

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

January 13, 2014

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: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 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 - \$28,235.94 (6098-6129), Total Payroll - \$28,082.57 (payroll paid on 12-26-13 was \$14,830.59 (6253-6275 plus EFT), payroll paid on 1-9-14 was \$13,157.48 (6276-6290 plus EFT), and \$94.50 (6921), Major Street - \$500.72 (3812-3813), Local Street - \$650.00 (4202), Sanitary Sewer - \$19,569.26 (3354-3364), Water - \$19,460.67 (2320-2327), Equipment - \$1,150.84 (1405-1409). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

POLICE REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

Ron Smith, City Police Chief, said the new City Policeman was doing a good job. Several Councilmembers commended the Police Department for doing a fine job during the snow storm as well as on a daily basis.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. 4448 Autumn Gold Avenue – Request for permit to construct a five foot (5') tall wooden fence around the back yard of the property.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM R. Jacobson, to grant a permit to the owner of the property at 4448 Autumn Gold Avenue to construct a five foot (5') tall wooden fence around the back yard of the property. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Maple Valley Lift Station:** On Sunday, December 22nd at about 5:30 AM, a major power surge destroyed the bulk of the electronics and power cables necessary to operate the sewage pumping station on Maple Valley Road. Also damaged was the power system for Well #4. The DPW Foreman Phil Bartle, with the help of multiple contractors, was able to get the raw sewage pumped over to the lagoons and get the station fully back on line over the course of several days. Since all associated invoices have not yet been received, total costs for these events have not yet been determined.
2. **Ice Storm Debris Removal:** The DPW will continue with the removal of downed tree limbs and other ice storm debris once temperatures improve and the snow depth decreases. Also, Raymond's Tree Service was contracted to remove hanging branches from trees on City right-of-ways at a about a dozen addresses. The City also received notice from DTE that they will be doing tree trimming sometime in the immediate future.
3. **DPW Truck:** During snow plowing and removal, the City's International dump truck got stuck in a ditch at the south end of Lincoln Street on January 7th. A tow truck out of North Branch was able to extract the vehicle and it continued with snow plowing operations. The next day, the same vehicle suffered a break in both a high pressure oil hose and heater hose. Repairs were completed later that same day and the truck returned to duty.
4. **Snow Removal:** The DPW has done an outstanding job plowing and removing approximately 1,576 tons of snow from City streets since the storm last Sunday. However, there were a small number of mailbox casualties. The DPW will repair these as soon as practicable.
5. **Railroad Snow:** The City received a complaint from the railroad (and MAC) concerning snow cleared from the City parking lot north of Leibler's Insurance blocking the railroad tracks from First to Main Street. The DPW was able to quickly move the snow away from the tracks.
6. **Personal Property Tax Reduction:** The legislature has precluded the City from collecting Personal Property Tax from businesses. The City Assessor has estimated that this will result in a decrease in revenues for the City of about \$7,336.52 for 2014 and each subsequent tax year. There is a provision for state reimbursement if the amount of Personal Property Tax lost was 3% or greater of City tax revenue. Brown City's loss is about 2.3%. A copy of the work sheet is available for review.

7. **Streetlight Request:** Michigan Agricultural Commodities (M.A.C.) has requested a street light be installed at the corner of Soybean Drive and Wheat Court. DTE was contacted to determine the feasibility of installation and associated costs and procedures. They were again contacted on January 9th. No additional information is available at this time.
8. **Rural Task Force:** The RTF met at the Sanilac County Road Commission on January 2nd. The list of proposed and funded county road projects for 2014-2017 was reviewed and recommendations for 2018 discussed. A copy of the proposed projects list is attached.
9. **Tax Service Agreement:** Sanilac County provided the City with the 2014 Agreement for Data Base Management and Printing Services. Each of the 18 categories increased by 1¢ over last year's agreement. City Treasurer recommends the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City of Brown City.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Pat Jacobson, to authorize Mayor Christine Lee to sign the 2014 Agreement for Data Base Management and Printing Services on behalf of the City of Brown City. Motion carried.

10. **Federal Holiday:** The City Hall, Police and DPW will be open for business during the January 20th Martin Luther King, Jr., federal holiday.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

City Treasurer Carol Walters submitted a Report stating that the first payment for the 2014 winter taxes was made this last week and included the breakdown of where the payments were made. The total amount for the winter tax money was \$240,899.68. Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. **City Council Priorities Worksheets** – due on or before January 20th. Mayor Christine Lee thanked the Council for many of the worksheets being turned in already.

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:

There were several concerns of the Councilmembers:

1. It is the responsibility of each individual property owner of the downtown stores and property along Main Street to clear the walk in front of their property. What can be done about the empty buildings or those who do not clear the walk? Can the City help in these situations? The City Manager will work with the DPW Foreman to prioritize this effort.
2. Were two trucks being used for clean-up or just one? City Manager will investigate.
3. When removing snow from Main Street was the skid loader ready when the dump trucks appeared for a load of snow? City Manager will investigate.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita M. Smith
City Clerk