

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 14, 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, Eugene Navock and Dan Loutzenhiser. City Manager Clint Holmes, City Attorney Gregory Stremers and City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

ABSENT: Councilmember Patricia Jacobson.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Navock, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2011 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Loutzenhiser, second by CM Navock, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$15,662.41 (4561-4587), Payroll - \$13,920.75 (4925-4940), Major Street - \$1,690.11 (3710-3711), Local Street - \$1,690.12 (4150-4151), Sanitary Sewer - \$1,254.51 (3112-3113), Water Fund - \$326.31 (1912-1914), Equipment Fund - \$1,275.87 (127-1279). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

Council member Julie Miller arrived at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Resolution 11-03** – Resolution to Approve the Negotiated Agreement Between the City of Brown City and International Union of Operating Engineers Local Number 324, AFL-CIO.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Navock, to adopt Resolution 11-03 - A *Resolution To Approve The Negotiated Agreement Between The City Of Brown City And The International Union Of Operating Engineers Local Number 324, AFL-CIO.*

ROLL CALL VOTE: Loutzenhiser-yes, Navock-yes, Mclvor-yes, Miller-yes, Walters-yes, Jacobson-absent. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **2011-2012 Budget:** The City Budget for 2011-2012 and final amendment for the 2010-2011 City Budget must be approved by the City Council and in place by March 31st. Draft copies of these documents were provided to the Mayor and members of the Tax & Finance Committee. The Committee will review these budgets at a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 24th at 7 PM. The agenda for the meeting will state that a quorum of the City Council may be present so other members of the City Council may also attend. Additional copies of the budgets are available and will be available for public review at City Hall and located on the City Webpage (www.ci.brown-city.mi.us). The City Council must schedule a Public Hearing for review of the budget and City millage rate. Recommend scheduling this Public Hearing for 7:15 PM on Monday, March 28th as part of the regular City Council meeting.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Navock to schedule a Public Hearing on March 28, 2011 at 7:15 pm for review of the 2011-2012 Budget. Motion carried.

2. **Spring 2011 Work Experience / Employment Project (SWEEP):** ThumbWorks! is again making this program available to area governments and organizations. The City has applied for two workers commencing April 1st and concluding June 30th, the full duration of the program. The requested individuals would work for ThumbWorks! and be paid and insured by them. The City would need to provide direct supervision and any required safety equipment. There are no other anticipated costs. Plan is to have these workers (if made available) repaint City curbs, parking lots, fire hydrants and clean ditches and culverts as well as other work assigned by the DPW Foreman. Potential value to the City is between \$10K and \$12K.
3. **Lincoln Street Storm Drain:** When the City installed the new storm drain east of Lincoln Street, a section of the old line was abandoned. Apparently, the floor drains and weep tiles for 7167 Lincoln Street were connected to this old section of storm drain. As a result, the property did not drain properly and the basement was flooded. The owner talked to me about the situation both before and after

the true cause of the problem was discovered. The owner is requesting to be reimbursed for reconnecting his drain and weep tiles to the City storm drain. The cost of the repairs was \$863.00. How does the City Council wish to address this issue? Council discussion regarding homeowners concerns and problems associated with drainage/flooding, the home owner was present as well to discuss his situation.

Motion by CM Loutzenhiser, second by CM Navock, to reimburse the homeowner, in the amount of \$863.00, for the cost to reconnect the property's storm drainage system to the Lincoln Street storm drain. Motion carried.

4. **Maple Valley Lift Station:** The impeller blade on one of the two pumps at the Maple Valley Lift Station sheared off and was discovered on March 5th. As a result, the sanitary sewer line going to the school was closed off at the corner of Second and George Streets to preclude the risk of a back-up at the school. The valve was reopened the next morning. The organization who works on the lift station was called in and repairs were completed the afternoon of March 8th. Both pumps are now apparently working at full capacity.
5. **Street Sweeper:** The City contacted the Bell Equipment Company concerning renting a street sweeper for the week prior to the Thumb Area Soybean Festival. The machine can also vacuum out catch basins. Marlette has offered to rent us their smaller street sweeper also. Recommend renting the larger machine prior to the Festival and using the Marlette machine next Fall. How does the City Council wish to proceed? Consensus of the City Council to lease to Bell machine prior to the Summer Festival and the Marlette machine in the Fall.
6. **9/11 Firefighters Memorial:** The Brown City Area Fire Department was one of 2,500 organizations (out of 900,000 applications) awarded a piece of the World Trade Center by the New York City Port Authority. The Fire Department plans to construct a memorial honoring those firefighters who gave their lives at the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001. The memorial will center on this artifact from the World Trade Center. A Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 at the Fire Department building, 4090 Main Street, to discuss the proposed location, cost, funding sources and design of the memorial. No tax dollars are currently expected to be used for construction. Letters were sent to property owners within 300' of the Fire Department building providing formal notice of the public hearing. Additionally, residents of Brown City, Burnside, Flynn, Lynn and Maple Valley Townships who are served by the Department are encouraged to attend this Public Hearing and participate.
7. **Thumb Area Soybean Festival:** The Festival Commission formally approved changing the name of the summer festival from Brown City Days/Homecoming to the Thumb Area Soybean Festival. This Festival is scheduled for June 9-12. The Commission is looking for Thumb-area volunteers to help plan, conduct and

sponsor this event. Support has already been promised from the National Soybean Growers Association, Michigan Soybean Growers Association, Michigan State Extension Office in Sandusky and Michigan Agricultural Commodities in Brown City.

8. **M-90 Chip Seal Project:** MDOT announced that M-90, from Maple Valley Road to M-19, will receive a chip seal application in 2011. This location is one of four in a large chip seal contract in Huron and Sanilac Counties. Construction is expected to occur sometime during the months of June and July. The contractor is Scott Transportation, Inc. The construction cost is approximately \$486,000. Single lane closures will occur during construction as traffic is maintained using flag control. The Cass City MDOT Transportation Service Center, which is supervising this project, was informed of the dates of the Thumb Area Soybean Festival, June 9-12, and asked to try and work around them.
9. **Community Economic Adjustment Program (CEAP):** The University of Michigan's Center for Economic Adjustment (Ann Arbor) sponsored a focus group in Cass City on March 2nd. A fact sheet (white) concerning the organization and its goals is enclosed. The group identified area strengths and weaknesses. Input will apparently used to help develop a regional economic development plan sometime in the future.
10. **Comcast:** The City received a letter from Comcast informing us that they will be increasing prices for cable video and service on April 1st. Notices were sent to City customers announcing a shuffle of channels to include switching the City PEG Channel from 6 to 98 but the City has yet to be formally notified by Comcast of this change. Additionally, there has been NO response to date from Comcast to our request for help in identifying a suitable replacement of the character generator and associated broadcast equipment.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Stremers suggested that the City Council may wish to establish a sub-committee to periodically review updates and happenings pertaining to on-going medical marijuana litigation throughout the state as well as to review the in place moratorium from time to time. Council consensus to form this sub-committee in the near future. Mayor Lee asked that Councilmembers that wish to be involved to please contact her.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – none.
2. Water and Sewer (Navock) – none.
3. Tax and Finance / Thumb Area Soybean Festival (Jacobson) – none.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Loutzenhiser) – none.
5. Building and Grounds (Walters) – none.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – none.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Navock questioned if extra pumps are available at the lift station. City Manager stated that a generator is available to run pumps when needed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

County Commissioner Daws updated Council with County Commissioner happenings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Mclvor, to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk