

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
NOVEMBER 8, 2010**

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Carpenter.

PRESENT: Mayor Laura Carpenter, Council members: Pat Jacobson, Christine Lee, Dan Loutzenhiser, Ross McIvor, and Bill Walters. City Manager Clint Holmes and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: CM Julie Miller and City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Jacobson, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2010 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$18,155.31 (4384-4420), Payroll - \$10,824.93 (4756-4770), Sanitary Sewer - \$10.59 (3092), Water Fund - \$7,087.54 (1875-1881), Storm Sewer - \$6,254.34 (1074-1079), Equipment Fund - \$222.70 (1261-1264). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

POLICE REPORT:

Written report reviewed. Chief Smith reported two loose pit bulls on November 5th; dogs were captured and the owners were given citations. No significant Halloween incidents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. Lincoln Street Project:** The 24" pipe between the southwest corner of the Jacobson property and the Winsor county drain has been installed and is working well. Final smoothing and planting grass will be completed in the spring. The DPW also completed the connection between the catch-basin at the southwest end of Welles Street and the new storm drain. The two temporary workers hired for the project have completed their work at a total cost to the City of about \$740.
- 2. Street Signs:** The federal government is requiring communities to change street name signs from all capital letters to a combination of upper- and lower-case letters. The government says that makes them easier to read. Also, under new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations, communities have until 2015 to improve the nighttime visibility of our roadside signs — such as stop, yield and railroad crossing signs. Signs that fail to meet minimum standards must be replaced. Communities will be allowed to change the street name signs as they wear out.
- 3. Health Care Costs:** Representatives from Meadowbrook Insurance (MML) and Michigan Blue Cross/Blue Shield provided training to Thumb-area city managers on November 5th. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). The most significant changes are addition of children through the age of 26 (whether they live at home, are married, or are not students). Lifetime dollar limits for medical treatment and prescription drugs and medical devices were removed. The law also forbids the rescission (decrease/cancel) in existing coverage for employees. The insurance representatives said that they anticipated minimal increase in premiums as a result of this law. However, the City received two very different rates for health care premiums beginning in January. One was an increase of about 32% and the other about 19%. A request for clarification from the City's Blue Cross/Blue Shield sales representative has not yet been answered (almost 2 weeks). The City may wish to look at another sales representative. There was no Council objection to the City Manager contacting the sales representative that works with Imlay City.
- 4. Bank Driveway:** Astec Asphalt completed repaving the Tri-County Bank driveway next to the railroad tracks as well as their parking lot and drive-thru. The City had agreed to pay half the costs for the driveway. Contact with the bank on November 5th revealed that they have not yet been billed.
- 5. Hog Town Inc.:** Marlette Regional Hospital issued a press release stating that Hog Town, Incorporated, had donated \$13,226 to United Hospice Service (UHS) raised during "a very successful 6th Annual Hog Town Run-a major fundraising event sponsored by Hog Town Inc. of Melvin, Michigan." A portion of that event took place in the Brown City Community Park.
- 6. Wind Energy:** The Lexington Township Planning Commission has invited local governmental planning organizations, to include the City of Brown City, to attend a presentation concerning wind energy by the Huron County Economic Development Corporation on Wednesday, November 17th. The City Manager will attend. Do any other members of the City Council wish to attend? Mayor-Elect Lee wants to attend also.

7. **Leaf and Brush Pick-up:** The DPW will continue to vacuum up leaves through November 19th. Anticipate that the last pick-up of brush will be November 30th.
8. **Veterans Day:** City Hall will be closed Thursday, November 11th for Veterans Day. However, the Park Board will meet as scheduled that day. The Brown City VFW will have a brief wreath-laying ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on Main Street at 11 AM.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Carpenter congratulated Councilmembers on their election/reelection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – none.
2. Water and Sewer (Walters) – none.
3. Tax and Finance (Lee) – none.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Jacobson) – Reminded Council of the Festival Commission meeting tomorrow at 6:30 PM.
5. Building and Grounds (Loutzenhiser) – none.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – none.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Mayor-Elect Christine Lee asked City Council if they wanted to keep or change December 27th as the second meeting date in December. Council to discuss at the next meeting.
2. CM Bill Walters congratulated Mayor-Elect Lee, Councilmembers Loutzenhiser and Ross, Councilmember-Elect Navock and County Commissioner Daws on their election/reelection.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: County Commission Jamie Daws provided an update on issues facing Sanilac County government.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Mclvor, second by CM Lee, to adjourn at 7:12 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Clinton K. Holmes
City Manager