projects. How does the City Council wish to proceed with the 2009 Street Project? Discussion regarding various streets in need of repair.

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM McIvor, directing the City Manager to release an RFP for repairs to John Street. Motion carried.

- 2. Dangerous Buildings:** The owner of 4182 Vine Street finally contacted the City. He too plans to repair the house and then make it available as a rental property until the market improves. Plan to start the Dangerous Building process for the remaining house on Maple Street as well as the house on Vine Street.

- 3. Library Contract:** The rent for the Library from 1993 to 2003 was \$250 per month. With the new contract in 2004, the rent went to \$265 per month with a built-in increase of \$25 per year so that by 2009 the rent was \$415 per month. The renewed contract left in the provision increasing the rent by \$25 per year so that by 2014 the rent would be \$540 per month. The Library would prefer to pay the same rent as the Peck Library (\$0.00). The options are to 1) continue the \$25 per year increase; 2) freeze the rent at the current rate of \$415 per month for the next five years; 3) reduce the rent; 4) eliminate the charge for rent; or 5) stop charging them separately for utilities and have it included in the rent (about \$100 per month). How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Discussion regarding the lack of updates and material currently available in the Library. Suggestions for updates were discussed. Discussion regarding the lack of implementing a bar code system for library material. Council consensus that the rent would remain the same with a requirement that the bar code system be implemented and complete within one year.

4. **Wi-Fi Connectivity:** The Library Board has allocated the money to make Wi-Fi Connectivity available in the library. This capability will piggy-back the existing system and should be available by June 24th.
5. **Battle of the Bands:** The Brown City Lions Club is in the initial stages of planning for a "Battle of the Bands" in the Brown City Park on August 29th. They plan to appear at the July 8th Park Board meeting to provide details of the event and seek approval. Additional information will be provided to the City Council as it becomes available.
6. **Worker's Compensation Insurance:** The representative from MML, which provides our coverage, conducted his annual inspection on June 9th. The City is doing very well and we can expect a reimbursement of about \$7,800 (an increase of about \$300 from last year). There were; however, four areas that need to be addressed: MSDS; electrical lock-outs; training documentation and confined space policy. MML provided sample policies for each and they are in the process of being incorporated into DPW operations.
7. **Trees:** The DPW is in the process of marking the trees that require pruning or removal, based on the recommendations made by Frank Lukacs. Once the trees have been evaluated and marked, the City will release an RFP to get the work done.
8. **Brown City Clean-Up Days:** Clean-up Days are completed. The DPW reported no problems. The next Clean-Up Days are expected to be scheduled for June, 2010.
9. **Residing tenants in rental units:** Letters have been sent to the landlords in the City on several occasions in the past. The most recent being last month. Landlords were asked to provide the number of tenants in each apartment or they would be charged at the maximum rate. Only two landlords responded. Plan is to bill each non-responding landlord for the difference between the last reported number of tenants and the maximum.

City Attorney reported no legal issues with the proposed plan. City Council consensus was to proceed with the proposed plan.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

1. Contracted fee schedule.

Motion by CM McIvor, second by CM Lee, to accept the new contracted fee schedule of \$135 per hour for legal services. Motion carried.

2. City Ordinance 71: Low-Speed Vehicle. City Attorney discussed this Ordinance in light of the comments made in a newspaper article raising questions about the Ordinance. He stated that he has no concerns with this Ordinance as written.
3. Blight Houses: Recommended that the property owners sign the building Rehabilitation Agreement with work to be completed within one year.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Reported that Summer Taxes will be printed this week or the next.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – none.
2. Water and Sewer (Lents) – none.
3. Tax and Finance (Lee) – none.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Jacobson) – none.
5. Building and Grounds (Brown) – none.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – none.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Miller asked if Channel 6 was no longer available. City Manager stated that it has been off and on from time to time, but the problem appears to be corrected.

CM Jacobson questioned a travel trailer behind a home on Vine Street which appears to be occupied. City Manager will investigate.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Lee, to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk