

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2009**

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Carpenter.

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

1. 4179 Maple Street Building permit request to be added under Petitions and Communications

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

CM Brown discussed his concern that no referral of the proposed project at 4254 Main back to the Planning Commission for Public Hearing and action is present in the minutes.

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM Miller, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from 9-14-09 as amended with the amended portion to be added at the end of Personal Appearances to read "Council consensus that the proposed project at 4254 Main Street be referred back to the Planning Commission to address zoning questions as well as community compatibility". Motion carried.

**PAY BILLS:**

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$21,042.40 (3795-3800), Payroll-\$12,117.67 (4267-4279), Major Street - \$14,671.30 (3667) Local Street - \$5.49 (203), Sanitary Sewer - \$666.58 (2966-2967), Water - \$1,634.48 (1700-1701), Storm Sewer - \$14.25, Equipment - \$808.67 (1207). Motion carried.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:** None Scheduled.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Building Permit Request for 4179 Maple Street. City Manager requested that this issue be discussed under the Manager's Report.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None scheduled.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Lee, to adopt Resolution 09-05, *a Resolution Formally Causing to be Levied a Special Tax or Assessment to Recover Monies Owed the City of Brown City*. ROLL CALL VOTE: Jacobson-yes, Miller-yes, Mclvor-yes, Lents-yes, Lee-yes, Brown-yes. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES:** None scheduled.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 1. Brown City Street Project:** The (acting) City Engineer provided a letter detailing the discrepancy in the curb heights on the east side of John Street and the resulting need to replace existing sidewalk (gold).
- 2. Police Car:** The applications, forms and letters for the lease-purchase of the new police car were completed and forwarded to the finance company. The new car is tentatively scheduled to arrive around October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 3. Congresswoman Miller:** A representative from the Congresswoman's office, Steve DeGrow, visited City Hall on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Focus of the visit was to identify issues and concerns that she needs to address. The bulk of the conversation focused on critical infrastructure repairs, such as streets, water and wastewater, business retention and expansion, and unfunded mandates such as our water treatment facility.
- 4. Dangerous Buildings:** The Police Chief, City Manager and two building inspectors from Sanilac County served administrative search warrants and inspected the houses at 4179 Maple and 4437 Vine Streets. The official reports from Sanilac County should be available soon. However, while 4179 Maple needs some cosmetic work done on the outside, the building and interior were structurally sound and in much better condition than expected. Additionally, the house is in the process of being transferred (via quit claim) to a new owner. This individual, who owns a heating/air conditioning company in Imlay City, plans to pull permits and fix up the house for sale once the transfer is complete. The house at 4437 Vine Street, with the very notable exceptions of the collapsing carport roof and rear shed, was also in good condition structurally, both inside and out. Notices and stickers found in the house indicated that it is being inspected monthly and was "winterized" last January. Unfortunately, the current owner of that house is still unknown.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Lents, to approve the pre-application building permit for 4179 Maple Street for addition of 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and a laundry room. Motion carried.

- 5. Sanilac Economic Alliance (SEA):** The SEA Director met with me to discuss organizational goals. The goals discussed will be incorporated into the mission statement and operating policies of the organization. The meeting was productive to the extent that community issues should be better represented. He also thanked the City for paying our annual dues (yellow).

6. **Round Table Discussion:** Councilmember Lee and I attended this meeting sponsored by Kid's Connection, SEA, MSU Extension and Great Start Collaborative on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The presentations and discussion focused primarily on child development and workforce education and training. Thrust of the meeting was that funding from state and federal governments cannot be counted on and County residents need to look to our own resources.
7. **Windmills:** The Michigan State University Extension Office sponsored training "Planning and Zoning for Small Energy Conversion Systems" took place the evening of September 16<sup>th</sup> in Lapeer. Information gained was provided to the Planning Commission to include into Ordinance 153.00 Wind Energy Systems (WES), if they think it would be useful.
8. **Emergency Generator:** The City completed the necessary paperwork to order an emergency generator from W. W. Williams for \$29,551.00. The generator should be here in 6-8 weeks. The plans were provided to the City for installation of a concrete platform for the generator. Recommend the City ask for bids for the installation of the platform. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM McIvor, to direct the City Manager to collect RFP's for the installation of an approximate 6' x 8' cement platform for the placement of the emergency generator. Motion carried.

9. **Water System Evaluation:** The DEQ inspected the City's water system on September 16<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the summary is attached (blue). The City was commended for our licensing, hydrant flushing, and valve turning programs. The overall rating was "satisfactory." The DEQ recommended inspection of Well #4 (scheduled for 2010); inspection of the water tower (contract signed, should be scheduled soon); installation of an emergency generator (ordered); and replace 4" water mains with larger diameter pipes (no funding available).
10. **Revenue Sharing:** The Michigan Legislature continues work on the budget. Bills were passed today to allow the government to operate for 30-days past the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1<sup>st</sup> if a full budget is not appropriated. However, to balance out the multi-billion dollars deficit, the Legislature is planning significant cuts in service. Of particular interest to the City of Brown City is revenue sharing. Currently, the City receives about \$156,800 or 18.6% of the General Fund Budget. Revenue Sharing is expected to drop 15% for an estimated loss to the City of about \$23,520. This will be on top of the estimated \$20,000 loss in property tax receipts. Anticipate a very tight budget for 2010-2011.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Police- none.
2. Water & Sewer-none.
3. Tax & Finance-none.
4. Streets & Sidewalks-none.
5. Buildings & Grounds – none.
6. Personnel- CM Mclvor asked for an update on DPW worker Henry Owens. City Manager recently became aware that he is requiring further physical therapy, so no return date has been given.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

CM Lents discussed that he has received a few phone calls regarding citizen's concerns for the proposed "counseling center" project in town. He also stated that the town of Otter Lake has a facility that is similar to this proposal and is requesting that the City Manager contact the Mayor or City Manager of Otter Lake to gather their ideas pertaining to this type business in their community.

CM Jacobson reminded council that a spaghetti supper fund raiser is 10-2-09 at the fire hall for the Festival Committee.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:**

County Commissioner Pam Daws provided an update from the county to the council.

Carol Walters asked if the two patches on Main Street are going to be repaired. City Manager will further investigate.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Mclvor, to adjourn at 7:26 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel  
City Clerk