

# **BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

## **April 22, 2013**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR CHRISTINE LEE AT 7:00 PM.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR CHRISTINE LEE.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Christine Lee, Councilmembers: Pat Jacobson, Robert Jacobson, Dan Loutzenhiser, Ross McIvor, Julie Miller, and Bill Walters. City Clerk Juanita Smith, City Manager Clint Holmes, and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

City Manager Clint Holmes stated that he would be adding one item to his Manager's Report.

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2013 as presented. Motion carried.

**PAY BILLS:**

Motion by CM Pat Jacobson, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$26,777.74 (5720-5737), Payroll - \$13,947.59 (5937-5953 plus EFT), Sanitary Sewer - \$661.53 (3295-3296), Water - \$1,854.84 (2201-2205), Equipment - \$442.76 (1375).

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**DPW REPORT:** Report reviewed. CM Pat Jacobson questioned the lagoon situation with all the rain that we have had. City Manager Clint Holmes stated that they had had to close the valves for a while but it was not an issue of concern.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:** None Scheduled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. City Backhoe Replacement.

After thoughtful discussion on purchasing a backhoe, it was the consensus of the council to revisit the purchase of a backhoe sometime this summer.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** None Scheduled.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None Scheduled.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None Scheduled.

**ORDINANCES:** None Scheduled.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 1. Water Main Project:** Fleis&Vandenbrink conducted the initial inspection and survey of the areas north and south of the Central Business District for the Water-main Replacement Project. Anticipate that the plans will be ready in the next few weeks.
- 2. Well #3 Overhaul and VFD:** The Water & Sewer Committee met on April 18<sup>th</sup> to review the bids. A copy of the minutes is enclosed. The Committee recommends the City contract with Northern Pump & Well to overhaul Well #3 and install VFDs on Wells #3 & #4.

**Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Pat Jacobson, to contract with Northern Pump & Well to overhaul Well #3 and install VFDs on Wells #3 & #4. ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Walters – yes, CM P. Jacobson – yes, CM R. Jacobson – yes, CM Loutzenhiser – yes, CM McIvor – yes, CM Miller – yes. 6 yes votes, 0 no votes. Motion carried.**

- 3. Understanding Obamacare:** Thumbworks! provided a free panel discussion on April 11<sup>th</sup> called Understanding the Requirements and Implications of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) in Marlette. Representatives from the healthcare, finance and benefits sectors provided information concerning implementation, implications and potential penalties for non-compliance. Businesses and organizations with less than 50 employees, such as the City, must be in compliance by January 1, 2014. However, the Michigan insurance exchange is unlikely to happen and the Federal Exchange is not yet up and running. The City's primary insurance plan will be illegal under Obamacare and will have to be addressed. Unfortunately, contact with the City's healthcare insurance broker revealed that Blue Cross/Blue Shield is also not ready at this time for the transition. Additionally, the Federal Government has not yet completed writing the regulations associated with this law. Considerable confusion is evident at all levels of this process.
- 4. MDOT Transportation Summit:** This annual event took place at the Goodland Township Hall on the morning of April 12<sup>th</sup>. Presentations included the 2013 construction program, the 2013-2017 Five Year Program, 2013-2017 federal and state fund expectations, and Davison Transportation Service Center (TSC) initiatives. A road construction map for Huron, Sanilac, Lapeer and Genesee Counties was also provided and is available for review.

**City Manager Clint Holmes stated that he believed his attendance at this meeting was time well spent.**

- 5. Community Needs Assessment:** McKenzie Health Systems in Sandusky sponsored a 90-minute needs assessment focus group as required by the PPACA (Obamacare). The Mayor and City Manager represented the City. Participants included representatives from Sandusky School District, various Sanilac County departments and private citizens. Information gained during this session and one the night before will be folded into a report that should be available for public review this fall.

6. **EVIP:** The requirements for the Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) continue to grow increasingly complex. Concerns raised during the MML Capitol Conference last week continue to resonate throughout the city manager community. A letter sent by the MML to Governor Snyder expressing these concerns is enclosed.
7. **State of the City:** The City Manager presented the State of the City to the Brown City Rotary on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Topics included 2013/2014 Budget, anticipated capital improvement projects, fiber optic status, and a question and answer period.
8. **Soybean Festival Commission:** The Commission met April 18<sup>th</sup> to continue the planning process. The schedule of events is considerably larger than in previous years. Their next Special Meeting is Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. The Commission requested a motion from the City Council to allow the use of Soybean and Corn Drives for the R&J-sponsored burnout on Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>, and appropriate \$2,500 for fireworks.

**Motion made by CM Miller, second by CM R. Jacobson, to allow the use of Soybean and Corn Drives for the R & J sponsored burnout during the Brown City Soybean Festival on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and to appropriate \$2,500 for fireworks during the Soybean Festival. Motion carried.**

9. **School Water Meter:** The contractor is scheduled to test and calibrate the school's water meter(s) on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The City DPW will read the meter after this has taken place.
10. **Office Clerk:** Phyllis Niehaus plans to retire effective the end of May. The City has advertised the position in the *Banner* and the *Sanilac County News*. Cover letters, resumes and applications are due by May 6<sup>th</sup>. Anticipate a new hire by May 27<sup>th</sup> so Phyllis can provide training. A copy of the ad is enclosed.
11. **2013 Street Project:** Huron Consultants provided cost estimates for North and South Cade Road; Walter, Maple and Lincoln Streets. Anticipated costs significantly exceed available funds. Recommend the Streets and Sidewalks Committee meets to prioritize street repairs.

**CM Chairman Loutzenhiser and the Streets and Sidewalks Committee, CM Pat Jacobson and CM Walters will meet on Monday, April 29, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. to prioritize upcoming street repairs for North and South Cade Road, Walter, Maple, and Lincoln Streets**

12. **La Fonda Mexican Kitchen:** The City met with the owner of 4254 Main Street (European Deli/Green Devil Café) and two tenants. They are planning on opening a Mexican-themed restaurant in the near future. They currently operate a restaurant in Pontiac by the same name. They are listed on the internet.
13. **Traffic Safety Training Class:** City Manager Clint Holmes, received a letter regarding a class, "Traffic Safety Training for Elected Officials", that will be held at a later date. No specific date was given at this time. The cost is \$60.00 per person to attend. It would be presented by a retired professor from Michigan Tech University. Councilmembers declined to attend.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

1. Status of Land Purchase by M.A.C.

**May 10, 2013 has been set for the closing of the Land Purchase by M.A.C. City Attorney Gregory Stremers has requested that the closing packet be sent to the Brown City City office for the required signatures to complete the purchase.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT: The City Treasurer is waiting on Sanilac County to send a reconciliation statement to make sure our records match.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. **Thumb Community Day will be held on May 10, 2013 at Thumb Works in Marlette. The topic will be "Positive Dealing with Negative People".**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Police (Miller) – None.
2. Water and Sewer (R. Jacobson) – None.
3. Tax and Finance (P. Jacobson) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Loutzenhiser) – None.
5. Building and Grounds (Walters) – None.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – None.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. **CM Pat Jacobson commended our Police Department for their quick response and investigation in the Tri County Bank robbery on Thursday, April 18, 2013.**
2. **CM Pat Jacobson asked if the city would be doing tree trimming this year.**
3. **CM Loutzenhiser questioned if the tire blight was resolved. City Manager Clint Holmes is going to check on one area that may be of concern.**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Walters, to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith  
City Clerk