

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
March 24, 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, and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: City Manager Clint Holmes.

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 10, 2014 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Pat Jacobson, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to pay the bills in the following funds with the exception of the \$974 to Hydro Dynamics, Inc. which is to be withheld until we get the pump back: General - \$7,871.20 (6210-6224), Payroll - \$12,493.96 (6363-6381 plus EFT), Sanitary Sewer - \$1,231.21 (3376-3377), Water - \$1,481.36 (2350-2353). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT: There was no DPW Report available at this time.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:10 PM – A Public Hearing for the purpose of gathering public comments on the proposed Brown City Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

Motion made by CM Pat Jacobson, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to open A Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m. for the purpose of gathering public comments on the proposed Brown City Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget was the subject of this hearing. There were no questions or comments. Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Miller, to close the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Resolution 14-03** – Resolution of the City of Brown City to Amend the City’s 2013-2014 Budget to Better Reflect Revenues and Expenditures.

Motion by CM Pat Jacobson, second by CM Miller, to adopt Resolution 14-03: A Resolution of the City of Brown City to Amend the City’s 2013-2014 Budget to Better Reflect Revenues and Expenditures. ROLL CALL VOTE: CM McIvor – yes, CM Miller – yes, CM Walters – yes, CM Pat Jacobson – yes, CM R. Jacobson – yes, CM Loutzenhiser – yes. 6 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, 0 absent. Motion carried.

2. **Resolution 14-04** – 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 2014-2015 Budget.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Pat Jacobson, to adopt Resolution 14-04: 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 2014-2015 Budget. ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Miller – yes, CM Walters – yes, CM Pat Jacobson – yes, CM R. Jacobson – yes, CM Loutzenhiser – yes, CM McIvor – yes. 6 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, 0 absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. **Maple Valley Lift Station:** Hydrodynamics picked up the spare pump and rotors on February 24th for appropriate modifications; they have not yet been returned. Coordination with the insurance company continues; however, certain labor and equipment expenses incurred by the DPW during “normal work hours” will not be covered by the insurance company. This should work out to no more than about \$800. The new VFD units have not yet been installed, but should arrive soon.
2. **Police Car Camera System:** The engineer from Pro-Vision, the company that manufactured the new in-car camera system for the Brown City Police Department, finalized repairs to the system on March 21st. Currently, the system is fully operational and includes several enhancements over the old system. The Chief will continue to monitor the system’s status.
3. **Union Negotiations:** The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324 would agree to a new three-year contract that included a bonus this year in lieu of a pay increase, as long as the City agrees to the new rates for healthcare benefits (an average of about \$19 per month), a 50¢ an hour pay increase for the DPW Laborer and 25¢ per hour increase for the DPW Foreman beginning in January 2015. The Contract would also include a clause that would allow the Contract to be opened each year to discuss potential pay and benefit changes. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

The City Councilmembers do not wish to accept these terms as presented by the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324 and would like to continue negotiations. The Council

would like to address a one-year contract instead of the three-year contract that was suggested. That contract would be looked at again in March of 2015. The City would agree to the healthcare benefits (an average of about \$19 per month) and one week bonus pay.

- 4. Brown City Fire Department:** The Fire Department received a “Resolution Recognizing the Yale Fire Department and Assisting Departments for Service to the City of Yale” for their efforts related to the major fire that took place on February 11, 2014. Congratulations to the members of the Brown City Fire Department for their outstanding efforts during this event.
- 5. Snow Removal and Road Salt:** The City normally orders about 150 tons of road salt each year through the State of Michigan. About 15 tons remains this year. Under the special appropriation by the Michigan Legislature, the City will receive about \$5,900 to subsidize the costs of snow removal and pot hole repair. Cost to date for snow removal is over \$6,800. Salt for next year has already been ordered. The DPW is currently doing pothole repairs using cold patch. More permanent repairs will be addressed as soon as practicable.
- 6. USDA – Rural Development:** Representative Candice Miller has organized a workshop concerning low-interest loans and grants available through Rural Development. The training was Wednesday, March 19th in Sandusky. The USDA does have a program to loan communities, such as the City of Brown City, funds to purchase/replace equipment such as a dump truck and backhoe. Additionally, grant money – possibly as much as \$10,000 – may be available toward the replacement of the City’s 2004 Crown Victoria patrol car. Staff will continue to research these options.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

- 1. 4364 Main Street Accessory Buildings – (Mitchell vs. Murray)**

City Attorney Gregory Stremers reported that he had met with the attorney for Mr. Mitchell. City Attorney Gregory Stremers recommends that we not take this matter of accessory buildings on the neighbor’s property to court. The City Councilmembers agreed that they would like to stay out of this dispute between neighbors.

TREASURER’S REPORT: CM Walters reported that all taxes were taken to the County Treasurer’s Office in Sandusky last Thursday, March 20, 2014.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

- 1. Semi-Annual City Manager Evaluation –** Mayor Christine Lee reported that the Manager Evaluation resulted in a score of 1082 out of a possible 1155 for City Manager Clint Holmes. This is a 94% rating.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1. Police (Miller) – None.**
- 2. Water and Sewer (R. Jacobson) – None.**
- 3. Tax and Finance (P. Jacobson) – None. However, please see attached committee meeting minutes for March 20th.**

4. Streets and Sidewalks (Loutzenhiser) – None.
5. Building and Grounds (Walters) – None.
6. Personnel (McIvor) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

The delayed brush pickup is of a concern but will be addressed when the city workers can get to it and when the brush is not frozen into the snowbanks.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Pat Jacobson, to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita M. Smith
City Clerk