

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Christine Lee at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Lee.

PRESENT: Mayor Christine Lee, Councilmembers: Bill Walters, Julie Miller, Ross McIvor, Pat Jacobson, Eugene Navock, Dan Loutzenhiser. City Manager Clint Holmes, City Attorney Gregory Stremers and City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

ABSENT: None.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Navock, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$13,190.49 (4545-4556), Payroll - \$13,621.63 (4909-4924 + EFT), Major Street - \$227.92 (3708), Local Street - \$227.91 (4149), Sanitary Sewer - \$3,810.28 (3107-3110), Water - \$5,743.36 (1906-1911), Equipment - \$1,950.63 (1276). Motion Carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

Councilmember Miller arrived at 7:02 p.m.

DPW REPORT:

Written report reviewed. No questions or comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Request by M.A.C., 7115 Maple Valley Road, to construct a 90' X 80' grain storage bin south of the east dome. Planning Commission recommends approval.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Navock, to accept the pre-application building permit from MAC to construct a 90' x 80' grain storage bin south of the east dome. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Michigan Budget:** Gov. Rick Snyder unveiled his 2012 budget on Thursday, February 17th. While some of the proposed initiatives will have a significant impact on City residents, the primary concern for the City will be the loss of the \$47,700 in sales tax money that the state would normally return to us. This works out to approximately 7% of the General Fund and is on top of dramatically shrinking property tax revenue. The City should be able to adjust to this reduction in revenue with minimal impact on City Services to residents. However, anticipate a freeze on wages and hiring.
2. **2011-2012 Budget:** The City Budget for 2011-2012 must be approved by the City Council and in place by March 31st. Normally, the budget is submitted to the Tax & Finance Committee for initial review. Then the budget is either reviewed by the full City Council as a working group, or the City Council just takes action on the budget at a regular meeting after hearing recommendations from the Committee. Plan to submit the DRAFT Budget to the Committee at the regular March 14th meeting with action by the City Council, following a public hearing, on March 28th. Does the City Council wish to have a working group session to review the 2010-2011 Budget Amendment and 2011-2012 Budget, and if so when? If desired, recommend Monday, March 21st.

Tax & Finance Committee work session on March 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

3. **Union Negotiations:** The Personnel Committee met with the representative from IOUE Local 324 and the DPW Shop Steward on February 24th. The City and Union agreed to continue the existing contract for three years; add December 24th and 31st to the list of holidays for the DPW; accept the proposed health insurance rates; and continue pay rates at the current level for one year. Pay rates for 2012 and 2013 will be renegotiated about this time next year. Therefore, the recommendation to the City Council will be for no pay increases or benefit changes for any City employees in 2011.
4. **Surrounding Communities Survey:** The City of Sandusky surveyed Thumb cities and villages to identify wages and costs. Of the nine communities surveyed, the City of Brown City was #4 for utility rates; #6 for millage rates; #8 for number of employees and #9 for employee wages. A copy of the summary is enclosed.
5. **Thumb Region Strategic Focus Group:** Various groups, in conjunction with the Community Economic Adjustment Program (CEAP), are hosting a focus group in Cass City the morning of March 2nd. Participants will identify options for economic development in the local area; and receive information concerning available grants and other economic resources. I have been invited to participate and plan to attend.
6. **Board of Review:** The Board of Review is scheduled to meet to act on property owner concerns. They are scheduled to hear protests from 2:00 to 5:00 PM and 6:00 to 9:00 PM on Monday, March 14th and from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 15th. A copy of the official notice is enclosed and will be advertised in the Banner and is currently on the City's website (www.ci.brown-city.mi.us).
7. **EMCOG:** The next regular meeting of the East Michigan Council of Governments is scheduled for Friday, March 4th in Pinconning. I plan to attend to represent the City and Sanilac County. The primary agenda item is available federal grants.

8. **Channel 6:** The character generator for Channel 6 failed and lost all of the current and future information being broadcast. This is at least the third time that this has happened requiring a significant amount of time for staff to re-input all of information. Recommend purchasing a PC-based hardware/software package so that in the event of a future power or equipment failure, all information will not be lost. The City is working with Comcast to identify a suitable replacement of the current system.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Seminar attended last week pertaining to medical marijuana, useful information was available. Various amendments in the Legislature are in the works and will most likely be available at a later date. Overall, the moratorium is the wisest choice at this time.

Sanilac County News printed a story attributing some comments made at a Worth Township meeting to Mr. Streamers. Attorney Stremers did not attend this particular meeting. The Sanilac County News / County Press issued a letter of apology and will print a retraction in the March 2nd Edition.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Lee also attended informational meeting regarding medical marijuana with Prof. Jerry Fisher, she also found this information useful.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police – none.
2. Water & Sewer – none.
3. Tax & Finance – none.
4. Streets & Sidewalks – none.
5. Buildings & Grounds – none.
6. Personnel - Committee Meeting review. CM Miller asks that Attorney review union contract that were discussed. Discussion regarding surcharge for pensions.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Loutzenhiser stated he will not be available for budget work on March 28th or in attendance for the first April meeting.

Discussion regarding various new businesses in town.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Commissioner Daws provided update on County activities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk