

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
June 24, 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 (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), 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 has nothing to add, correct or delete. However, Mayor Christine Lee would like to add the VFW Fundraiser to the Mayor's Report.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 10, 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 - \$18,576.71 (5806-5825), Payroll - \$15,405.64 (6003-6021 plus EFT), Major Street - \$90.00 (3791), Sanitary Sewer - \$5,800.07 (3309-3312), Water - \$23,917.59 (2229-2233). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. CM Pat Jacobson questioned why DPW worker Phil Bartle did not attend the Council Meetings whereas Police Chief Ron Smith was in attendance for the Police Report when reviewed. City Manager Clint Holmes replied that Police Officer Ron Smith was on duty at the time of the Council Meetings whereas DPW worker Phil Bartle was off duty at that time.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **City Police Car:** The report from the Michigan State Police concerning the accident on May 31st has not yet been issued. Windshield repair costs were \$236.23. Great Reflections did an excellent job repairing and painting the hood and did not charge the City for the work.
2. **Water Tower Antennas:** Thumb Cellular plans to replace the antennas on the water tower within the next few weeks. This will upgrade cell phone service from G3 to G4. Additionally, the Family Health Center on Main Street in Brown City has contracted with Thumb Cellular to run fiber optic cable from the water tower to their establishment. The cable will run south on Kohler Street, west on Second Street then south on George Street and then west on Main Street. If there is no objection from the City Council, they will be allowed to proceed. All cable will be installed underground.

The Council has no objections with allowing Thumb Cellular to proceed with the plans to replace the antennas on the water tower and to install the fiber optic cable underground from the water tower to the Family Health Center on Main Street in Brown City per the contract between Thumb Cellular and the Family Health Center. The cable will run south on Kohler Street, west on Second Street and then south on George Street and then west on Main Street to the designated area.

3. **Sanilac County Jail Open House:** The Sanilac County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring an Open House on June 29th from 10 AM to 2 PM. This Open House / Family Fun Day will include refreshments and various activities (Please see the attached notice).
4. **Open Meetings Act:** The Michigan Legislature has amended the Michigan Open Meetings Act. New notice requirements, which include posting on the City's website, require certain timelines be met, and there are additional posting responsibilities for emergency meetings. **City Manager Clint Holmes stated that the Open Meetings Act would not have much effect on the City. If we change the meeting times it must be posted on the website. There is also an eighteen (18) hour notice which must be observed for other things which we comply with.**

5. **Festival Commission:** The Commission met on June 20th to discuss what went fine and what needs improvement for the 2013 Thumb Soybean Festival. Overall, the Festival went very well. The group donated \$305 to the City. Their next meeting will be September 19th.
6. **Brown City Clean-Up Days:** The annual Clean-Up Days are scheduled for the 25th and 26th of June. Metal and appliances will be picked up on Tuesday and the remainder on Wednesday.

Proper notices have been placed in the local newspapers and on the City's website by the City Manager to notify city residents of these designated dates for the annual Clean-Up Days.

7. **Well #3 Overhaul and VFD:** Northern Pump & Well began work on Well #3 on June 11th. The well will be down for two to three weeks. There have been no significant issues reported to date. Once the overhaul of Well #3 is complete, the installation of VFDs will be completed on Wells #3 & #4. Residents should not notice any decrease in the availability or pressure of water.

8. **2013 Street and Water Projects:** The City was invited to attend the Pre-Construction meeting for Maple Valley Road scheduled for June 25th. Huron Consultants should have the plans and bid packages for Walter and East Maple Streets available soon. The plans for the water main and bid packages are ready; and permit applications submitted to MDEQ. Once the permits are approved, the bids can be released. Flies & Vandenbrink representatives are still encouraging the City to contract with them for a SAW Grant. The grant would cover development of an Asset Management Plan which they say will be required by the state in the foreseeable future. The state limits the cost of the plan to \$60,000. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

The City Council does not wish to comment or make a decision on the SAW Grant at this time. City Manager Clint Holmes will attend the Pre-Construction meeting for Maple Valley Road which is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in Sandusky, MI on June 25th. MDEQ called City Manager Clint Holmes today, June 24th, to tell of their approval of the permit applications that were submitted to MDEQ.

9. **Weeds and Grass:** The City continues to enforce Ordinance 91.10 Noxious Weeds and Grasses. However, the City received a call from Channel 4 Defenders in Detroit on June 20th concerning a rental property on St Mary Street. The Police Chief and I investigated and contacted the landlord who will have the grass and weeds fixed this weekend. A call back to Channel 4 informed them of the status of the property.

The grass and weed problem has been resolved as of this past weekend, June 22nd and June 23rd.

10. **City Hall closed July 4th:** City Hall, Police and DPW will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in honor of Independence Day.

11. **Police Garage:** The Sanilac County Sheriff has asked to use the City police garage to store a patrol car when the deputy assigned to the vehicle is not on duty. The Sheriff will provide a liability waiver and have the deputy patrol the City at the beginning and end of each shift. Does the City Council have any objections to this use by the Sheriff's Department?

There were no objections or concerns from the City Council. The Police Chief will notify the Sheriff of the decision.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Summer Tax Bills will be mailed out about July 1, 2013.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. BCHS Academic Citations for Outstanding Achievement.
 - a. Elena Holley
 - b. Racheal Kneebone
 - c. William Herrmann III
 - d. Stephanie Lerchenfeldt
 - e. Allison Krause

The Council Members signed Proclamation documents for the five (5) graduating seniors who earned Academic Citations for Outstanding Achievements on their ACT tests. These

five seniors scored a 29 or better on their ACT tests which is a remarkable score. These ladies and gentleman will be invited to the next Council Meeting on July 8, 2013 to receive their Proclamations from the Council. These five young students are to be commended for their accomplishment.

2. VFW Fundraiser.

The Mayor stated that while she thought the fundraiser to replace the floor at the VFW Hall is a notable project, it not a City Council issue.

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 (McIvor) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

Several concerns were voiced by Councilmembers.

1. CM Miller noted that a street light was out on Main Street, specifically in front of the Frey home at 4309 Main Street.
2. CM McIvor spoke of a hole where Air Advantage had done some work on the east end of Main Street.
3. CM Walters received a phone call supposedly from his grandson who was having some trouble. When they replied that they had just seen their grandson the day before the called hung up. A scam probably that should be reported to the police.
4. CM Pat Jacobson reported that the weeds were high at the “Old Airport” by the Cedar Trace Apartments on St. Marys Street.
5. CM Miller reported of two other scam concerns that were going around. One was people receiving calls that they had a First Alert System already purchased for them by family members or friends and where could they send it and the other concerned flashing car lights at another car and the results from that action.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk