

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
July 8, 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 there would be two additions to the agenda.

1. One personal appearance.
2. One addition under petitions and communications.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 24, 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 - \$13,682.74 (5826-5851), Payroll - \$15,500.50 (6022-6044 plus EFT), Major Street - \$220.27 (3792-3793), Local Street - \$521.08 (4196), Sanitary Sewer - \$798.58 (3313-3314), Water - \$371.22 (2234-2238), Arsenic Abatement - \$47.00 (1216), Equipment – \$93.04 (1386-1387). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

POLICE REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

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

Mayor Christine Lee presented each student with a Proclamation for their Outstanding Achievement in Brown City High School Academics. Each student was individually recognized by Mayor Christine Lee as she read their Proclamation aloud for all Councilmembers and visitors to hear. Pictures were taken of the student and the Mayor as

they received their plaque. A final group picture was taken of the five students with Mayor Christine Lee.

2. Mr. Lehn King of King & King CPAs LLC gave a presentation of the Overview of the City Finances. The audit was performed May 16th and 17th with no comments or recommendations by King & King. They found the City books to be in good order. Mr. King reviewed the Overall Fund Rating report with the council. There was only one question from Mayor Christine Lee as to why a figure was left blank on one item. In reply Mr. King said that it was not intentionally left out but rather not caught in the proofreading and would be filled in and given to the City Manager. There were no further questions.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM P. Jacobson, to accept the Audit Report by King & King as presented,. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Linda Lou's Bar & Grill requested a permit to move a lighted 2' x 2' sign on the outside their business. To do so they need an electrical permit from Sandusky.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM McIvor to approve the request for a permit to move the sign. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Well #3 Overhaul and VFD:** Northern Pump & Well completed work on Well #3 on July 2nd. The DPW drew the first water sample the same day and the second on July 3rd. If both purity tests meet federal and state standards, the well should be fully on-line on Friday, July 5th. The VFD has also been installed and should be fully operational the same time as the well. The contractor believes that the VFD will pay for itself in as little as two years through reduced electrical power consumption. Additionally, reduced wear on the pump and assembly may allow the time between overhauls to as much as double. Of note, the straight-six gasoline engine and power transfer case have been completely disconnected from the pump assembly. The contractor believes a market exists for this equipment and recommends the City sell, rather than scrap, them. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

The City Council would like to place the straight-six gasoline engine and power transfer case for sale on the Albright Auction online.

2. **Main Street Water Project:** The City received the approved permit from MDEQ for the 2013 Water Main Project. Due to the potential issues associated with the proximity of sewer

lines, Fleis & Vandenbrink is offering a construction administration and inspection service. Full time would be \$15,300 and part-time would be \$8,160. DPW recommends the part-time inspection services. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

The City Council recommends the part-time inspection services for a fee of Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$8,160). Our DPW workers will also keep a close check on the lines.

3. **2013 Maple Valley Road Project:** The City attended the Pre-Construction meeting for Maple Valley Road on June 25th. Albrecht Sand & Gravel won the contract to crush, shape and repave Maple Valley Road from M-90 to Peck Road. The work will begin the second week of October and should be complete by November 1st.

The Brown City School Superintendent has been advised of the work that will be done in October so they can reroute their buses during this construction period.

4. **Health Insurance:** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), commonly called Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act (ACA), is a United States federal statute signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. Together with the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, it represents the most significant government expansion and regulatory overhaul of the U.S. healthcare system since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. The City was notified by our Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative that the City's BC/BS policy will be cancelled on January 1st because, under Obamacare, it provides too much health care. The City has been given two options: 1) The City can renew the current policy in December to allow one more year of coverage at this level; or 2) Begin a new policy on the City's renewal date of January 1st that is much more expensive for employees but significantly cheaper for the City. A decision is required by July 15th. How does the City Council wish to proceed? Additionally, the City Council may wish to consider using cost savings from the reduced coverage to increase employees' pay to cover the significant increase in deductibles, co-pays, coverage gaps and Out-of-Pocket maximums (and the additional taxes associated with a pay increase). Amounts could depend on the policy selected.

After a lengthy discussion the City Council plans to proceed with the first option given which is to renew the current policy in December to allow one more year of coverage at the level that we now have. This will give the City Council time to take a closer look at insurance issues more thoroughly throughout the year. A decision has to be given to our Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance by July 15, 2013.

5. **Water Tower Antennas:** Thumb Cellular expects the boring for the fiber optic cable connecting their water tower site to the Family Health Center on Main Street in Brown City to be substantially completed by July 5th. Additionally, they anticipate the G4 system to be fully on-line by the end of the month.
6. **City Police Garage:** The City received a thank-you and liability release letter from Sheriff Biniecki and Undersheriff Roff for allowing the storage of a county patrol vehicle in the City police garage.

7. **Sanilac County Jail Open House:** The Sanilac County Sheriff's Office sponsored a very successful Open House on June 29th with as many as 700 participants. The Sheriff also had a special tour and briefing at the facility for law enforcement and EMS from across the county on July 2nd. Police Chief Ron Smith and I represented the City of Brown City. The facility is most impressive.
8. **Michigan Public Policy Survey:** The City participated in this annual survey. The state-wide 2013 MPPS survey results show the following: Low and still declining trust toward the federal government among Michigan local leaders; Low but growing trust among Republican and Independent local leaders toward the state government, versus low and declining trust among Democratic local leaders; Consistently high trust among all partisan groups of local leaders toward other local governments. A copy of the report is available at (closup-mpps@umich.edu).
9. **Mackinac Center for Public Policy:** The MCPP has released a report card that ranks 2,362 elementary and middle schools across the state. The Context and Performance report card takes student poverty level into account in order to better examine school performance. Four years' worth of MEAP test scores in all subjects for grades 3 through 8 were adjusted based on the percentage of students in an elementary or middle school who qualified for a free lunch. A school's "CAP Score" indicates how far above or below an elementary or middle school performed given its student population's socioeconomic status. Brown City High School received a grade of "B" and ranked 515; Brown City Elementary School also received a "B" and ranked 691 state-wide.
10. **City Police Car:** The report from the Michigan State Police concerning the accident on May 31st still has not yet been issued.
11. **EMCOG:** The next meeting of the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) will be in Tawas City on Friday, July 12th. If possible, I plan to attend to represent the City and Sanilac County.
12. **Weeds and Grass:** The City continues to enforce Ordinance 91.10 Noxious Weeds and Grasses.

The City has contacted several property owners, one on Vine Street, the old Airport, and the school's 20 acres, which need to mow their weeds and grasses. Each has said they will take care of it as soon as possible.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

1. The City Attorney said that the legislature now allows the City to limit the hours that fireworks can be used within the City.
2. City Attorney Gregory Stremers raised a concern about the wording in a letter received by the City in reference to the parking of a County Patrol Unit and the associated potential liability. He will provide recommended changes to the City Manager to forward to the Sheriff.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The tax notices have all been sent out.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor conducted a Marriage Ceremony for Scott Westover and Cherrie Knox on June 15th.

She will be performing another Marriage Ceremony on July 20th.

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:

CM Loutzenhiser asked if in case of an emergency, "Do we have keys to the Sanilac County patrol car that we are keeping in our facility?"

Policeman Ron Smith replied that he will get a set of keys to have in Brown City in case of such an emergency.

CM Loutzenhiser thanked the City Manager and his staff for a job well done during the City Audit.

CM Mclvor questioned the need for a building permit to remove and replace shingles on his garage. City Manager Clint Holmes said that he would not need to get a permit from Sandusky but he did need one from the City. There were no concerns or objections from the City Council in providing a permit for the removal and replacement of shingles on his garage.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Elena Roberts spoke to the City Council about the obnoxious weeds at the Old Airport. She would like to see some action taken to have them cut.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Mclvor, to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk