

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Lee.

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

**ABSENT:** City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** None.

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 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 - \$10,445.78 (4588-4605), Payroll - \$14,795.65 (4941-4958), Major Street - \$266.23 (3712), Local Street - \$266.23 (4152), Sanitary Sewer - \$635.47 (3115-3116), Water Fund - \$1,126.51 (1916-1919), Arsenic Abatement Fund - \$39.00 (1158), Storm Sewer Fund - \$863.00 (1089). Motion carried.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**DPW REPORT:** Written report reviewed. Mayor Lee presented a complaint and accompanying photograph concerning ruts made by a City snowplow adjacent to the pavement at the west end of Grant Street. City Manager reported that future damage caused by City vehicles will be reported promptly to City Hall and that the DPW would repair the damage in the vicinity of 4294 Grant Street as soon as practical.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:**

1. **Bob Armstrong, WMIC – 2011 Fairs and Festival Guide.** Mr. Armstrong presented the City Council with copies of the 2010 Fairs and Festival Guide and stated that this will be the 21<sup>st</sup> year for publishing this guide. He offered the City the traditional two center pages for the same price as charged the last few years. The ad includes 60-thirty second radio commercials. The City Council discussed some changes to the ad, primarily reflecting the names of new businesses.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to purchase City ad space in the 2011 Fairs and Festival Guide for \$845.00. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None Scheduled.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** None Scheduled.

**PUBLIC HEARING: 7:15 PM**– A Public Hearing for the purpose of gathering public comments on the proposed Brown City Fiscal Year **2011-2012 Budget. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

Mayor Lee opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 PM.

Former Mayor Laura Carpenter asked what reductions were made to the 2011-2012 City Budget. The City Manager highlighted anticipated decreases in revenue and the associated reductions in expenditures necessary to produce a balanced budget. The City Manager stated that no decreases in personnel were anticipated; however, final decisions concerning capital improvement projects were still pending.

Mayor Lee closed the Public Hearing at 7:24 PM.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Resolution 11-04** – Resolution of the City of Brown City to Amend the City's 2010-2011 Budget to Better Reflect Revenues and Expenditures.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Navock, to approve Resolution 11-04 – Resolution of the City of Brown City to Amend the City's 2010-2011 Budget to Better Reflect Revenues and Expenditures. Roll call vote: CM Jacobson-Yes, CM Loutzenhiser-Yes, CM Miller-Yes, CM Mclvor-Yes, CM Navock-Yes, CM Walters-Yes. Motion Declared Carried.

2. **Resolution 11-05** – A Resolution Formally Approving the City of Brown City Millage Rate of 16.8733 Mills and the Brown City Park Millage Rate of 1.25 Mills and the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Jacobson, to approve Resolution 11-05 – A Resolution Formally Approving the City of Brown City Millage Rate of 16.8733 Mills and the Brown City Park Millage Rate of 1.25 Mills and the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget. Roll call vote: CM Jacobson-Yes, CM Loutzenhiser-Yes, CM Miller-Yes, CM Mclvor-Yes, CM Navock-Yes, CM Walters-Yes. Motion Declared Carried.

**ORDINANCES:** None Scheduled.

## MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Spring 2011 Work Experience / Employment Project (SWEEP):** ThumbWorks! notified the City that we should be provided with two workers from April 4<sup>th</sup> through the end of June. They are in the process of hiring these employees. This will be a great benefit to the City by allowing work to be completed that would otherwise have to be delayed while saving tax dollars for our residents.
2. **Maple Valley Lift Station:** Following coordination with the Brown City Schools Superintendent, the City contacted with an engineering firm to identify potential measures to reduce the risk of sewer backups at the school should another lift station pump failure or similar event take place. The school, City and engineers met on March 21<sup>st</sup> to review the situation and request a cost estimate for the study. The City Manager attended the School Board meeting later than same day to review the steps taken. The city received the engineer's report from Huron Consulting on March 28<sup>th</sup>. A meeting with the Superintendent will take place in the next couple of days.
3. **Local Government Reform:** The governor proposed replacing statutory revenue sharing with the "Economic Vitality Incentive Program." Current funding to local governments of about \$300,000,000 (of which \$172,000,000 goes to Detroit) will be reduced to \$200,000,000. However, for local governments to receive even a smaller amount would require meeting several goals detailed by the governor for the first time on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Areas include intergovernmental cooperation and coordination, employee compensation, health care, pensions, and increasing "transparency." Goals must be completed prior to the next state budget cycle (October 1<sup>st</sup>) or earlier. Specifics and reporting procedures are pending. The Sanilac County managers have met to identify ways to meet these anticipated state requirements.
4. **Sanilac County Planning Commission:** The County is amending its General Development Plan to meeting the requirements of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. The proposed draft language should be available for public review in April or May and the City will receive a copy for review and comment after the public review period.
5. **MDOT Transportation Summit:** The Cass City Transportation Service Center is hosting a meeting to highlight the elements of the 2011-2015 Five Year Program, and federal/state funding expectations. The program is scheduled for Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to about noon in Cass City. Elected officials are specifically invited. I plan to attend. Are any members of the City Council interesting in attending also?
6. **Thumb Education & Community Day XX:** Thumbworks! is hosting this annual event from 9 AM to 1 PM on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor plans to attend and represent the City. Are any members of the City Council interesting in attending also (RSVP required by prior to April 8<sup>th</sup>)?

7. **Police Car Damage:** The back seat area of the 2010 City police car was damaged by a suspect while she was being transported to the jail in Sandusky. The car was repaired. Expect restitution (eventually / maybe) from the individual who has been charged with 21 felonies.
8. **Operating Engineers Pension Plan:** The City was notified by letter that the Union will not be requiring the payment of a pension surcharge.
9. **Cemetery Drainage:** The City has a piece of 24" drainage tile left over from the Lincoln Street Project. The cost to the City for this tile was about \$200. The Cemetery Sexton has requested the City donate the tile to help improve the drainage in Evergreen Cemetery. However, the tile would be installed on private property immediately southeast of the cemetery along Cade Road. How does the City Council wish to address this request?

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Mclvor, to retain the section of 24" drainage for future use by the City. Motion carried.

10. **9/11 Memorial:** To help raise the estimated \$25,000 for the 9/11 Firefighter Memorial, the Brown City Fire Department is selling pavers to be incorporated into the Memorial. Cost of the pavers is \$250 each. The Fire Chief has asked if the City is interested in purchasing a paver. The City Attorney and City Auditor have no objection to the purchase of a paver by the City. At the request of the City Council, the Mayor will make a recommendation at the next meeting concerning what should be engraved on the paver.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to purchase a paver from the Fire Department for \$250 with the proceeds to go to the 9/11 Firefighters Memorial. Motion carried.

Council member Julie Miller departed at 7:30 PM.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer presented Winter Tax Payment, Interest Earned, and Dog Tags Sold Reports to the City Council. She stated that the Winter Tax collection process is complete for the City.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Police (Miller) – none.
2. Water and Sewer (Navock) – none.
3. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Please see the March 24<sup>th</sup> Committee minutes.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Loutzenhiser) – none.
5. Building and Grounds (Walters) – none.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – none.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:**

1. Laura Carpenter pointed out that the City Manager evaluations were due in March. City Manager will present forms to the City Council at the next regular meeting.
2. County Commissioner Jamie Daws stated that the County's Annual Audit was currently underway.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Navock, to adjourn at 7:36 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton K. Holmes  
City Manager